

Financial.

STOCKS AND MONEY.

Reported by Blaikie & Alexander, Brokers.

TORONTO, Dec. 21, 1870.

A moderate business has been done during the past week in stocks, and considerable amounts of debentures have changed hands at well sustained figures. The demand for investments still continues to be in excess of the supply. Mortgages are readily placed at 8 per cent. Sterling Exchange is to-day selling at 109½ to 109¾ for 60 day Bank Bills.

Banks.—Commerce has closed books for dividend on 2nd prox., could be had at 119 ex-dividend. Toronto is in demand at 154½ with sellers at 156. Buyers of Royal offer 70 but on declaration of a dividend holders refuse to sell. Ontario has been sold to some extent at 107, buyers now offering 106½. British is scarce and not to be had at 109. Montreal is procurable at 222½ to 223 with buyers at 220½. Merchants has books closed for a dividend on 2nd prox., 116 ex-dividend is offered and 117 asked. City has been sold at 86½, would now command 86 to 86½. 109½ would readily be given for Molson's but there is none on the market.

Bonds.—No Governments of any issue on the market. Dominion Stock would be taken at 110. City Bonds remain firm at 93½ to 94. Large sales of County debentures have been made at 103½ and a round lot of Townships, coupons yearly, at 94½.

Sundries.—Sales of Freehold Building Society have been made at 125½, buyers at this figure and sellers at 126½. Canada Permanent has closed books for payment of 5½ per cent, half yearly dividend on 2nd prox. Western Canada pays dividend of 5 per cent on 9th prox. Union is worth 113½ to 114½. Canada Landed Credit would readily be taken at 100½ to 101, there are very few sellers. Western Assurance sold up to par before closing of the books for dividend of 6 per cent. on 4th prox. For British America 70 is offered and 72 is asked. City Gas is very scarce and cannot be had at 117. Buyers of Montreal Telegraph would give 217½ but sellers ask 225.

TORONTO STOCK MARKET.

Reported by Pellatt & Osler, Brokers.

TORONTO, Dec. 20, 1870.

Very limited business was done in the stock market during the past week, many of the transfer books are now closed, and little improvement can be looked for until after payment of January dividends.

Banks.—Sales of Montreal during the week at 221, 222 and 223, but declined to 221, closing with no buyers over that figure. British is purely nominal, would command 109. Several small sales of Ontario at 106, 106½, 106¾, holders now asking 107. Little doing in Toronto, sellers asking 155, buyers offering 153. Very little Royal Canadian on market, holders ask 71, buyers offering 70. Commerce books closed, no sales ex-dividend. Merchants' books closed, sales are reported at 116½, ex-dividend. Transactions in Quebec at 112 and 112½, holders now ask 114. Molson's would command 110, no stock on market. City sold at 86 to 86½ none offering under 87. No du Peuple offering, would fetch 106½ to 107. Nationale nominal, nothing doing. Jacques Cartier would command 113, no stock on market. Buyers of Mechanics' at 75, holders ask 80. Union books closed, no sales ex-dividend to report.

Debentures.—No Government Bonds of any kind offering. Dominion stock in good demand at 110. Railway issue of Toronto Debentures due 1889 procurable at 93½ to 94. Small sales of County at 103, at which a few first-class are procurable.

Sundries.—City Gas, purely nominal, no stock

offering for some time past. No British America Assurance offering, would probably bring 72. The declaration of a 6 per cent dividend for the half year caused a rapid advance in Western Assurance, sales have been made up to par, none on market. Canada Building Society, books closed to-day for payment of a 5½ per cent. dividend for the half year, last sales at 137½, buyers yesterday offered 140. Large sales of Western Canada at 127½ transfer books closed to-day. Buyers offering 125 for Freehold, no stock on market, under 126. Union sold at 113½ to 114, no stock offering. Huron and Erie, nothing doing. Buyers of Montreal Telegraph at 217½, sellers asking 225. Canada Landed Credit would be taken at par to 1 per cent premium. Mortgages still continue in good demand to pay 8 per cent., but none of any consequence offering. No Toronto and Nipissing Railway on market, last sales from 75 to 80. Considerable sales of Toronto, Grey and Bruce at 75, buyers, however, now only offer 70.

Insurance.

INSURANCE MATTERS IN MONTREAL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

MONTREAL, Dec. 20, 1870.

Since last advised our calendar of casualties by fire has been but slight.

Dec. 10.—A fire broke out at six this morning in the office of Mr. Donald Murray, agent for the Canada Life Assurance Company, at 181 St. James street; it was fortunately confined to the room in which it originated, destroying the office furniture and a quantity of stationery and printed matter; cause, a foul chimney; no insurance.

Dec. 12.—A fire was discovered at ten this evening, in a small tobacconist's shop belonging to A. Weston, No. 106 Bleury street; extinguished by a few dashes of water from the hose of the brigade; no cause of fire assigned; stock, which was almost nominal, was insured two days previous to the event for \$300 with the Citizens'; but no claim has yet been preferred.

