

CATHOLIC NEWS.

Dr. Duff, son of the late Moderator of the Free Presbyterian Church, has, with his wife and family, been received into the Roman Catholic Church in New Zealand.

Father Stafford, of Lindsey, says, speaking on the temperance question:—I think the Crooks Act good, but it might be improved by making fines heavier—say \$100 or six months in jail, for the first offence, and \$200, or twelve months, for second, etc.

The present system of appointing L'cense Inspectors is the best, but the inefficiency of some of the Inspectors is bringing the law in some places into disrepute. Inspectors whose sympathies are with the traffic connive at the sale of liquors on Saturday nights and Sundays at all hours.

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIRST NOVICE IN TORONTO—A SOLEMN AND IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.

About six months ago the Christian Brothers of this city decided to open a novitiate for the training of members of their congregation. On Wednesday morning last the first novice was formally received in the chapel of the institute, the gentleman being Mr. William Culliton, whose father lives in Melancton.

The Archbishop afterwards delivered an address on the religious life, and the ceremony closed with Mass.—Toronto World.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOL.

The Second Class of the Christian Brothers' School underwent an examination yesterday afternoon. Rev. Father Twobey, Chairman of the Separate School Board, presided. The examination was conducted by Brother Halward, Principal of the School, assisted by Brothers Jerome and Patrick. The pupils of the second division in arithmetic were first examined, the subject being fractions.

THE DISASTER IN THE TRANSVAAL.

London, Dec. 24.—On the calm of our Christmas Eve comes the confirmation of a second Isandula disaster. It is bad news which will disturb the Ministers and add to the gloom of their already dreary Christmas.

The new Minister of War in Belgium intends to propose the transformation of the Belgian air force into a regiment of dragons, as the lance is found to be an impracticable weapon.

POST MORTEM EXAMINATIONS have, in some instances, led to the discovery of the scars of completely healed abscesses or sores upon the lungs. This of itself shows that the lung tissue when diseased is susceptible of restoration to a sound and healthy condition.

Finance and Commerce.

TRUE WITNESS OFFICE, Dec. 28. FINANCIAL.

The local stock market to-day was again dull, and is most likely to remain so until the end of the week. The market was firm, and but few sales reported, as follows:—Morning Board: 17 Montreal at 168; 15 do at 168; 15 Jacques Cartier at 97; 50 Commerce, ex-div., at 130; 25 Montreal Telegraph at 133; 175 do at 133; 25 Richeleu & Ontario Navigation Company at 61; 25 do at 61; 10 City Passenger Railway at 116. There will be no Afternoon Board this week.

COMMERCIAL.

WEEKLY REVIEW—WHOLESALE MARKETS.

TRUE WITNESS OFFICE, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28.

There is general feeling of apathy amongst business men at present, things have assumed a holiday appearance, as it usually does at this period of the year, for now is the season when accounts are arranged, books balanced, debts liquidated, stock taken, and new contracts opened for a fresh start in the ensuing twelve months before us.

ASHEs.

Receipts moderate. Sale of Firsts at lower prices, \$5.00 being accepted for new brand; Seconds, \$4.60; Thirds, \$4.00. In Pearls nothing has been done. The market for both Pots and Pearls closes quiet.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Orders for future delivery of Spring goods, forwarded by travellers, are fairly numerous; but business is expected to be brisker after the holidays. The books just balanced for the year show that, while the margin of profits is in most cases scarcely as large as that for 1879, the number of failures for the year is much smaller, and, consequently, the total of losses also. There have been no alterations in prices, and probably none will be made; with the present cost of raw material, however, quotations will likely be held firm.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

There is not much change to note; business continues pretty active for light goods and druggists' sundries, while heavy chemicals are in light demand. Quinine has stiffened somewhat, but the demand at this season is not heavy. Benz has improved in value, the price in New York having advanced about 2c per lb., on account of heavy shipment to England.

DAY GOODS.

