

PROTECTION FROM FIRE.

Mr. A. Holloway, of Winnipeg, has invented a plan of fire protection which he proposes to apply to small towns. It consists of a succession of fire walls to be erected at intervals between the rows of wooden houses. Such a scheme would, of course, be serviceable only in the primitive prairie towns that are mostly and largely of wood. It has hitherto been found that once a fire starts in one of these new wooden villages or towns, the whole place is doomed. Mr. Holloway's plan would restrict the fire within certain limits, care being taken to prevent sparks being blown across the street or over the barrier or to extinguish them promptly. Some time ago, when the St. Jean de Dieu asylum was burned, there was a good deal of discussion about means of protection for cities, especially in great buildings or blocks of buildings. As usual, however, after the nine days' wonder, the shock has subsided, the fervor of reform, to which the disaster gave rise, has grown cold, and we go on our way as before until another dire catastrophe again reminds us of our deficiencies. It is the season of immunity that is the time of grace in such questions. But, no doubt, some brains have been busy in the east, like Mr. Holloway's in the west, devising new safeguards for cities.—*Montreal Gazette*.

A GROCERY "LEIGH."

A maid to a clerk in a grocery store said, 'Saigh,
How much will you charge to give me a weigh?'
The clerk gazed at the maid so killing and gaigh,
With eyes as bright as a morning in Maigh,
And said: 'If you're to be given aweigh,
Rather than see you marry some jaigh,
I'll take you myself; just name the daigh.'"
—*Texas Siftings*.

—It is no small matter to have the navigation of the upper lakes interrupted as has been done by the stoppage at the Sault Ste. Marie Canal. The eastward grain and ore traffic on the lakes and the westward movement of coal were both stopped, and the railroads could not take care of the heavy freightage carried on the lakes. On Saturday last eighty-five vessels and steamers were congregated there. By Sunday there were over a hundred. A stoppage creates serious disarrangement; and the neglect of Congress to provide against a breakdown by doubling the facilities for lockage is estimated to cost \$500,000 per day.

—The work of constructing the North Sea and Baltic Ship Canal has not made very rapid progress. The actual work of digging, it seems, was not begun until last year, and of the 75,000,000 cubic metres of earth to be excavated not more than 12,000,000 have been removed. The important feature of providing for the passage of large war-ships is being kept well in view, for each lock is 465 feet long, and the gates 98 feet wide.

—The New York Bureau of Statistics of Labor has issued a report which shows that the total number of strikes in that State for five years—1885-1889—was 9,384, of which 5,866 were successful. The economic waste caused by these interruptions to labor, even when the point sought has been gained, is not the least important of their untoward features.

—J. A. Anderson, secretary of the Crow Bar Mining Company, Vancouver, is negotiating with parties in London, England, with a view to utilizing the shale and waste of coal mines by converting them into heating and illuminating oils.

—A revised freight tariff has just been issued by the C.P.R. between Vancouver and New Westminster and all points east, and including Port Arthur. The new tariff shows some reductions in certain classes of freight.

—Two thousand eight hundred and seventy-four dollars of poll-tax was collected from Chinese arriving at Vancouver, B.C., last month. This is \$2,046 less than the amount collected during July, 1889.

—During 1889 it is said that real estate to the value of nearly \$3,000,000 changed hands in New York City. Buildings costing \$70,000,000 were erected.

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ASHES.—Receipts are light, but it is not unusual that there should be very little doing in August. We quote first quality pots \$4.10 to

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Aug. 13th, 1890.

ASHES.—No change to report, prices remain same as last week. Receipts still continue light, and there is but little doing. We quote first quality pots \$4.10 to 4.15; seconds, \$3.70; no sales to speak of in pearls, which are nominally \$5.15.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Prices are strongly held and jobbers are being asked higher prices for orders not already placed. This is a natural result of higher prices for hides and leather.

