

## STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

3.15 o'clock, March 27, 1878.

Stocks.	Lowest Point in Week.	Highest Point in Week.	Total in Week.	Buyers.	Sellers.
Montreal.....	161	161½	575	161	161½
Ontario.....	92½	93	75	92½	93
Consolidated.....	78½	79	124	78½	79
Peoples.....	79½	80	32	79½	80
Molsons & Co.....	16	16	90	16	90
Toronto.....	135	137	137	135	137
Jacques Cartier.....	483	492	675	484	489
Merchants.....	63½	64	239	63½	64
Commerce.....	115	115	40	114½	115½
Metropolitan.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Maritime.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Exchange.....	.....	.....	.....	75	.....
Hamilton.....	.....	.....	.....	60	.....
Union.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mon. Tel.....	122	123½	1456	123½	123½
Dominion Telegra h	84	84	118	84	85½
Gas.....	148	150	147½	148½	.....
City Pass.....	.....	.....	.....	82½	90
R. C. Insurance.....	82½	82½	40	82½	82½
Sterling Exchange.....	109½	109½	.....	109	109½
Gold.....	101	101½	.....	101	101
Richeieu & Ont. Nav	53½	53½	95	52½	53½

**BUSTED IN BUSINESS.**—The other evening a very polite darkey made his bow to one of the desk editorial, with his hat in hand, and the propitiatory remark: "I know it's kind o' cheeky to ask it of a stranger, but de fact am I'se busted in business; had to sign over, sah, can't pay two cents on de dollar."

"Is that so? I'm sorry to hear it. Hope your creditors are satisfied?"

"To be shuh! Dey's all right. *It's me dat's a sufferin'.* I mus' go fru de bankruptcy court. De fact is, I want you to advance me the capital to set up agin in business."

"What is your business?"

"I'se a jobber and whitewasher, sah. I'se bin doin' a smashin' business."

"Well, how much capital will it require to set you up in business again?"

"Thirty seven and a half cents, sah."

The capital was furnished then and there, and set up that mercantile son of Africa in less than twenty five minutes.—*Hartford Times.*

**BE CAREFUL.**—Credit is not as cheap as it was a year or two ago. The costly experiences which merchants have had of late have taught them greater caution and more prudence in granting credits. This caution and prudence has extended to the retail merchants as well as to the jobbers, and there are more of them to-day selling for cash or on very limited time than we have ever before known. This is right. The times require it. We are not yet out of the woods. We are working that way, but we must, from present appearances, expect to have a moderate business year. Close and economical conduct of business is what is best now. No unnecessary stock should be carried and no bad debts made. In this way we may all work along and help to make better times.—*Grocer.*

**SPEED OF STEAMSHIPS.**—Since 1840 the fast steamships of the Atlantic trade have increased their speed from 8.3 knots per hour to 15.6 knots, and the consumption of fuel per 100 indicated horse power has been reduced from 4.7 cwt. to 1.9 cwt. In 1877 there were 182 steamships of 556,650 tons in the service, of which 125 of 377,905 tons were English. The statement of rapid passages since the year named shows a gradual reduction from 14 days to 7½. During the same time 56 steamers have been lost, with 4,430 lives.

—*Engineering* states that about a dozen German telegraph offices have been provided with telephones, and these appear to have proved so effective that forty-eight more offices are now being provided with similar instruments, and neighboring Norwegian fishing villages are

now connected by telegraph to warn fishermen of the approach of a bank of herrings. Hitherto the fish have frequently gone away before hands enough to catch them could be summoned.

—The fourth annual report of the British Columbia Minister of Mines, upon the mining operations for gold, coal, etc., during the year 1877, gives a total estimated yield of gold of \$1,608,182, being a decrease of \$178,466 as compared with the yield for 1876. The actual output of coal was 154,052 tons, of which 24,311 tons were sold for home consumption, and 115,381 tons for exportation. The total yield exceeded the output of 1876 by nearly 15,000 tons.

—From 25 to 30 men are employed at the works of the Dexter-Whitwam M'fg. Co., at St. Thomas, in the manufacture of bent-stuff wooden-ware, handles etc., from white ash, oak, elm, maple and hickory wood. We learn that the Company are executing some orders for British houses, principally in Sheffield and Birmingham, and several cases were forwarded thither last week. The articles made for shipment to England are pick shafts, sledge and other hammer handles, brush, mop and broom handles, axe helves, &c.

—The Secretary-Treasurer of the township of Orford, Que., was dismissed by the council, being about \$1000 behind in his accounts; he was also censured for making unwarrantable attacks through the newspapers upon members of the council. A portion of the deficiency was made good in cash, and the remainder secured on his real estate.

## Commercial.

## MONTREAL MARKETS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

MONTREAL, March 26th, 1878.

The rush of buyers to the city last week did not come up to expectations; still those who did come helped to give the appearance of activity to almost every branch of trade, especially dry goods and groceries. The hardware trade does not seem to have participated so much as other branches, in the business done. The breadstuffs and provision market has been unsettled on account of the Eastern question, but closed firmer, although nothing beyond the supply of the city wants has been reported. Leather merchants are doing a little more, and the boot and shoe trade is rather more lively. A heavy snow storm began here early on Sunday and continued till Monday noon. The roads are badly blocked in some places. There is an open channel in the river now down to Sorel, so that we may soon expect to see some of the market steamers up.

