

BRITAIN'S REVENUE.

According to the official returns issued, the gross produce of the revenue of the United Kingdom for the year ended March 31, 1880, was £81,265,055, which shows a net decrease of £1,850,917 compared with the previous year, when the gross revenue was £83,115,972. For the quarter just ended the receipts were £27,118,226, against £28,520,188 in the corresponding quarter of last year, thus showing a decrease on the quarter of £1,401,962. The items in which there have been increases in the quarter just completed are stamps £630,000, property and income tax £520,000. Post office £110,000, telegraphs £85,000, interest on advances £162,845. The decreases are Customs £990,000. Excise £2,100,000, land and house duty £50,000, Crown lands £20,000, and miscellaneous £198,762.

The gross revenue for the year is made up as follows:

Customs.....	£19,326,000
Excise	25,300,000
Stamps	11,300,000
Land and house duty....	2,670,000
Property and income tax..	9,230,000
Post Office.....	6,350,000
Telegraphs	1,420,000
Crown Lands	390,000
Interest on advances	1,254,596
Miscellaneous	4,024,452

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT IN QUEBEC.—Under the heading of "Cheering Words," the Quebec Chronicle of last Wednesday has the following upon a recent utterance in that city of the general manager of the Merchants Bank: "There is much of encouragement and gratification to business men, in the words used yesterday afternoon in this city by Geo. Hague, Esq., in making an appeal at the opening ceremonies of the Y.M.C.A. Hall, for means to complete the structure. After stating that from the connection of Quebec interests with the institution of whose affairs he has the direction, he is well acquainted with the financial situation. Mr. Hague lays bare the actual and startling condition of business in Quebec in the month of August last, when, as he says, there was an almost utter prostration of hope, and then speaks of the wonderful change which has been produced in eight months." From a report of the speech we make the following extract: "No one knows better than myself, the almost utter prostration of hope which prevailed here throughout the whole of last summer and fall. Never was there greater depression than in Quebec last year. But what a change has set in. And how much has been done despite the depression! I know well the difference in Quebec between April, 1880, and May or June, or say August, 1879. Your merchants and monied men are hundreds of thousands of dollars better off to-day than then. (Applause.) Indeed, I might say, a million dollars and be within the mark. (Renewed applause.) Now is this increase of wealth due to your own forethought and foresight? To a certain extent it is, but not altogether. It is due to a variety of causes operated by God." Mr. Hague continued to argue that the late depression had shown the necessity of laying up treasure where moth and rust could not destroy. He urged his audience to go on and complete the great building which had been commenced, which would then be indeed the best building of the kind upon the American Continent. The handsome structure referred to, is on St. John street, outside St. John's Gate. The part completed measures 186 feet front by 50 deep, three stories with the mansard, and is built of stone and brick. John C. Thomson, Esq., is the present President of this enterprising Association, and Henry Fry Esq. was its former President.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 20th April, 1880.

As usual for a week or two previous to the opening of navigation, business generally has been very dull, nothing has transpired during the week worthy of mention. The Board of Trade and the Commercial bodies here are bringing all the pressure possible on the Government to take steps, by assuming some part of the liabilities of the Harbor Trust for lessening the Port charges of Montreal, so as to enable her the better to compete with other Ports on the Atlantic Sea Board for the carrying trade of the West. It certainly appears only reasonable that Government should assume the debt contracted for the deepening of Lake St. Peter, which is to all intents and purposes a national undertaking, and thus remove a heavy burden upon the shipping coming to this port.

ASHES.—*Pots.*—There has been very little movement in ashes during the past week, but if anything a stronger feeling exists and we now quote \$3.75 to 3.80. *Pearls*, nothing doing and prices in the absence of reported sales are nominal. The stocks at present in the inspection stores are *Pots* 624 brls., *Pearls* 344 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—There is not much new business to report, and manufacturers are coming to an end of their spring orders. The prices of stock keeps very firm; no change to make on our late quotations.

CATTLE.—The cattle market yesterday was very dull; the demand was limited and prices favored buyers. Most of the butchers had supplied themselves last week, and shippers are awaiting the arrival of steamships before making further purchases. Prices of butchers' cattle ranged from 3 to 4½c. although a very few were sold at 5c per pound.—*Hogs* were more numerous than for sometime past a considerable lot from Chicago bringing 6c per lbs, *Spring lambs* are taken at prices ranging from \$3 to 4.50 each according to size.

DRY GOODS.—A moderate business has been done during the week both by buyers in the city and in orders from the country, but no activity is looked for till the beginning of May. Woollens are steadily advancing in price and the same may be said of cotton goods. Remittance are poor owing to the bad country roads.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—There has been some talk of a decline in heavy goods in the English market but it does not appear to have affected our local market, where prices generally rule firm with a further advance in opium and its compounds. Castor oil is easy and somewhat lower. We quote *Bi Carb Soda*, \$3.90 to 4.00; *Soda Ash*, \$2.75 to 3.00; *Bi Chromate of Potash*, \$16½ to 17½; *Refined Borax*, 14 to 15c; *Cream Tartar Crystals*, 31 to 32½; ditto ground, 32½ to 35; *Caustic Soda*, \$3.00 to 3.50; *Sugar of Lead*, 12½ to 15½c; *Bleaching Powder*, \$2.25 to 2.50; *Alum*, \$2.00 to 2.25; *Copperas*, per 100 lbs \$1.25; *Sulphur* \$3.25 to 3.50; *Roll Sulphur*, \$2.25 to 2.50; *Epsom Salts*, 1.75 to \$0.00; *Sal Soda*, \$1.50 to 1.75; *Saltpetre*, \$9.00 to 9.50; *Sulphate of Copper*, \$7.00 to 8.00; *Whiting*, 65 to 70c; *Opium*, \$9.50 to 10.00; *Quinine*, \$4.25 to 4.50; *Iodide of Potass*, \$6.50 to 6.75; *Bromide of Potass*, 50 to 55c; *Morphia*, \$4.10 to 4.25; *Castor oil*, 11 to 12c; *Cod Liver oil*, \$1.00 to 1.10; *Shellac*, 45 to 50c.