Some houses are in the midst of stock-taking, others have finished, but business with them all is reasonably light. Orders chiefly from the Lower Provinces, for Spring goods (to be delivered in January, and February, when importations have been received) and sorting-up orders from the West have demanded considerable time and attention during the week. The books are not yet balanced for the year, but it is generally admitted that a most satisfactory trade has been done; and remittances seem to increase as the season advances.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

In butter there has been nothing worthy of note transpiring outside of sales to the local trade. Several basket lots of rolls sold yesterday at 17, 18 and 19c per lb. English milk and cables advance this week as quite unfavorable. Butter that would have realized 80s in Liverpool a month ago is reported to have been sacrificed at 35s to 40s. Accounts filled of fine butter costing 20c on this side, received here Tuesday, show a net price to shippers, when sold, of 14c, and it is said that they consider themselves lucky—truly kind of luck we imagine, but it might have been worse for them to have held the goods longer. Creamery butter recently shipped from New York has been ordered

back to that market from Liverpool, as it is believed that it can be sold there to better advantage, even after paying freight and other expenses. The present unprecedentedly bad condition of the English market is attributed to the immense quantities of counterfeit stuff exported to and placed on that market. The Cheese trade has apparently taken a turn for the better, earlier than expected; late cable advices are encouraging, and New York market is also better; the current tone there is healthful and cheerful, with the gain made on prices well sustained.

FRUITs.—Oranges arriving more freely, and meeting with good demand—due to the improved quality of the fruit and holiday requirements. All offering find a ready sale at \$6 per case for Valencia, the only kind in the market. Lemons, scarce, owing to light receipts and continued good demand; Apples.—Nothing new to report of this market; prices for good fruit maintained at \$2 to 2.50, with sales all of a jobbing character.

GRAIN.—The grain trade for the week under review has shown no indication of recovering its activity. In England and on the Continent, the markets were, perhaps, scantily supplied, but prices were prevented from falling by that circumstance, as otherwise the great bulk on passage and the increase in the American visible supply would have occasioned a serious decline.

LEATHER.

Dealers generally report business quiet, with few sales. Consequently, but one or two houses have experienced a more active enquiry for all descriptions, and round lots of sole and black leathers have changed hands at about our quotations. Prices are nominally unchanged, but we make some light revisions, especially for sole, which is not in brisk demand, and holders might be induced to make concessions; Light Splits and Buff, continue in good request, Medium and the former is quite scarce. Uppers are also in light supply, stocks in this market being held by a few dealers only; prices, therefore, quite firm.

HIDES AND SKINS.

Receipts of green hides from local butchers for the week have been rather larger than for recent preceding weeks, but the demand from tanners continues good for the time of year, and there is little or no difficulty in disposing of all offerings. Receipts of Western hides by rail, scarcely as large this month as usual. Prices nominally unchanged, there is not much unanimity in the trade as to values, and some favorite butchers, we are told, realize 25 to 50c advance on one inside quotation. On the other hand the largest holder of hides in the market, perhaps, states that he is selling to tanners at 25c less than our outside quotations, but these hides are not what are known as 'Montreal inspection' Lamb's pelts are coming forward freely, as the lambs are now being killed for packing; all offering find a ready sale at full prices; a local dealer stated to-day that he would pay as high as \$1.50 for good No. 1 skins.

FARMERS' PRODUCE MARKET.

There was a much slimmer attendance of farmers at Bonsecours Market this morning, and dealers report business good, especially in the poultry line. Two extensive dealers—Messrs. P. L'Abbe & Co.—sold to-day to the French Seminary fifty pairs turkeys and fifty pairs chickens at 9 and 10 cts per lb. The quotations for other produce in the market still remain unchanged, and business generally reported favorable. There has been a visibly large decrease in the supply of farmers' beef, they having substituted fowl in its stead, during the past couple of weeks. Happy anticipations of a splendid market is felt for Friday next, and the stands along the market are wearing a holiday aspect.

