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MONETARY IMES TRADE REVIEW. -INSURANCE CHRONICLE-

VOL. X—NO. 40. SUBSCRIPTION TORONTO, ONT., FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1877. 82 a Year. The Leading Wholesale Trade of Toronto. The Leading Wholesale Trade of Toronto. The Leading Wholesale Trade of Toronto. LEADING LINES 1877. 1877. | SPRING. | 1877. THIS SEASON. R. McMASTER Α GORDON, MACKAY & CO. **American Prints** & BROTHER. Are in daily receipt of their **English Prints** Foreign Imports. Dress Goods & Lustres Dry Goods Importers, Hosiery and Gloves which are in Lace Goods of all kinds AND DEALERS IN Usual Comprehensive Scale, **Coatings and Trowserings** CANADIAN and expect to be General Haberdasherv Fully Assorted in various Departments **Carpets and Curtains** AND Damasks, Repps, &c &c American Manufactures. TUESDAY, MARCH JOHN MACDONALD & CO., 6. 21 and 23 Wellington street, } Toronto.; 30 and 32 Front street, No. 12 FRONT STREET WEST. Their CANADIAN DEPARTMENTS will be found TORONTO. unusually attractive. 38 Fountain street, Manchester, England. Full lines of the LYBSTER MILLS GOODS. OFFICEB-34 Clement's Lane, Lombard St., London, B.C. BEST VALUE IN THE DOMINION. Toronto, Mar. 27, 1877. Toronto, Jan. 1877. Toronto, February 28, 1877. The Leading Wholesale Trade of Hamilton. Samson, TEAS | TEAS | TEAS THOS. C. KERR and Co., Kennedv HAMILTON. (]emmel Fresh New Crop Teas just arriving are now showing EXCELLENT VALUE AND MOST COMPLETE ASSORTMENTS IN THEIR as follows Haberdasherv Department llnr Young Hysons, low, med., fine, choice STAPLE. TWEED. Gunpowders. do., do., do. Has been supplemented by DRESS GOODS, Imperials, do., do., do. LARGE SHIPMENTS OF SMALL WARES, AND do. Japans, do., do., SMALL WARES DEPARTM'TS INCLUDING Congos and Pekoes, low, medium, 5,000 (Five Thousand) GROSS fine, choice. Stock throughout kept Well Assorted by constant Fresh Arrivals. SAMPLES MAILED FREE ON APPLICATION FANCY DRESS BUTTONS. To Cash and prompt paying customers NEW PATTERNS IN THE only. CELEBRATED ELORA CARPETS. SMITH & KEIGHLEY. 44 SCOTT AND 19 COLBORNE STS. In the Boot and Shoe Departm't TORONTO. No. 9 Front Street East, Toronto. will be found a Toronto, March 22, 1877. SPLENDID VARIETY AT VERY LOW PRICES Toronto, Feb. 23 1877.

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The Bank receives money on deposit, and allows

Interest allowed on current cash accounts. Letters of credit issued available in Great Britain, the West Indies, China and Japan.

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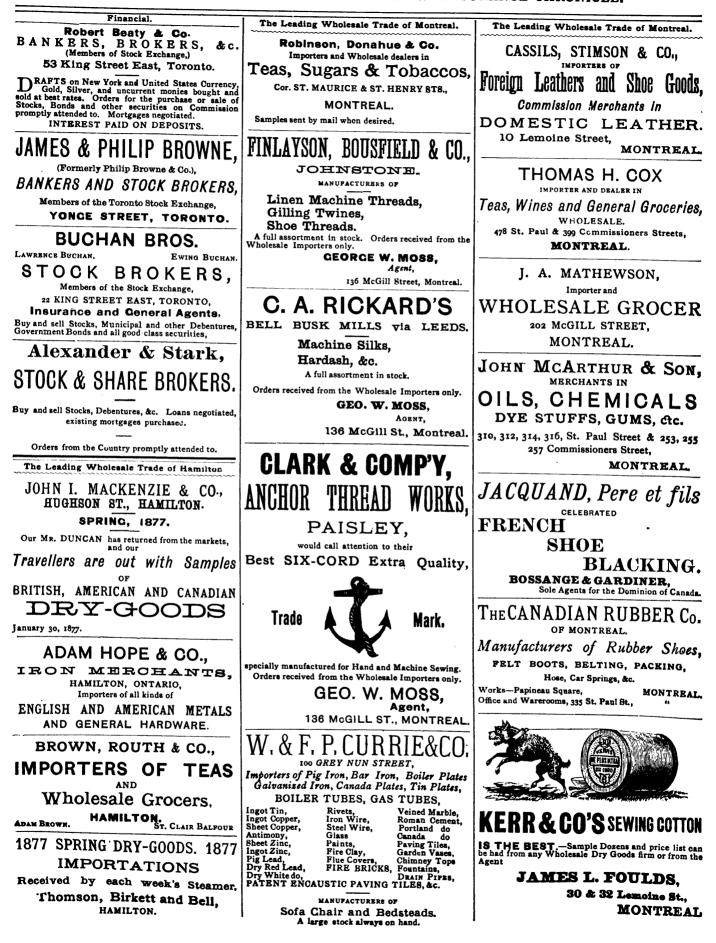