**ASHES.**—*Pots.* The market the past week has had a downward tendency, and on Wednesday last prices dropped to \$3.82½ to 3.90 for firsts, at which price the market closes steady, seconds have been placed at \$3.40. Thirds are quite nominal. Receipts of potashes have been only moderate. *Pearls.*—None coming in, no transactions reported on which to base quotations which are nominal. The stocks at present in store are *Pots* 3052 brls; *Pearls* 586 brls.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.**—Manufacturing houses have been fairly busy during the past week, dealers speaking hopefully both as to the increase in the numbers of orders coming in, and an improvement in remittances. We quote *Mens stoga boots* \$2.00 to 2.50; ditto *kip boots* \$2.50 to 3.00; ditto *French calf* \$3.25

to 4.00; ditto *buff congress* \$1.75 to 2.25; ditto *split brogans* \$1.00 to 1.25; *boys split brogans* 90c to \$1.00; ditto *buff and pebble congress* \$1.35 to 1.60; *womans buff and pebble Balmorals* \$1.15 to 1.60; ditto *prunella Balmorals* 75 to \$1.50; ditto *congress* 65 to \$1.50.

**CATTLE.**—There was a moderate supply of cattle in the market yesterday, but being a holiday, there was not much demand. Drovers were inclined to ask higher prices but no one seemed inclined to buy at the advance asked; any business reported was at 3½ to 4½ per lb. There were no hogs on the market yesterday.

**DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.**—There were a good number of buyers in the city during the past week, and a fair amount of business has been done, orders have not been very large, but pretty numerous. Price of almost every article in our list is well maintained and market closes firm at last weeks prices which we repeat: *Bi Carb Soda*, \$3.25 to 3.40 per lb 112 keg, scarce; *Soda Ash*, 1½ to 1¾ c per lb *Cudbear*, 11 to 20c per lb; *Arrow root*, 13 to 45c per lb; *Borax*, 10 to 11c per lb; *Cream Tartar Crystals*, 25c per lb; *do Ground*, 27 to 29; *Caustic Soda*, \$3 to 3.12½ per 100 lbs.; *East India Senna*, 11 to 15c per lb; *Sugar of Lead*, 12 to 14c per lb; *Bleaching Powder*, 1½ to 1¾ c per lb; *Madder*, 8 to 9c per lb; *Alum*, 1½ to 2c per lb; *Copperas*, 1 to 1½ c per lb; *Sulphur*, 3½ to 3¾ c per lb; *Brimstone*, 2½ c per lb. *Epsom Salts*, \$1.75 to 2.00 per 100 lbs.; *Sal Soda*, \$1.10 to 1.20 per 100 lbs.; *Saltpetre*, held at \$8.50 to \$9.00 per 112 lb. keg; *Blue Vitriol*, 5½ to 6c per lb.

**DRY GOODS.**—Business during the week has been fairly active, large numbers of buyers have been in this city and the aggregate of business done so far will compare favourably with last year—stocks are still well assorted. The fine warm weather of the early part of the week has given an impetus to the retail trade who have been doing a better business than for sometime past.

**FISH.**—There has been a slightly improved demand for fish, but nothing to what is generally expected at this season of the year, prices are by no means firm, and to large buyers our quotations would most likely be somewhat shaded. *Green cod*, \$3.00 to 4.00; *Dry Cod*, \$4.00 to \$4.50; *Labrador Herrings*, \$4.50 to 4.75.

**FLOUR.**—Receipts during the past week 11,398 brls.; total receipts from 1st January to date 99,996 brls., being an increase of 1510 brls. on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1877. Shipments during the week 6592 brls.; total shipments from 1st January to date 27,552 brls. In the early part of the week, although there was a declining tendency in values, there was no demand except for small lots to local dealers. Yesterday the English news stiffened the Chicago wheat market and holders of flour here were much firmer, but to-day as the political aspect in Europe is considered more satisfactory the market was weaker and closed as follows:—*Superior extra*, \$5.80 to 5.90; *Extra*, \$5.55 to \$5.55; *Fancy*, \$5.05 to 5.10; *Strong bakers flour*, \$5.00 to \$5.20; *Spring extra*, \$4.80 to 4.85; *Super*, \$4.40 to 4.50; *Fine*, \$4.10 to 4.20; *Pol-lards*, \$2.75 to 3.25; *Middlings*, \$3.60 to 3.75; *Oatmeal*, \$4.50 to 4.60.

**GRAIN.**—*Wheat.*—We cannot give quotations at present for this grain, there have been no transactions taking place, but as the opening of navigation approaches we will soon be able to report some business not only in wheat but in others kinds of grain. Meantime quotations of all kinds are nominal.

**HARDWARE.**—Business does not seem to show any signs of improvement, and the rush of "cheap trip" buyers amounted in this line to almost nothing. The monotony which has so long been characteristic of the trade still prevails. Prices in England show no disposition to advance. Pig iron is firm and is