

QUEBEC.

Montreal, Dec. 9.—The building with contents belonging to the Canada Fibre Company destroyed. The insurance of the stock amounts to \$8,500; evenly divided among the Norwich, City of London, and Scottish Imperial Insurance Companies.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Metaghun River, Dec. 8.—The store of H. S. Hilton destroyed; insured for \$1,500. Great Village, 11.—The Presbyterian Church burnt. Loss, \$4,500; no insurance.

The number of immigrants arrived in the Dominion during the present year to Nov. 30th was 162,267. Of these 73,522 went to the United States, 88,745 remaining in Canada. These figures do not include the reported considerable number that crossed the frontier West of Emerson, into Manitoba and the North-West.—Mr. J. Theo. Robinson of this city continues to publish *Starke's Almanac*. The new issue for 1883 is replete with useful information.

Financial and Commercial.

MONTREAL WHOLESALE MARKETS.

THURSDAY, 14th Dec., 1882.

The welcome showers of "the beautiful" during the week have made good sleighing throughout the country and considerably improved the retail trade, especially in flannels and knitted goods, so largely required at this season. The effect upon the wholesale trade which is generally lifeless at this period—merchants being kept pretty busy taking stock—has been seen in the improvement in remittances, and renewed activity is anticipated after the turn of the year. It is understood that the farmers are beginning to take advantage of the good snow roads to market their grain, and it is to be hoped that the movement will become universal, as in the absence of any signs of advanced prices abroad this winter it would seem utterly folly to hold back the country's yield of wheat, to the great injury of trade as well as the farmers themselves. The money market continues steady, the best commercial paper being discounted at 7 to 8 per cent., and rates for call loans on stocks are 6½ to 7. Sixty-day bills between banks are quoted firm at 108½ to 108¾; sterling over the counter at 108¾, and demand bills, 109½ to 109¾. Drafts on New York easier, at ½ to ¾ prem. The Canadian Pacific Railway syndicate are said to have made satisfactory arrangements for the disposal of their bonds in New York and Amsterdam, and this may probably have some effect towards ease in the money market; it will at least be one less factor in the direction of stringency. The North-West Land Co. (lately known as the Duke of Manchester's) sold down to 42s. (60s. paid up) last Monday, 25 shares changing hands at that figure. Under instructions to broker to purchase, it advanced to 49s. the same day, but closed to-day at 42s. 6d. to 43s. bid, and 44s. to 44s. 6d. offered. The Stock market for the most part during the week has been dull and weak, with the investment demand continuing meagre. Compared with closing prices last Thursday leading stocks have generally declined, as

follows: Montreal and Toronto banks each 2 per cent.; Ontario 5½ p. c.; Peoples and Federal 1 each; Commerce and City Gas ½ each; and Richelieu 2 p. c. Merchants has remained about steady, while St. Paul, M. & M. railway has advanced 4 p. c. The market to-day was generally dull and drooping, closing lower nearly all round, as will be seen by the closing quotations on another page.

ASRES.—Receipts of Pots are light, of Pearls moderate. Sales of First Pots at \$5.10 to \$5.20 for light to heavy tars during the week; closing quiet at \$5 to \$5.05 with no disposition to speculate. Seconds have sold as low as \$4.60. There are no Thirds offering. Pearls are easier, and have been sold at \$9.05 for a fair bill, and there have been sales at somewhat less. Receipts since 1st January, 7343 brls Pots, 574 brls Pearls. Deliveries 7830 brls Pots, 832 brls Pearls. Stock in store at six o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, 247 brls Pots, 53 brls Pearls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Business in the country sections is now said to be good, and orders are coming forward for felt and warm winter goods, of which the supply is rather short. The travellers are starting out with Spring samples, but the difficulty with the lasters continues unsettled, and very few men are at work in the factories, those for whom there is work being only the cutters and the girls in that department. Fuller reference will be found on another page of this issue. The majority of manufacturers continue busy stock-taking, and payments are reported very fair.

CATTLE, ETC.—Cable advices from Liverpool and Glasgow report market moderately active and prices unchanged, choice Canadian steers being quoted at from 8½d to 8¾d, and Sheep at from 9d to 9½d. Choice shipping cattle were quoted here last Monday at from 5c to 5½c, extra fine being worth more money. The offerings of butchers' cattle comprised about 300 head, and sales were reported of fair to good at from 5c to 5½c; other grades selling at from 2½c to 4½c. About 300 lambs and sheep were offered, the former selling at from \$2.50 to \$4.50, and the latter at from \$4 to \$8 each. Shipments of live stock from Canada to Great Britain for week ending December 16th, 1882, as reported by Mr. C. H. Chandler, insurance and shipping agent, are as follows:—Via Portland, SS. "Dominion" to Liverpool, 65 cattle, 900 sheep. Via New York, SS. "Lake Champlain" to Liverpool, 520 sheep. Via Boston, SS. "Bulgarian" to Liverpool, 715 sheep. Total for week, 65 cattle, 1,335 sheep. Total last week, 140 cattle. Total to date, 42,840 cattle, 79,521 sheep.

