

THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

The Northern Pacific Railway, which was looked upon at its beginning as a Utopian scheme is making good progress, and in the light of events has come to be recognized as a commercial necessity. Some idea of this will be afforded by a perusal of the annual report of the company recently made public. According to that report, 722 miles were operated the last fiscal year, against 647 miles the previous year. The gross earnings were \$2,230,181 81, against \$1,406,210 65, an increase of \$823,971 16. The expenditures were \$1,521,093 21 leaving a balance of \$709,088 60. There was spent during the year for improvements, equipments, &c., \$514,962 92. The Treasurer's report states that the preferred stock of the company was reduced on June 30th, to \$43,412,645 12, of which there was in the treasury as assets \$4,111,830.10, leaving in circulation \$39,100,818 02. The bonds outstanding June 30 amounted to \$3,881,834 41, of which there have since been sold about \$520,000. Almost the entire floating debt will be retired this year. The determination of the stockholders to complete the road at the earliest possible moment, and their instruction to the directors to see such policy carried out, is gratifying evidence of the value of the road, and of the speedy advantage it will be in opening up a fertile territory. Nor is this action unwarranted from a pecuniary point of view, so far as the stockholders simply are concerned. Nearly a thousand miles of the road is in successful operation; the resources of the company are definite in amount, and undoubtedly sufficient in value, while the names of the directors suffice to warrant a business-like use of them.—N. Y. Shipping List.

THE ETHICS OF EATING.—An Austrian court has before it the question whether a breach of good manners constitutes negligence. There was a slight collision on a railroad over there, and in one of the coaches a man was just in the act of putting a piece of sausage in his mouth with a knife, when the shock of the collision made him cut his cheek badly. He sued for damages, but the company pleads in defense that to eat with one's knife is a gross breach of good manners, and it should not be called on to pay damages to a man whose injury was plainly caused by his defiance of the laws of polite society. It is a knotty question, and the court is sitting up nights to think it over.

—Chicago elevators, as per official returns October 6th, contained 1,484,493 bushels of wheat 5,539,575 bushels of corn, 355,697 bushels of Oats, 157,463 bushels of rye and 89,223 bushels of barley, making a grand total of 7,267,451 bushels, against 6,458,948 bushels a week ago, and 7,602,103 bushels at this period last year, October 6th.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 5th October, 1880.

Considering that the close of the season is now near at hand, we have had an uncommonly quiet week's business to report, although prices of Breadstuffs, Spices and Drugs are steadily hardening. Fish are arriving in cargoes and are meeting with the ready sale at our quotations. An error inadvertently crept into our report of last week in giving the reduced price of nails. We stated that a discount of 10c. per keg is allowed on 200 keg lots; this is wrong, as the nailmakers do not allow a discount, no matter what the size of the order is. The weather has been fine and warm; the late rains have made the ground in a good state for ploughing, although a little more rain is badly wanted in the country where water is very scarce.

ASHES.—Pots.—The market is quiet and receipts much below what is expected at this season of the year; prices keep very steady at \$4.60 to 4.65. Pearls are nominally quoted at 4.95 to 5.10, but there are none coming in and no business reported. The stocks at present in store are Pots 335 brls. and Pearls 165 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—There is no change of importance to note this week. A few sorting-up orders are coming in and give promise of a fair business for the close of the year. Prices of all stock keep firm, and remittances are satisfactory. Mens splits boots \$1.90 to 2.25; ditto cowhide do. \$2.50 to 3.25; ditto calf ditto 3.50 to 3.75; ditto kip do 2.50 to 3.25; ditto brogans (split) 1.00 to 1.10; ditto buff congress 2.00 to 2.25; Boys buff congress 1.50 to 1.75; ditto split brogans 95c to \$1.00; Women's split bal-mora's 85c to 1.25; ditto buff & Pebble 1.25 to 1.50; ditto prunella boots 60c to 1.50 Misses split bals 85c to 1.00; ditto buff & pebble 1.10 to 1.15; Childs buff & pebble 60c to 1.00; ditto split bals 55 to 60c; Childs Buff and enamel cacks 4.50 to 6.50 per dozen.

CATTLE.—The market yesterday was poorly supplied with stock, either for shipping or for the wants of butchers; the former were picked up at 4½ to 5 or a little over. Good butcher's cattle brought 3½ to 4½ per lb.; Hogs were in good supply, the bulk of sales were at 5½ to 6½ per lb. Some choice animals, however, were bought about ¼ over our outside quotations. Sheep ranged from \$3.50 to 6.00, and Lambs \$2.50 to 3.75 each, according to quality.

DRY GOODS.—Although business during the past week has been quiet, merchants generally are well pleased with the amount of the fall trade, which has been very large. There has been a moderate demand for woollen goods and as stocks in the hands of country merchants are a good deal broken in upon, a good sorting up trade is looked for during the next few weeks. The retail trade has been pretty active, remittances are good.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—The market is generally steady, and a fair business doing. Cream tartar and tartaric acid have advanced considerably in Europe, and prices have advanced here also from 2 to 3c per pound, this advance is owing to short supplies. Borax is higher and advancing. We quote Bicarb Soda, 3.75; Soda Ash, 1.40 to 1.50; Bichromate of Potash, 14 to 15c; Arrow Root, 12 to 15c; Borax, 16 to 18c; Cream Tartar Crystals, 32 to 35c; Caustic Soda, 2.37½ to 2.50; Bleaching Powder, 1.75 to 2.00; Alum, 1.75 to 1.85; Cop-peras, 1.00 to 1.10; Sulphur, 2.90 to 3.00; Roll Sulphur, 1.95 to 2.10; Epsom Salts, 1.35; Sal Soda, 1.10 to 1.20; Saltpetre, per keg, 9.25 to 9.75; Sulphate of Copper, 5.75 to 6.25; Whiting, 50 to 55c; Quinine, Howard's, 4.00; Morphia, \$3.75 to 4.25; Opium, 9.00 to 9.25; Castor Oil, 10 and 11c. in lots of ten cases; Shellac, 50 to 55c.

