

Druggists have difficulty, sometimes, in discovering the meaning of doctors who write nearly illegible prescriptions. Here is an instance of literal translation: An anecdote is told of a physician who was called to a foreign family to prescribe for a case of incipient consumption. He gave a prescription for pills, and wrote the direction: "One pill to be taken three times a day in any convenient vehicle." The family looked in the dictionary to get at the meaning of the prescription. They got on well until they got to the word vehicle. They found "cart, wagon, carriage, wheelbarrow." After grave consideration they came to the conclusion that the doctor meant the patient should ride out, and while in the vehicle he should take a pill. He followed the advice to the letter, and in a few weeks the fresh air and exercise secured the advantage which otherwise might not have come.

—In the opinion of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, the remarkable development of the nickel-mining industry in Canada is one of the marvels in the recent history of mining. In 1889 there was but one company producing in the Sudbury district, and in the following year the output exceeded 1,000,000 pounds of nickel, surpassing the output of the famous mines of New Caledonia. With these two deposits of nickel, both of which are of vast extent and contain ore of high grade, there is evidently no danger that the demand for nickel will outstrip the supply.

—The best sugar works at Farnham, Que., having used up all their beets, closed last week after a fairly good season. Better arrangements have been made with the farmers and a large tract of available land purchased by the directors, who intend going largely into the growing of beets. There is a prospect, therefore, that the coming season the output of sugar will exceed any for years.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, 20th Jan., 1892.

ASHES—Are still dull and quiet. One of the oldest buyers is out of the market just now through sickness, which may perhaps account to some degree for the weakness in values. Receipts are light, about six or seven barrels a day only. We quote first pots nominal at \$4.40; seconds, \$3.80.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Transactions are not yet active in this line. Some manufacturers do not seem in a hurry to make up spring orders, and other factories are short-manned, owing to the ravages of "La Grippe."

CEMENTS, &c.—Trade is quiet in cements, but values steady. We hear of a sale of 100 brls. of English at \$2.65, though this was a special brand. We quote English \$2.40 to 2.75, latter figure for small lots delivered in city; Belgian, \$2.30 to 2.50. Firebricks, \$25 to 30.00 per thousand as to brand.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—A little more is being done in an ordinary sorting way, but there is no movement of any lots. The bromide combination is not yet re-established as was expected. Quinine is a little stronger, prices of bark being well kept up, and the talk of combination helping to stiffen things a little. The position of camphor is a little uncertain. An American syndicate has been refining in Japan, and some of their product is now afloat, which, when placed on the market, may affect general prices. We quote:—Sal soda, \$1.15 to 1.25; bicarb soda, \$2.50 to 2.60; soda ash, per 100 lbs., \$2.00; bichromate of potash, per 100 lbs., \$11.00 to 13.00; borax, refined, 8 to 10c.; cream tartar crystals, 26 to 27c.; do. ground, 28 to 30c.; tartaric acid, crystal, 45 to 47c.; do. powder, 46 to 48c.; citric acid, 60 to 65c.; caustic soda, white, \$2.50 to 2.75; sugar of lead, 10 to 12c.; bleaching powder, \$2.50 to 2.75; alum, \$1.75 to 2.00; copperas, per 100 lbs., 90c. to \$1.00; flowers sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.75 to 3.00; roll sulphur, \$2.50 to 2.75; sulphate of copper, \$4.50 to 5.00; epsom salts, \$1.65 to 1.75; saltpetre, \$8.25 to 8.50; American quinine, 35 to 40c.; German quinine, 35 to 38c.; Howard's quinine, 40 to 45c.; opium, \$3.75 to 4.00; morphia, \$1.50 to 1.60; gum arabic, sorts, 40 to 50c.; white, 75c. to 90c.; carbolic acid, 35 to 50c.; iodide potassium, \$8.75 per lb.; iodine, re-sublimed, \$4.75;

to 5.00; commercial do., \$4.25 to 4.75; iodoform, \$5.50 to 6.00. Prices for essential oils are:—Oil lemon, \$2.75 to 3.75; oil bergamot, \$4.70 to 4.90; orange, \$4.00 to 4.50; oil peppermint, \$4.00 to 5.00; glycerine, 18 to 20c.; senna, 12 to 25c. for ordinary. English camphor, 62 to 65c.; American do., 60 to 65c.; insect powder, 25 to 35c.