CEMENTS, ETC.—There is but little change to note with regard to Portland cement, which is comparatively scarce, and held firm. Several large lots are near at hand, but mostly sold "to arrive." Quotations are as last week, viz.: Lion, \$2.45 to 2.50; "Crescent," \$2.50 to 2.60; Imperial, \$2.60. White's and Johnson's, nearly out of market, held at \$2.75 to 2.90. Firebrick are in small supply, and held at \$25 to \$30 as to brand and quantity.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Trade continues quiet and prices remain as quoted. We quote:—Sal soda, \$1.15 to 1.25; bicarb soda, \$2.25 to 2.40; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$2.00; bichromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 13.00; borax, refined, 9 to 10c.; cream tartar crystals, 26 to 28c.; do. ground, 29 to 30c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 46 to 48c.; do. powder, 48 to 50c.; citric acid, 55 to 60c.; caustic soda, white, \$2.35 to 2.50; sugar of lead, 10 to 12c.; bleaching powder, \$2.25 to 2.40; alum, \$1.60 to 1.70; copperas, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; flowers sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.25 to 2.40; roll sulphur, \$2.10 to 2.25; sulphate of copper, \$6.00 to 6.50; epsom salts, \$1.65 to 1.75; saltpetre, \$8.25 to 8.75; American quinine, 45 to 50c.; German quinine, 45 to 50c.; Howard's quinine, 47 to 50c.; opium, \$4.75 to 5.00; morphia, \$2.20 to 2.30; gum arabic, sorts, 60 to 90c.; white, \$1.00 to 1.25; carbolic acid, 55 to 65c.; iodide potassium, \$4.00 to 4.25 per lb.; iodine, re-sublimed, \$5.00 to 5.25; commercial do., \$4.25 to 4.75; iodoform, \$6.50 to 7.00. Prices for essential oils are:—Oil lemon, \$1.50 to 2.00; oil bergamot, \$3.50 to 4.25; orange, \$3.00 to 3.50; oil peppermint, \$3.75 to 5.00; glycerine, 25 to 28c.; senna, 12 to 25c. for ordinary. English camphor, 70 to 75c.; American do., 65 to 70c.; insect powder, 40 to 45c.

DRY GOODS.—Orders are said to be coming in very fairly, but as a good many of last winter's goods are still in hand in country stores, buyers are a little cautious. Payments continue slack, but there are comparatively few failures, and the good crop prospect gives confidence to the trade of a satisfactory autumn and winter business.

GROCERIES.—The movement continues quiet, but prices as a rule remain firm. Sugars, yellows and white, have advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ cent in New York, and a rise is looked for here before long. Molasses, Barbadoes, is quoted at 34

cents, and some sales have been made at that figure. In other lines there is no important change to note. There are a good many small failures in this line, but importers and jobbers speak confidently of the outlook, and an increased trade shortly.

HIDES.—The market is if anything higher than last week, with stocks very scarce both of green and cured. We quote No. 1 green 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; for Toronto inspection 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; and for local inspection 8c.; lambskins, 35 to 40c.; calfskins dull at 5c. per lb.

LEATHER.—Hides if anything are higher than last week, and very scarce. The English market for leather is very firm at an advance of 10 to 15% on Canadian. Prices of leather here are firm and increasing, but buyers appear somewhat reluctant to cooperate at the advance. We quote:—Spanish sole, B.A., No. 1, 20 to 23c.; do., No. 2, B.A., 18 to 19c.; No. 1, ordinary Spanish, 18 to 19c.; No. 2 ditto, 17 to 8c.; No. 1, China, 18 to 19c.; No. 1 slaughter, 22 to 24c.; No. 2 do. 20 to 21c.; American oak sole, 39 to 43c.; British oak sole, 38 to 45c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 29 to 32c.; ditto, heavy, 24 to 30c.; grained, 28 to 32c.; Scotch grained, 30 to 35c.; splits, large, 15 to 20c.; do., small, 12 to 16c.; calf-splits, 32 to 33c.; calfskins (35 to 40 lbs.), 45 to 55c.; imitation French calfskins, 65 to 75c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; harness, 22 to 27c.; buffed cow, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 14c.; pebbled cow, 12 to 14c.; rough, 20 to 24c.; russet and bridle, 45 to 55c.

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