DRY GOODS.—This being the dullest month in the year at wholesale there is nothing new of special interest to note. House-sales are almost confined to supplying the sorting-up wants of city customers, and stock-taking is the order of the day and night. Travellers out with Canadian tweeds for Spring are doing fairly well, though the orders are not large, buyers generally acting cautiously. Country merchants as well as city retailers are getting much busier with customers since the winter roads have improved, and the travellers are rapidly returning home until after the holidays. Fancy goods are in good request for the Xmas trade, and since the snow roads remittances, especially from the West, have generally shown considerable improvement. Late English advices announce some reaction for cotton goods, for which prices are quoted firm with the prospect of an advance.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—An improved enquiry for medium and fine grades of Butter has been experienced during the week, and the result is a firmer and more active market. Transactions were effected yesterday of 200 tubs fine Townships at 22c; 100 tubs Brockville at 21c; a

choice lot Western at 20c; a round lot of fine Morrisburg at 22c and a carload Eastern Townships, all summer make, at 20½c, on Halifax account. A Halifax buyer has been in the market, and it is understood that Lower Port agents here are authorized to purchase several round lots. It is reported that a few lots of the finest dairy has been sold for the American markets at prices a shade above the market quotations. In Boston prices for all grades of butter have advanced, and second qualities are also in better demand, while in New York perfect quality table is held with confidence, and readily commands extreme rates. Retailers, however, discover a decided check to actual consumption at the high cost of supplies, and move with corresponding caution. In New York Cheese shows some irregularity, as the foreign demand is conducted with much caution, and many shippers refuse to submit to the rates asked. Few holders, however, offer useful supplies except at full former rates. In the local market stocks of cheese are chiefly in few hands, hence prices are firmly maintained, being influenced somewhat also by recent advances noted by cable. But, as usual at this period, there is little business doing; choice September make is quoted here at 12½c to 12¾c, while fair to good qualities are probably worth 11½c to 11¾c.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—English wheat markets have been firmer this week, and values show an improvement all round, as will be seen by quotations given in another column under the heading "English markets." Imports in the United Kingdom for the week show a decrease of 20,000 brls. flour and 25,000 qrs. wheat, as compared with the week previous. The western wheat markets were weak and lower yesterday, but ruled about steady to-day at yesterday's closing quotations. New York market was easy and lower for wheat, while the local market remained without any feature of interest; the scarcity of ocean freights acts as a great drawback to new business, and values for all kinds of grain are nominally unchanged from the figures quoted last week. The flour market has continued very dull, and to meet the views of buyers rather lower prices have been taken this week; Superior Extras have sold at \$5.85 to \$5.90, and Extras at \$5.75 to \$5.80; Ontario Strong Bakers' at \$5 to \$5.75.

FRUITS.—Owing to the near approach of the holidays, the fruit market is more active than last week, more especially for Oranges. The arrivals last week were about 1500 cases and this week, ex "Caspian" and "Parisian," there has arrived about 3,000 cases, but, owing to the improved demand, it is expected that lots will be rapidly picked up. In other articles there is a fair business doing, and prices are quoted as follows: Valencia Oranges, \$5.50 per case; case Lemons, from \$6 to \$9 per case; Box Lemons, \$3.50; Malaga grapes, \$6.50 per keg; Catauba grapes, 15c per lb. Cranberries, \$12 per brl; and Cocoanuts \$9.00 per hundred.

FURS.—Offerings of raw furs in this market continue small, and all arriving find a ready market at firm prices. The demand is principally for Beaver, Bear, Otter, and Skunk, and prices paid are as follows: Mink, \$1; Red Fox, \$1.25; Marten, \$1.00; Otter, \$8.09 to \$10.00; beaver, \$2.00 to \$2.50 per lb.; Skunk, 60c to \$1; Bear, \$8 to \$10 for large and \$4 to \$5 for small; Lynx, \$2 to \$2.50. Since the snow falls, retail trade in the country has brightened up and manufacturers are all very busy.

FISH.—A limited jobbing business continues to be done in Labrador Herrings at last week's quotations, and in Green Cod several car lots have changed hands at \$6.50 for No. 1; \$5.50 for No. 2, and \$7 for large draft fish. Sales of Haddock are reported at \$5.50 per 200 lbs. In other kinds the movement has been very light, and prices remain as quoted last week.