Dec. 14.—A somewhat serious fire broke out at eight p.m. in the farm buildings occupied by Mr. Wm. Mark, at Selby Grange, some distance on the west, outside the city limits. The dwelling house alone, of the whole establishment, was saved; the outbuildings with their valuable contents of farm produce, nine cows, four horses, one hundred and sixty fowls, two market waggons, a complete equipment of new implements, and the other miscellany of a farm were speedily consumed; the loss to the tenant is represented as amounting to \$12,000, of which \$2,000 only is protected by insurance; the buildings are uninsured.

Mr. Edward Coote, who was committed by the Fire Commissioners on a charge of arson at his store in St. Paul, but subsequently liberated on bail, has appealed to the public through the press, requesting a suspension of its judgment in his case until it has been heard before the proper tribunal, insisting that no "suspicious circumstances" really exist against him, but that the ideas and incidents, upon the strength of which he was committed for trial, are absolutely futile. Mr. Coote also charges the Commissioners with an abuse of their constitutional authority in committing him at all. Of course no man should be finally condemned until his case has been calmly and dispassionately investigated by disinterested parties, but men of ordinary intelligence and experience will still insist upon their ability to determine what circumstances are suspicious and what are otherwise.

The loss on Mr. B. Ibbotson's machines, tools, and stock, at No. 360 Notre Dame street, as adjudged by the appraisers, amounts to \$1,174, borne rateably by the B. America and Commercial Union Assurance Companies. The damage to the building is \$684, borne solely by the Citizens'.

FIRE RECORD.—Barrie, Dec. 16.—Wm. Hewson's saw-mill near this place, was burned; loss \$3,000, no insurance; cause unknown.

Toronto, Dec. 17.—A fire broke out at eleven o'clock, in the door and sash factory of Ald. Clements, located on the Esplanade, opposite the Queen's Hotel, and from the nature of the contents, burned rapidly till the building was gutted. The place was uninsured. The Commercial Union and the Provincial had each risks on the lumber to which there was very little damage done. The furniture in Mr. Clements house, adjoining the factory, was damaged by removal, but was uninsured; the house was saved. Clements loss is estimated at \$7,000 to \$8,000. The roof of the Toronto Car Wheel Works, adjoining, took fire, but was saved by the exertions of the fire brigade. The frequent bursting of the hose caused a good deal of delay; it seemed very defective. The Car Wheel works were insured in the Western, and the damage is stated at \$500. The third floor of the factory was rented to Mr. Wingfield, furniture dealer, who loses some \$700 to \$800; no insurance. There is strong suspicion that it was the work of an incendiary, it having broke out in two places at the same time. Mr. Clements offers a reward of \$200, for such information as will lead to the conviction of the guilty party or parties. The circumstances would seem to demand an investigation.

Pilkington township, Ont., Dec. 14.—The barns and stables on Richard Hughes' farm were consumed by fire. The horses and cattle were got out, but a number of pigs and calves, and all the crops were burned up. Origin of the fire unknown. The buildings were insured in the Nichol Mutual for \$350, and the contents for \$650 in the same Company.

Bedford, E. T., Dec. 13.—The residence of Mrs. D. Meigs, was destroyed by fire. The loss is about \$1,400, insured in the "Home" for \$600 on building, the furniture for \$200, and the wearing apparel for \$200.

South Elmsly Township, Ont., Dec. 9.—The barn, with contents, on the premises of James Storey, was destroyed by fire. In the barn at the time were three horses, 1,400 bushels of grain, 40 tons of hay, all this season's straw, a lot of frame timber; in all, not including the barn, valued at \$2,500. Insured in the Beaver Mutual for \$1,400. There is every reason to suspect the fire was the work of an incendiary.

Glen Tay, near Perth, Ont., Dec. 11.—Hargrave & Robinson's woollen factory, was consumed. Loss stated at \$50,000; insurance \$17,500 of which \$15,000 is in the Commercial Union and the balance in another company. The Glen Tay Tannery, owned by Mr. J. S. Ireland, located near the factory, was also burned to the ground. Though considerable damage was done to the hides in the pits, the other valuable stock and property was saved.

WELLINGTON MUTUAL.—The annual meeting of this Company was held at Guelph, on the 5th. The Directors reports states that the losses of the past year at \$9,985.66. An assessment of 8 per cent. has been ordered on the premium notes which is expected to produce \$10,500. Directors are elected as follows:—Richard Jackson, Guelph; George Davidson, Berlin; G. Hespeler, Hespeler; C. Deering, Philipsburgh; James Cattanaach, Fergus; J. M. Fraser, Elora; F. W. Stone, D. Allan, J. Harris, Guelph.

MASSACHUSETTS NON-FORFEITURE LAW.—The working of the non-forfeiture law is illustrated in the recent case of a Baltimore merchant. This gentleman was insured in a Boston company for \$15,000. He failed two years ago, and has since been unable to pay the premium on his policy. Very recently he died; the company being notified of the fact, and of the widow's embarrassed circumstances, at once forwarded a check for \$1,500, and the balance, some \$13,500, is, under the laws of the State, now ready for transmission. The working of the non-forfeiture law is further