

ment so that all industrial classes, be they lawyers, or merchants, doctors, officials, clerks or manufacturers, that all shall be taxed uniformly on income

The unfortunate merchant's position, especially if he be doing business in Toronto, reminds me of a story of Mark Twain's. He relates that before the time of the railroads and in the times of the stage coach from the Mississippi to the gold diggings, the stage drivers had a dangerous and hard time of it; they had to run the gauntlet of the western desperado and the Indian. He says that they (the drivers) all died of starvation, inasmuch as they got so riddled with bullets they could not hold their victuals. Now the merchants and manufacturers in this city get so riddled with taxes (three times now a year) that they cannot hold their capital (being taxed fifteen times more on personality than other classes of citizens, being taxed on capital instead of on income); they are in danger of dying of starvation for want of funds to buy their victuals.

Allow me, Mr. Editor, to call it to your attention further, that contrary to the provision in the Confederation Act which imposes uniformity of law for assessment in the provinces, the capital of the merchant or manufacturer is twice taxed. For instance, in country towns and villages the merchant or manufacturer generally owns his own buildings. He invariably mortgages the same to put the money into his business. For example: a merchant is assessed on his store \$10,000; he borrows \$8,000 for his business. Assessment on store, \$10,000; assessment on capital in business, \$8,000; total assessment, \$18,000, although the man is worth only \$10,000. This does not occur to any other class of the community nor to any other kind of property, for if an owner of \$10,000 worth of free real estate borrows \$8,000 on it and lends that money, or puts it out on mortgage, or shaves notes with it, or invests it in a ten years' endowment policy, it is not taxed. Is this not contrary to British law and precedent?

PAUL CAMPBELL.

Toronto, 8th October, 1891.

THE HALIFAX FIRE.

In our last issue brief reference was made to a great fire then raging along the harbor front of the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia. We have now particulars, which show that its ravages were stopped at Hamilton's wharf. The fire of Thursday night and Friday of last week swept away almost the whole of the lower side of Water street from Cronan's wharf north to Hamilton's wharf. Such a complete wreck has not been seen in Halifax since the fire which swept Granville street. Twenty-five or thirty stores, dwellings and warehouses were destroyed or ruined. The total loss is placed at \$250,000; the insurances aggregate about \$130,000. Bitter comment is made upon what is termed the mismanagement of the fire—severely criticising the conduct of the fire-wardens and firemen, alleging gross incapacity, etc. Some 1,500 barrels of oil were burned. The further progress of the fire northward was stayed by a large quantity of salt stored upon Hamilton's wharf, which served as a barrier.

The total loss is differently estimated at from \$240,000 to \$300,000. A list is given by the *Evening Mail* of Saturday of the individual losses so far as could be ascertained:

Stratford Bros., 1,200 bbls. oil; no insurance	\$12,000
John Taylor & Co.	30,000
Davidson Bros., fish and groceries	6,000
Donald Walker, boarding house.....	4,000
J. B. Neilly & Co.	6,000
M. A. Davidson	2,000
J. P. Cox	1,200
T. A. S. DeWolfe & Sons, loss on buildings and stock	26,000
E. Churchill & Sons	25,000
T. J. Mulcahy	2,500
Hamilton estate	40,000
Shaffer	300
C. E. Creighton	loss not heavy
Lewis A. Wilson	400
Mrs. Spruin	150
J. C. Merlin	15,000
Miss M. Regan	300
Brookfield Bros.	15,000
J. E. Butler	1,000
Robert Carson	200
Hx broom factory	3,500
Mary J. Morley	3,500
A. J. Grant	2,000

V. J. Farrell	8,000
P. L. Kite, furniture	800
G. P. Manning, house	1,200
W. Williams, furniture	700

The insurances of the various firms burned out are thus given:

John Taylor & Co., West India goods..	\$28,000
Estate Wm. Harrington.....	13,000
T. A. S. DeWolfe & Son, shipping....	12,500
George W. Churchill, groceries.....	10,000
Moir, Son & Co., flour.....	8,000
A. J. Grant & Co., hardware.....	5,000
Brookfield Bros., lumber.....	3,500
Macdonald company, machinery.....	5,000
J. B. Neilly & Co., forwarding.....	2,000
Musgrave & Co., fish	2,000
Halifax confectionery company	3,500
D. D. Walker.....	3,200
Isaac Cartel	1,500
Davidson Bros., grocers	3,000
C. E. Creighton, wholesale groceries ..	5,200
J. W. Barrs	3,000
Estate Garrett Roach	3,800
Estate J. Mulroney.....	4,000
Estate Mulcahy	1,000
J. R. Siteman	1,000
J. E. Butler	1,000
Mrs. Morley, groceries	2,700
Estate Lewis Wilson	4,000

Besides there were a dozen other sufferers to the extent of \$500 to \$1,000 each.

