

QUEBEC CORRESPONDENCE.

QUEBEC, 22nd November, 1876.

For the past fortnight business in this city has been quite brisk, more particularly may this be said of the grocery and provision trades. This is what may, as a rule, be anticipated at this season of the year; winter supplies for the Lower Ports are shipped by the last Schooners, and there is generally, for a short period, an amount of rush and hurry to get clear before the close of navigation. For the past two seasons it has been pretty close work to do this; indeed, in 1874, some schooners were delayed so late that they were obliged to unload and make for the nearest winter quarters. This season, however, the weather has been all that could be desired, and lower port vessels have now got almost all comfortably away. There are still several sea-going ships in port, and a few yet to arrive; but it is not likely they will venture up any more this season.

The fall trade has, on the whole, been a very fair one, indeed we are inclined to boast that we enjoy a healthier state of trade than some of our more pretentious friends further West. Quebec has been singularly clear of many heavy failures during the past year. Some of the leading grocery houses have dealt heavily in sugar and molasses, and have been largely benefitted by the rise in price of these articles.

The lumber shippers have also done well, and although they have not completely recovered from the heavy losses of the past few years, the present season is one of some gain. Stocks in the European market, however, are heavy, and the London market, particularly, is said to be flooded with deals. It is difficult to see how any lasting benefit is likely to result to the trade from the late restricted cut, when we consider the activity with which more is being produced; no less than 5,000 to 6,000 men being sent into the bush this winter, on the Ottawa alone. This is incomprehensible folly and must have an ill effect, not only upon the dealer but upon the country at large, as our forests are being used up without materially advantaging any one.

The steamer Northern Light, built for Winter navigation on the Lower St. Lawrence, has been completed, and last week made her trial trip, which was satisfactory in every respect, the steamer making the average time of 13½ miles an hour. She is a fair looking vessel, evidently of great power, and we trust will prove equal to the great work for which she is intended.

Insurance.

FIRE RECORD.—Rockton, 12th.—The barn of Peter Wood was consumed by fire, together with contents of hay, straw, and a thrashing machine. Fully insured.

Poton, Que., 9th.—Fullerton Brother's barn, near Mansonville, was burned down, contents were 50 tons hay, and numerous implements and machines. Insured for \$800 in Canada Agricultural.

North Burgess, 11th.—The house and barns of Mr. Noble, on the Rideau, were consumed by fire. Loss \$500, not insured.

Indiantown, N. B., 16th.—Two houses, owned by Simeon Winchester, and occupied by Gilbert Currie and S. Whitney, were destroyed by fire. Insurance \$600 in Stadacona, and \$800 in Western.

12th.—The barn of Matthew Murphy, filled with oats and peas, also two stacks of straw were burned. Insured for \$300.

Craighurst, 16th.—A fire consumed the stables

and sheds of A. Swaisland, and a hall owned by John Moran. Loss \$500.

Belleville, 19th.—Henry McIninch lost his carriage factory and entire contents by fire. Loss \$300, covered by insurance.

Mill Village, N.S., 14th.—A furniture factory and Masonic Lodge room, owned by Joseph Wyman, was burned down. No insurance.

Petrolia, 20th.—The foundry of Wm. Fraser took fire this morning, the steam fire engine put out the flames which damaged the building, \$200.

Hamilton, 18th.—A fire broke out in the store, on King st., of W. Hodgson, some of the stock was injured.

Milton, N. S., 16th.—By a fire here a furniture factory and the Masonic Hall were destroyed. Loss over \$8,000; no insurance.

Wallace, N. S., 15th.—The mission house of the Wesleyan Methodists, near here, has been burned down.

Montreal, 21st.—Edmund Trenette's carriage factory took fire and was damaged. Owned by the Montarville Building Society, and fully insured. Loss \$1,500.

Brookville, N. S., 19th.—A vacant house, owned by John Mulchie, was burned down.

Ottawa, 19th.—The dwelling and out-buildings of Patrick O'Meara at Fallowfield near here are destroyed by fire insured. Loss about \$3,000.

Lachine, Que., 19.—The barns and stables of Thomas A. Dawes Jr. were burned down tonight, insured for \$3,400 in the North British & Mercantile, and Liverpool London and Globe. Several cattle burned, insured; and many valuable pigs and sheep, not insured.

Bont de l'Isle, Que., 19.—The steam tug C. J. Brydges, owned by MacDonald & Worthington took fire and was scuttled and sunk to save hull and machinery. Loss \$3,000 insured in British America for \$6,000.

Quebec, 19.—A fire broke out in the drill shed which was somewhat damaged.

