

permission for trains to run over in the ordinary manner. This, however, from the dilatory habits of Spanish officials, was long in coming. At last an engine-driver, of more than ordinary courage, thought he might as well take the bull by the horns and run over the bridge without stopping, trusting that the official eye, which had slumbered so long, might slumber just so much longer as to be incognizant of his audacious act. Vain man! When he arrived at the next station he found that the news of his exploit had preceded or accompanied him; and the officials who had been so long incurious of the sufferings of passengers compelled in all weathers, in the hottest sun or the most pouring rain, to dismount and trudge over the bridge (not to speak of the inconvenience of the delay), were now all alive and filled with wrath at the contempt shown to their prerogative. The luckless passengers were forbidden to get out of their carriages; the train was driven backwards until it arrived again at the bridge, and (with the passengers still in it) was carried backwards over the bridge; then, to fulfill the requirements of the law, the passengers were compelled to get out, train and passengers crossed over the bridge separately, the passengers got in again, and the train went on as if nothing had happened. Thus was the official deity appeased for the contempt that had been shown to him.

Commercial.

Petroleum Oil Wells.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PETROLIA, Sep. 13, 1869.

I have not much to say this week. Crude oil is now pretty steady at \$2 per barrel. A mistake occurred in my last, which was, no doubt, an error of the press. The refining capacity of Canada, should have been 14,000 barrels per week, instead of 4,000. The Lancy well, about being sunk, on lot 10, 13th con., is nearly ready for drilling, and the enterprising operator expects to complete the job in about 14 days from this. This affair is looked upon by many with great anxiety, as it will develop a new field of territory not hitherto known.

I have no new strikes to name. A great deal of outside land has changed hands since I last wrote, and many new faces (chiefly American) are seen daily. The export trade is still going on briskly. The average yield of this last week cannot exceed 3,000 barrels, if it comes up to it. Everything looks like business, and all these visiting this district leave with the determination of coming back again.

Crude \$2 00 per barrel.
Refined 25 per gal. f.o.b.

Petroleum.

Exports from the United States, from January 1st to September 7th:

From New York, gals.	45,321,118	38,333,343
Boston	1,684,653	1,679,195
Philadelphia.....	19,206,004	24,829,042
Baltimore.....	879,668	1,812,882
Portland.....		512,970

Total Export from the	United States.....	67,001,443	67,167,432
Same time, 1867.....			41,590,931
Same time, 1866.....			39,518,427

Wheat in California.

It appears from the following extract, taken from the San Francisco *Commercial Herald* of the 27th ult., that the falling off in quality of wheat gathered in California the present year will greatly reduce the export thereof:

Wheat is coming forward in large volume, the bulk of which goes directly on board of ship, as has been the case ever since harvest. It is, however, plain to the careful observer, that a much large proportion of the wheat now being market-

ed is badly pinched, and consequently unfit for exportation. This necessitates large daily offerings of inferior grain, depressing the price and making a wide range in the current market rate. The bulk of our shipping wheat continues to come forward from the San Joaquin country. It is, in the main, of good quality, and exporters have not been slow to improve the opportunity to secure large crops inland, and at prices highly remunerative to the growers—far more than they anticipated early in the season. It is very clear, to our perception, that we are to have less wheat for export than for two years past, simply for the reason of its inferior quality. All along the coast, and in most of the valleys around our bay, heretofore furnishing the bulk of our supplies, the grain is not only of a dark color (rusty), but it is badly shrunk, and only suited to feed purposes. Consequently the market-range of the day is from \$1.15 to \$1.75 per cental for all qualities—the former hard to sell, and the latter finding ready purchasers at the difference. Our millers are not slow to benefit themselves, and are thereby enabled to secure desirable parcels for mixing purposes, at rates leaving a good margin at the present price of flour.

The Peat Beds of Ohio.