We have received, through the courtesy of Mr. J. H. Ewart, the Toronto agent of the Eastern Assurance Co., of Halifax, the following statement of the amount of insurance, which makes the aggregate about \$130,000 divided among the following offices:

Acadia, of Halifax.....	\$20,500
Halifax company.....	23,500
Citizens.....	16,200
Royal.....	12,000
Hartford.....	9,000
Commercial Union.....	8,000
Queen.....	6,000
North America.....	5,000
Eastern Assurance company.....	5,000
North British and Mercantile.....	4,500
National, of Ireland.....	4,200
London and Lancashire.....	4,000
Lancashire	3,000
Caledonia.....	3,000
Royal Canadian	2,000
Etna	1,500
Phoenix, of London.....	1,000
Total.....	\$128,900

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, Oct. 7th, 1891.

STOCKS.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average.
Montreal	226	227	17	230	226	229
Ontario	115	115	112	115	112	112
People's	97	97	73	99	96	95
Molson's	156	154	5	166	155	155
Toronto	225	225	228	225	228	225
J. Cartier	105	105	101	105	101	101
Merchants	150	150	10	151	147	145
Commerce.....	132	130	139	132	130	129
Union	86	86	2	86	86	86
Mon. Teleg. rd.	110	109	546	109	109	99
Rich. & Ont	55	55	50	56	54	54
Street Ry.	192	192	100	192	189	187
do. new stock	192	192	100	192	187	187
Gas, rd.	201	211	56	201	200	203
do. new stock	201	211	56	201	200	203
C. Pacific	90	88	2365	89	69	77
C. P. land b'ds	109	107	107	109	107	107
N. W. Land	80	80	100	82	80	77
Bell Tele. .x.d	138	137	37	141	134	134
do. new stock	138	137	37	141	134	134
Montreal 4%	138	137	37	141	134	134

GIRLISH CONFIDENCES.

Laura—I have heard, Irene, that Mr. Weetpit, the young Board of Trade broker who comes to see you, is what they call a bear.

Irene (blushing vividly)—A bear, Laura? That doesn't begin to express it. He's a perfect boa-constrictor.—*Chicago Tribune*.

—“Those are capital letters,” said the man who wrote I.O.U. in acknowledgment of a much-wanted loan.—*Washington Star*.

—The board of lady managers of the Chicago World's Fair has by a vote of 56 to 36 declared in favor of closing on Sunday.

A MODERN JOSEPH.

A Dundee navvy, on awakening one morning, told his wife of a curious dream that he had during the night. He dreamed that he saw a big fat rat coming towards him followed by two lean ones, and in the rear one blind one. He was greatly worried over it, and swore that some great evil was about to fall upon him. He had heard that to dream of rats foreboded some dire calamity. In vain did he appeal to his wife, but she could not relieve him. His son, who, by the way, was a bright lad, hearing the dream told, volunteered to interpret it, and he did, with all the wisdom of a Joseph. Said he: “The fat rat is the man who keeps the public house where ye gang to see often, and the two lean ones are me and me mither, and the blind one is yersel’, father.”—*Frank Leslie's Weekly*.

A RATHER QUEER LETTER HEAD.

A New Hampshire hotel letter head bears the following legend:

STOP AT THE ——— HOTEL.
MY WIFE & I, PROPRIETORS
The only second class house in
the U. S. that charges every-
body first-class prices. No special
rates to preachers, shows or
drummers.

—Essex county grape growers are now receiving three cents per pound for their fruit, but there is no decrease in the shipments.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Oct. 7th, 1891.

ASHES.—Receipts have been very light since last writing, and the very moderate demand has taken all that has come forward, leaving only 63 bbls. of pots in store at the 1st of the month. Values are just as they were, first quality pots quoting at \$4.60 to 4.70; seconds, \$3.90 to 4.00; pearls, not a transaction, and we quote \$6.15 to 6.25 as a nominal figure.

CEMENTS.—Stocks of cement are still pretty full, and one or two steamers with considerable are not far off. We quote English, \$2.40 to 2.60; Belgian, \$2.25 to 2.35; Firebricks, \$17 to \$24 as to brand.

CHEMICALS AND DRUGS.—There are few if any quotable changes. Soda, crystals and bicarb are quoted higher at home; bromides rather firmer; strychnine easier; sulphur dearer to import; cream tartar dull and unchanged. All grades of gum arabic are rather lower. Tinevelly senna advanced 10 to 15 per cent. Opium dull but firm. Canary and hemp seeds expected to rule higher. 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, 27 to 28c.; do. ground, 29 to 31c.; 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 8.75; American quinine, 35 to 40c.; German quinine, 35 to 38c.; Howard's quinine, 40 to 45c.; opium, \$3.50 to 4.00; morphia, \$1.50 to 1.70; gum arabic, sorts, 60 to 80c.; white, 90c. to 1.00; carbolic acid, 35 to 50c.; iodide potassium, \$3.75 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, 20 to 22c.; senna, 12 to 25c. for ordinary. English camphor, 65 to 70c.; American do., 65 to 70c.; insect powder, 30 to 35c.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Trading is not active, as holders are very firm in their ideas; there is some enquiry for export, but values are too high to allow of business. We quote finest creamery 21 to 22c.; Townships, 16 to 18c.;