DRY GOODS.—The commercial travellers are now all fairly on their route again, but no very full reports are received from them as yet. The general tenor of their letters has been that the unseasonable weather interfered materially with the holiday trade, but that a fairly hopeful feeling now prevails. A leading house reports remittances this week, so far, as considerably ahead of what they have lately been. It is pretty generally believed that some advance is not improbable in cottons. Late American circulars quote some advances, notably in printed calicoes.

FURS.—The outlook does not improve. Russia, by far the largest consumer of American furs, is in a desperate state, and German and English advices say the salvation of prices depends on the American trade, but as

United States dealers are much dissatisfied with the winter's business, it can be readily seen that there is not much strength to the market. The results of the first general London sale, beginning next Monday, will be most anxiously looked for. We quote:—Beaver, \$3.50 to 4.00 per lb.; large bear, \$12 to 15; bear, \$5 to 10; ditto cub, \$2 to 4; fisher, \$2.50 to 4; red fox, \$1; cross ditto, \$1.50 to 3; lynx, \$1.50 to 2.50; marten, 60 to 75c.; mink, 75c. to \$1.50; muskrat, 10c.; winter, 15c.; otter, \$8 to 12; raccoon, 40 to 60c.; skunk, 20, 40, and 60c.; extra large black, \$1.

THE VISIBLE SUPPLY.

The visible supply of grain in the United States and Canada to-day as per Chicago compilation:—

	1892 Jan. 18. Bush.	1891. Jan. 17. Bush.	1890. Jan. 18. Bush.
Wheat.....	44,090,200	25,154,755	33,540,631
Corn	7,732,678	2,743,724	11,215,867
Oats	3,511,864	3,652,440	5,039,356
Rye	2,130,370	419,586	1,829,503
Barley	1,792,182	3,525,641	2,190,290

JANUARY 1ST, 1892.

STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION

—OF THE—

Manufacturers Life Insurance Company
OF TORONTO.

ASSETS.

Dominion Government Bonds	\$ 53,000 00
Huntsville Municipal Debentures	4,975 00
West Toronto Junction Debentures.. .. .	41,847 40
Call Loans on Bank Stocks (Dominion and Imperial Banks' market value \$26,750.00)	25,000 00
Mortgages on Real Estate	200,253 30
Reversions and Life Interests	3,962 00
Bills Receivable	2,051 14
Office Furniture	4,457 75
Agents' Ledger Balances	3,268 47
Outstanding and Deferred Premiums, less 10% held for cost of collection..	53,906 84
Interest Due and Accrued	5,339 25
Loans on Policies	2,123 85
Cash on hand and in Bank	31,784 47
	\$431,969 47

LIABILITIES.

Reserve (Hm. 4½%) on all existing policies in force	\$289,152 00
Death Claims unadjusted, not resisted	6,000 00
Contingent Fund for Medical Fees, etc.	1,616 84
	\$296,768 84
Surplus on Policy Holders' Account	\$135,200 63

INCOME FOR THE YEAR (1891).

Cash received for Premiums	\$194,029 35
Cash received for Interest and Rents	13,457 14
	\$207,486 49

DISBURSEMENTS.

Expenses of Management, including Salaries, Commissions, Rents, Taxes, Medical Fees, etc.	\$ 77,024 27
Death Claims	35,208 52
Surrendered Policies	2,660 79
Reinsurance Premiums	9,345 60
	\$124,239 18

Capital Stock Paid up	\$127,320 00
Surplus as above on Policy Holders' Account	\$135,200 63

GEO. GOODERHAM,
President.

JNO. F. ELLIS,
Managing Director.