Toronto, Nov. 21st.—The immense foundry premises of Wm. Hamilton & Co., 400 feet square, built of wood was burned to the ground, and all the firms patterns destroyed. The melting furnaces are mostly saved, as are the office, dwelling house, and stables. The loss is estimated by the proprietors at \$150,000. Insured as follows:—Northern, \$2,500; Canada Fire & Marine, \$2,800; Western, \$5,750; Royal Canadian, \$5,000; Provincial, \$5,750; Aetna, \$5,000; Gore District, \$5,000; Queen, \$3,750; Hastings Mutual, \$2,000; Guardian, \$2,000; Total \$39,550.

Napanee, 19.—A fire broke out in the Boot & Shoe store of Rose & Fralick which was partially burned and much damaged by water insured for \$8,000, J. J. Perrys drug stock is somewhat damaged by smoke and water, not insured Hooper & Sons stock of millinery and dry goods damaged by water and smoke. Insured in Hand-in-Hand for \$5,000, in Royal for \$2,500. The building owned by Perry is insured for \$14,000 in Royal and other companies.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKET.

From our own Reporter.

MONTREAL, Nov. 23, 1876.

The weather still keeps remarkably open for the season of the year, and frost and snow would now be acceptable to make good roads, which are in a woeful condition at present after so much rain. Sea-going ships have nearly all left our port, and the harbour has a deserted appearance. The Lachine Canal authorities have given notice that the water will be drawn off the Canal on the 4th of December, to allow the improvements on the canal to be proceeded

with, so that, whether frost comes or not, all vessels will require to be in their winter quarters before that time.

Business this week has been much greater than for a few weeks past. The excitement in sugar has settled down considerably, under the influence of the decline in England, and the market this week has been much weaker. Wheat is quiet and nominal. Flour is firm and holders are looking for an advance; provisions are quiet but steady. Pot ashes steady; pearls lower. Hardware business quiet but fair for the season. Leather is less active, but late quotations are well maintained. The English leather market is advancing, and considerable shipments have been made from here, which prevents stocks from accumulating. Wool market very dull and quotations are almost nominal.

ASHES—Pots.—Since this day week the market for firsts has been very steady at our closing rate of last Tuesday viz., \$4.25. to \$4.30 which is still the price paid, but the demand this week has been light for all kinds of Pot ashes. Seconds were moved at \$3.30. nothing done in thirds. **Pearls.** The decline in the English market has caused prices to give way here to day the ruling price for firsts is \$5.00 to \$5.10 but not much business doing even at that figure. Inferiors are nominal. The stocks at present held here are Pots 2689 brls; pearls 707 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The open weather seems to favor this line of trade which is still moderately active and a very fair sorting up business continues to be done at full price, which are firm but unchanged.

CATTLE.—Notwithstanding that the market was well stocked yesterday, prices were firm but not higher than those realized yesterday week, the range being from \$3.00 to 4.75 per 100 lbs. live weight, at these prices a very fair business was transacted. **Hogs** were in abundance but as buyers and sellers were apart in their views no great amount of business was done, for good hogs from \$5.50 to 7.00 per 100 lbs live weight was paid, some inferior animals were disposed of at less than our inside quotations. **Sheep.**—The only lots on the market was sold at \$4.60 per 100 lbs., most of which were at once shipped to the English markets.

DRY GOODS.—There is quite a lull in this branch of trade, and until we have frost and snow to make good roads no special activity is looked for. A few small orders, however, continue to come in, and there seems to be satisfaction all round at the way remittances are coming to hand.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The market has hardly been so strong this week as it has been for sometime past, holders having been more inclined to press sales, which resulted only in a slightly increased jobbing trade within our range of quotations. We quote: *Bi Carb* \$3.75 to 0.00; *Sal Soda* \$1.37½ to 1.50; *Caustic Soda* \$3.50; *Soda Ash* 2 to 2½; *Copperas* 1½c; *Alum* 2 to 2½c; *Epsom Salts* 2c; *Saltpetre* \$8.00 to 8.50; *Sulphur* and *Brimstone* unchanged the former sells at \$3.50 to 3.75, and the latter at \$2.75; *Bleaching Powder* 2½ to 2½, scarce and held at quotations; *Blue Vitrol* firm at 6½ to 7c; *Cream Tartar* ground 30c; *Cream Tartar Crystals* 26c; *Borax* 14½ to 16c; *Madder* 10 to 12c.

FISH.—There has been quite a lively demand this week for Labrador herrings, stocks are much reduced and very few remaining in first hands. In dry cod there has been very little movement, the market being very quiet. Green cod is in good demand at our quotations. We quote: *Labrador herrings* \$6.26; *Dry cod* \$5.00 to 5.25; *Green cod* \$5.50 to 6.50 per 200 lbs. *Salmon* steady at \$10.00 to 12.00.

FURS AND SKINS.—The market is quiet, dealers being uncertain how prices may go, which depends a good deal, or rather entirely, on what turn events in Europe may take. Mink