FURS.—A City merchant, who has just returned from attending the fur sales in London says that the London sales were very lively, and that the Lampson sale footed up in ten days the

enormous sum of \$4,000,000 or £800,000 sterling. Our local trade is very quiet, few skins are arriving, and no large lots are looked for till the arrival of the market boats. Spring Rats are the turn easier. *Mink* prime dark large, \$1.25 to 1.40; ditto small, 75c. to \$1.00; *Marten*, prime, 75c. to \$1.00; *Beaver* prime, dark, per lb. \$2.00 to 2.25; *Bear* large, \$6.00 to 8.00; ditto, small, \$2.00 to 4.00; *Red Fox*, \$1.50 to 1.60; *Musk Rat* fall, 08 10c; winter 10 to 12½c; spring, 15 to 16c; *Lynx* prime large \$1.00 to 1.50; *Skunk* prime, dark, large, 40 to 60c; ditto white, large, 20 to 40c; *Raccoon* prime, 40 to 60c; *Fisher* prime, \$4.00 to 6.00; *Otter*, prime dark, 6.00 to 8.00.

FLOUR.—The stock in store and in the hands of millers, on the morning of the 15th inst. was 33,427 bbls., against 33,495 bbls on the 1st inst., and 77,669 bbls. on the 15th April, 1879. Receipts during the past week 4,805 bbls. Total receipts from 1st January to date, 83,209 bbls. being a decrease of 77,905 bbls. on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1879. Shipments for the week, 2415 bbls. Total shipments from the 1st January to date, 38,039 bbls., being a decrease of 26,990 bbls. on the shipments for the corresponding period of 1879. There is no enquiry for lots for shipment, and the local demand has been small, as buyers are looking for lower prices, in sympathy with the English markets. To day the market was very irregular, but sales only amounted to 150 bbls., with decided downward tendency. We quote *Superior Extra* \$6.00 to 6.10; *Extra Superfine*, \$5.90 to 5.95; *Fancy* \$5.97½ nominal, *Spring Extra*, \$5.95 to 6.00; *Superfine*, \$5.50 to 5.60; *Strong Baker's Flour*, \$6.50 to 6.75; *Fin*, \$5.00 to 5.10; *Middlings*, \$4.35 to 4.50; *Pollards*, \$4.00 to 0.00; *Ontario Bags*, \$2.85 to \$3.00; *Oatmeal*, \$4.60; *Cornmeal*, 3.00.

GRAIN. *Wheat.*—The stock in store and in the hands of millers, on the morning of the 15th inst. was 143,616 bushels against 142,084 bush. on the 1st inst., and 115,858 bushels on the 15th of April, 1879. Shipments during the past week 26,989 bushels; total shipments from 1st January to date, 342,183 bushels, showing a decrease of 316,996 bushels on the shipments for the corresponding period of 1879. There has been nothing done as yet for May delivery, and the market remains same as last week. Buyers and sellers are considerably apart in their views. Sellers are asking \$1.38 for Canada Spring, buyers views are 3c less. *Maise* is held at 47c in bond for May delivery. *Peas*, the latest reported sale was at 85½ per 66 lbs., holders are now asking 86 to 87½. *Oats* are steady, at 31 to 32c. *Barley* is nominal, at 60 to 65c.

GROCERIES. *Teas.*—The market has been quiet and few sales of any magnitude are reported, prices are much the same as last week and the tendency is weak especially for blacks. *Coffee.*—A small jobbing business has been done at prices within our range of quotations. *Mara-caibo* 22½ to 24; old Govt. Java 28 to 31; *Jamaica* 18 to 22; *Mocha* 28 to 33. *Sugar.*—There has been rather more demand this week for refined sugars, but the market is not strong and possibly purchases might be made a shade under our quotations. *Paris lumps* 10½ to 10½; *Granulated* 9½ to 10c; *Grocers A.* 9½; *Yellows* 7½ to 9. *Raw sugar* is meeting with some enquiry but no heavy business has been transacted, the quotation for Barbadoes and Porto Rico, the only kinds offering, is 7½ to 8½c; *Molasses.*—There is an easier feeling in this branch of the trade and purchases can be made from 1 to 2c under late quotations holders now ask for Barbadoes 36 to 38c; *Trinidad* 30 to 33; *Porto Rico* 34 to 35; *Rice* is lower and sales are made from 4.12½ to 4.25; *Spices.*—The markets are quiet and weak but there is no quotable change to make in our price list. *Fruit* is dull and demand quiet, *Valencia* raisins are still scarce, and high price is maintained, none offered under 8½ to 8½. *Loose*