FLOUR, MEAL AND GRAIN.

Flour, per 100 lbs., \$3.00 to \$3.20; Buckwheat flour, \$2.30; Oatmeal, \$2.30 to \$2.40; Cornmeal, do, yellow, \$1.50; do, white, \$1.60; Bran, \$1.00; Barley, per bush, 65c to 70c; Oats, per bag, \$1; Peas, bush, \$1; Buckwheat, per bush, 80c; Beans, white and yellow, per bush, \$1.60.

FRUIT.

Cranberries, Cape Cod, from \$7.00 per barrel; Apples, per barrel, \$2.00 to \$2.50; Lemons, per case, \$7.00; do, per box, \$4.00 to \$5.00; White Grapes, per lb., 15c to 20c; Malaga Grapes, per keg, \$5.00; Valencia Oranges, \$4.50; Columbus Pears, \$5.00 per box.

ing, orders received from the wholesale trade, from all parts of the Dominion, have been largely in excess of their means of supply; with all hands working night and day our leading manufacturers will be kept busy until some time next month filling orders for this winter, while those for the Spring are pouring in every day. The majority of houses here are sold out of stock, and could have disposed of a great deal more goods had they been manufactured; the trade have not witnessed such a "boom" since 1873. Still, notwithstanding, we are informed that, owing to the demand having been chiefly for cheap goods, the turn-over in the aggregate is not greatly in excess of that of former years. The demand for the past two months, however, has shown a considerable improvement in the class of goods purchased, being largely for fine furs, which indicates a better financial feeling pervading the mass of the population.

PROVISIONS.

The Chicago market for pork and lard has been weaker during the past few days, and values have been tending downwards, a further drop of 7 1/2 to 10c per brl. for pork and of 5c per 100 lbs. for lard being recorded yesterday. Receipts of hogs in Chicago continues to increase, those for yesterday being estimated at 43,000 head. Here trade has continued quiet; old American pork selling at \$16.50, and New Canada at \$17 to 17.50. Lard in steady demand, selling in jobbing lots at 12 1/2c for Ontario make, in pails. Hams in light demand, worth 12 1/2c to probably 13c for the best. Receipts of dressed hogs not yet large, and buyers still holding off; packers are not offering even inside quotations, as they have determined not to pack at all this season, unless prices decline to a reasonable figure.

WILL PARNELL HAVE A FAIR TRIAL?

The following from the pen of Mr. Justin McCarthy, M.P., appeared in the Daily News of Tuesday:—

Sir,—I cannot but think that a very unfortunate effect will be produced in Ireland at once by the opposition to Mr. Parnell's application for postponement of the Land League trials, and by the manner in which the application was refused. The observations of the Lord Chief Justice, in delivering the decision of the Court, are such, as I venture to think, no English judge could be induced to make on such an occasion. They read like the words, not of a judge, but of a somewhat impassioned partisan. It will assuredly not be forgotten in Ireland that the Lord Chief Justice who delivered this singular address is a strong Conservative, and with so little favour amongst his own people that, during the years while he was Irish Attorney-General to the late government, he was not able to find a constituency willing to return him to the House of Commons.

FROM IROQUOIS.

Iroquois, Dec. 27.—The election of Reeve and Councillors for this village took place at noon to-day with the following result: John N. Tuttle, Esq., Reeve; Messrs. Wm. Doran, Wm. Redmond, S. Larue and Saml. London, Councillors; all elected by acclamation.

DECEASED.

DELANEY.—At Ottawa, Ont., on the 25th December, at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. John Brown, Mrs. Margaret Delaney, formerly of Kingston, Ont., aged 76 years. May she rest in peace.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

SCHOOL BOOKS

A Full and Complete Assortment OF ALL THE STANDARD SCHOOL AND COLLEGE TEXT-BOOKS

Constantly on hand, and sold at Publishers' lowest wholesale prices.

EMBRACING WORKS ON:

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