FISH.—The market is now better supplied with fish, and other cargoes besides that reported last week are close at hand, a quiet business is being done at steady prices. Labrador Herrings are held at \$5.50; Split Herrings \$4.75 to 5.00; Dry Cod \$4.25 to 4.50; Green Cod \$4.75 for No. 1, and \$3.75 for No. 2; Salmon \$19, 18 and 17.

RAW FURS.—There is very little doing yet. few skins coming in, and are not expected in quantity till about the first of November. We advance the price of Otter, but with this exception prices are nominally unchanged. We quote Musk Rats (fall) 6 to 9c; Red Fox, \$1 to 1.25; Cross Fox, 2 to 3.00; Silver Fox, \$25 to 30.00; Lynx, \$1.50 to 1.75; Martin, 75c. to \$1.00; Otter \$8.00 to 10.00; Mink—Prime dark, \$1.00 to 1.50; Beaver—Fall, clean pelt per lb. \$2.00; Bear—Large prime, \$6 to 8.00; ditto small \$4 to 5.00; ditto cubs, \$2 to 4.00; Fisher, \$5 to 7.00; Skunk—Black 40 to 60c.; Raccoon, 40 to 50c.

FREIGHTS.—The freight market is stronger, with a good demand for ocean tonnage, engagements have been made by steamers and iron clippers for heavy grain to London at 5/- to 5/6, and to Glasgow and Liverpool at 4/- to 4/9. Rates for provisions and ashes are unchanged. Steam tonnage is plentiful at present, a large number of steamers being in port.

FLOUR.—Receipts during the past week 25,261 brls. Total receipts from 1st January to date 504,981 brls being a decrease of 95,405 brls. as compared with the receipts for the same period of 1879. Shipments for the week, 18,961 brls. Total shipments from 1st January to date 519,661 brls., being a decrease of 41,228 brls. on the shipments for the same period of 1879. There has been a much better feeling in the flour market and although the demand has not been heavy a considerable advance in price has to be noted since this day week. Buyers seem quite willing to pay the extra price, the market closing active as under. We quote Superior Extra \$5.30 to 5.35; Extra Superfine, \$5.20 to 5.30 Fancy, nominal; Spring Extra, 5.25 to 5.30; Superfine, 4.75 to 4.80; Strong Bakers' \$5.50 to 6.75; Fine, 4.00 to 4.20; Middlings, 4.00 to 00.0; Pollards, 3.60 to 3.70; Upper Canada Bags, 2.60 to 2.65; Oatmeal, 4.30 to 4.35; Cornmeal, 2.75 to 2.80.

GRAIN.—Wheat.—Receipts for the past week 253,722 bushels. Total receipts from 1st January to date 7,627,000 bushels being a decrease of 1,659,149 bushels on the receipts for the same period of 1879. Shipments during the week 174,459 bushels. Total shipment from 1st Jan. to date 7,620,202 bushels being a decrease of 624,922 bush as compared with the shipments for the same period of 1879. In sympathy with the advance in the English and American markets, our local market is nominally dearer. Canada wheat comes forward but slowly, transactions are not numerous. We quote No. 2 Canada white and red winter \$1.14 to 1.15; Canada spring \$1.18 to 1.20. Maize is quiet but firm at 53 to 54c, to arrive; Peas.—A good deal has been done in peas at 82½c, market closing firm at 83½ to 84c per 66 lbs., for cargoes. Oats are steady at 30 to 31c, but with very little demand. Rye 90 to 91c for cargoes, and Barley 65 to 75c.

GROCERIES.—The grocery market has been very quiet this week. In teas there is nothing of any consequence to report, and there is no change to note in values since this day week. Coffee market is dull, only a small jobbing business doing in Rio at 19 to 23c; Jamaica 18½ to 22c; Java 23 to 29c Sugar.—Refined sugars continue firm at last week's quotations, which we repeat. Granulated 10 to 10½c; Lumps 10½ to 10¾; Diamond A, 9½ to 10c; Grocers' A, 9½ to 9¾; Yellow 7½ to 9½. Raw Sugars.—Stocks are light and holders are very firm in their views, asking 7½ to 8½c for fair to good grocery grades. Molasses are quiet, small sales only transpiring. Barbadoes 46 to 48c; Trinidad 39 to 41c; Rice is quiet at \$3.00 to 4.00; according to the size of lot. Spices are firm and advancing. Stocks are low, Cassia 11 to 14c; Cloves 37 to 49c; Nutmegs 55 to 95c; Jamaica ginger 18 to 26c; Pimento 15 to 17c; Black pepper 11½ to 13c; white pepper 17 to 19c; Mace 65 to 75c. Fruit.—New crop is now arriving freely and there has been a good deal sold within our range of quotations which are all for new crop fruit. Layer raisins per box, \$2.50 to 2.60; Loose muscatsels \$2.60 to 2.75; London layers \$3.00 to 3.25; Black Basket \$3.60 to 3.70; Black Crown \$4.50 to 4.60; Valencias 8 to 8½c; Sultana raisins 10 to 10½c; Currants 6½ to 7c; Malaga figs, 6½ to 7; Tarragona almonds 13½ to 16c; Fetas almonds 12 to 13c; Brazil nuts 8 to 9c; Filberts 8½ to 9c; Walnuts 5½ to 11c.

HIDES.—There has been a good deal of competition of late among buyers of Butchers' green hides, and an advance in price was confidently expected, but so far sales continue to be made