Leavitt, in his work upon "Peat as an Article of Fuel," states:—"We have at present very little information relative to the deposits of peat in Ohio, and this information is mostly from the Lake shore." It is a well known fact that peat has been discovered in large quantities on the Lake slope of Ohio and even in the interior. The beds recently found contain a most excellent quality, varying from 78 to 90 per cent. of pure carbon. There is enough peat in the bogs of Ohio to last the entire northern part of the state for at least half a century, and perhaps much longer. The peat fields of Northern Ohio can be found in Summit Lake, Portage, Wyandot, Geauga, Richland and Lucas counties. Within a region of 30 miles around Cleveland are perhaps 6,000 to 8,000 acres of peat bog, some deposits richer than others according to the stages of its growth. The peat of Hudson and Portage counties, comprising over 3,000 acres, with a depth of from 15 to 30 feet. A bog near Ravenna is being worked by a force of 25 men in the following way. The peat is first spaded, then thrown into an open car with sides, which, when being filled, is run up an inclined plane to a platform, where it is dumped into an immense hopper with a false bottom. The crude earth or peat falls into an elevator which carries it into a peat mill, and there it is ground up and the refuse separated from it while the peat is conducted below, where it comes out in moulds, forming slabs which are placed on frames. The frames are rolled on a tram railway about 300 yards from the mills, and are there taken off and placed transversely like the sides of a wall tent on the field to dry in the sun and wind. There is some shrinkage, but in eight or ten days the peat is sufficiently dry for the market, and either piled up like oak bark, or is placed in warehouses for storage. The cost of this peat delivered is about \$6 per ton. It can be manufactured for much less than \$2 per ton, and when it comes into general use will no doubt be sold for from \$3.50 to \$4 per ton. The engine used at these works is a 40 horse power, horizontal cylinder engine. It takes about 1,500 pounds of peat to run it per diem. It has been in use since May, and thus far the boilers are as clean as when they were first put in. There is no dirt about peat, and scarcely any smoke. It has been stated that the rapid combustion of peat would prove disadvantageous to its use. This is a mistake, except where a great draft is necessary. The analysis of this peat in the Portage county beds is of surface peat alone, and contains of pure carbon 68 per cent., of oxygen 18 per cent., of water 16 per cent., and of ash 3.68-100 per cent., beside combinations of oil and ammonia. Deeper strata will no doubt run it up to 80 per cent pure of carbon.

Quantity of Grain "in sight" Sept. 4.

	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.
In store at New York.....	745,121	127,736	83,920
In store at Buffalo.....	427,324	631,603	90,177
In store at Chicago.....	514,983	760,528	421,303
In store at Milwaukee.....	98,000		
Afloat on State Canals.....	731,425	1,044,853	239,657
Afloat on lakes.....	687,267	553,898	89,130
Rail shipments.....	293,663	471,083	122,395
Total, Sept. 4th.....	4,408,003	3,580,136	1,049,587
" Aug. 28th.....	3,711,516	2,538,887	752,743
" Aug. 21st.....	3,196,901	2,498,356	796,540
" Aug. 14th.....	2,960,981	2,002,931	572,722

The Price of Teas.

At a trade sale held last week in Montreal, at the stores of Messrs. Buchanan, Leckie & Co., John Leeming, auctioneer:—

Offered.	Description.	Sold.	Range of Prices.
579.....	Hyson Twankay.....	579.....	39 to 43½
361.....	Imperial.....	122.....	42 to 71
254.....	Hyson.....	187.....	46½ to 56
2647.....	Natural Leaf Japan.....	1257.....	42 to 57
283.....	Congou & Souchong.....	257.....	36½ to 55
318.....	Gunpowder.....	193.....	64 to 85
1974.....	Young Hyson.....	846.....	39 to 79

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643 packages Souchong and Congou, now landing ex Dacia, were also offered to-day, but only 30 half-chests were placed at 52c. The teas offered were of a good average quality, and the assortment was varied; there were no teas of the first description. The prices obtained were generally speaking low.

Halifax Market.

BREADSTUFFS, Sept. 9.—Our markets during the past week have been influenced by imports from abroad, and holders induced to advance their rates 20 cents, and are firm at advance. Sales of Supers at \$6.35 to \$6.45 are reported, with only limited stocks and active demand; prices are likely to continue. Extras continue unchanged, with limited enquiry; stocks are reduced. Fancy meets with some enquiry, stocks light; rates nominal. No. 2 continues without enquiry at nominal rates. Oatmeal is in better demand at improved rates; stocks are still large.

Imports from January 1st to September 7th, 1868 and 1869:—

Brls. Flour.	Brls. Cornmeal.
1869..... 94,177	20,653
1868..... 123,389	39,381

WEST INDIA PRODUCE.—We note an advance of about 2 cents in molasses since our last, and holders continue firm. Sugars continue active and unchanged. Rum has again advanced, and is now held at 75 cents for Demerara (in bond). Coffee continues unchanged at quotations.

FISH AND OIL.—Codfish continues in active request, though buyers' and sellers' views differ, and several cargoes are being stored for better prices. The catch is reported smaller than usual this season, and high prices may be realized. Pickled Fish continues in good request at former quotations. Herring active for local wants at \$3.90 to \$4. for fat shore. There are no Labrador offerings at present. Cod Oil in active demand for shipment. Seal dulk and nominal. Petroleum in good demand; stocks large.

EXCHANGE.—Bank Drafts, London, at 60 days, at 13 per cent. Montreal, sight, 3½ per c. disct. St. John, N.B., 3 per ct. prem.—R. C. Hamilton's Circular.

—It may not be known to dealers generally in hides, that at this season of the year hides become worm-eaten, and that if they are "poisoned" they will arrive sound, and per consequence the value of them be insured. This "hide poison" is composed of arsenic 4 pounds, and sal soda 8 pounds, to 20 gallons of water. It should be applied on both sides of the hide, especially the hairy side. A quicker way would be to have the poison in a large vessel and immerse the hide in it, or it can be applied with a brush or broom.