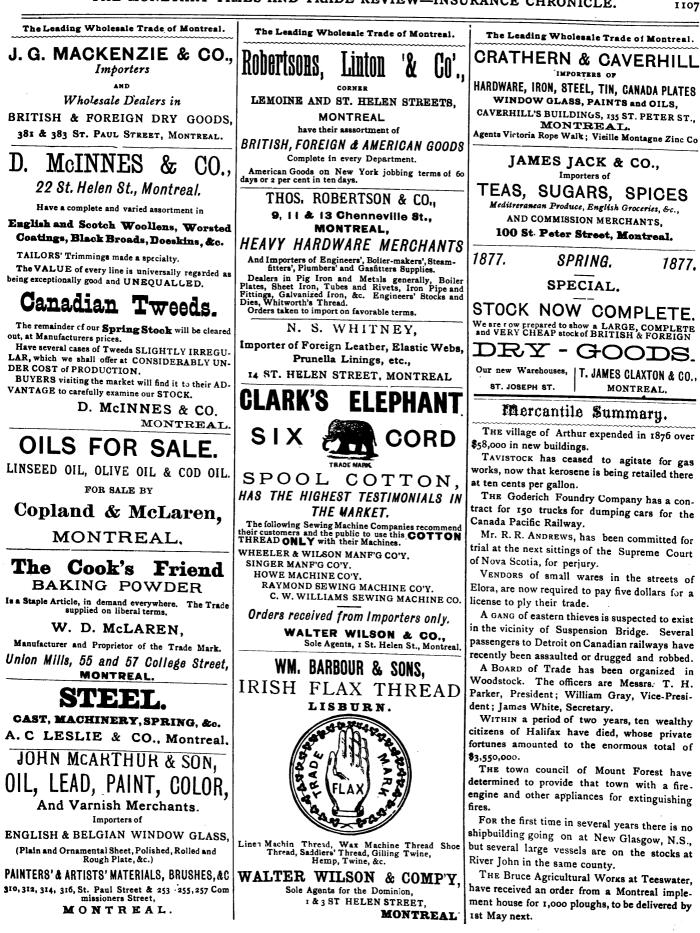
THE MONETARY TIMES AND TRADE REVIEW-INSURANCE CHRONICLE





THE MONETARY TIMES AND TRADE REVIEW-INSURANCE CHRONICLE.





IMPORTERS OF



A wRIT of attachment has been issued against Hugh J. Stevenson, Montreal, notoriously known as the letter "S" in the street railway embroglio.

A DEMAND of assignment has been made on T. K. McQueen grocer of Brockville with liabilities and assets of about \$4.500 each.

In some of the poor sections in Nova Scotia the paupers are auctioned off to the lowest bidder. One county has started a "poor farm" where the unfortunates are kept in comfort and are induced to work for their living.

New Brunswick has adopted the municipal system for county government and has abolished the old fashioned courts of session which were found cumbersome and inefficient.

J. C. SMALL, one of the tellers of the Standard Bank of Canada, in Toronto, absconded a few days ago, leaving a deficiency of \$3,300 in his accounts, which is more than covered by his Guarantee policy. We may remark that for so responsible a position, the salary paid to this official seemed very inadequate : not that this was a sufficient excuse for stealing, but it is one which assists to increase the difficulty some men find in being honest.

A CAR load of "Canada beef" going from Ontario, is advertised in the Halifax newspapers. and Lower Province butchers and graziers are complaining, while Halifax householders are rejoicing at prospects of a cheap Easter cut for the close of Lent. Nova Scotia prides herself on home-raised beef, but the cattle-raisers of that province have yet to learn something from Ontario.

THE Intercolonial traffic returns for last month shew receipts from passengers \$21,318.-67; freight \$39,343.35; mails and sundries \$6,502.85. For the same months of 1876 the

MANUFACTURERS OF **BROOMS, BRUSHES & WOODEN WARE** of every description. 56 & 58 Front Street West, gI to g7 St. Peter Street, TORONTO. MONTREAL. MCMURRAY & FULLER. Manufacturers and Wholesale dealers in WOODENWARE. &c..

WASHBOARDS, CLOTHES PINS BRUSHES CORDAGE, TWINES. PAILS, BROOMS, MATCHES,

31 FRONT STREET EAST.

Exclusive Agents for the C. C. & Manufacturing Co's Woodenware, Brooms, &c.

\$33,481.12; mails and sundries \$3,324.15. Total for 1876 \$57,048.62; for 1877 \$67,164.87. increase for 1877 \$10,116.25.

A GANG of female thieves has been found out in Ottawa. One Mrs. Tighe had the direction ot a number of juveniles, mostly girls who for some time past have been stealing boots, rubbers hams, groceries, gloves and a variety of articles from shops, under the guise of soliciting charity. The police traced them out on Tuesday last.

THE failure of E. Lawless, of Brockville, which we noticed in our last issue, presents, from the assignee's report, quite a different appearance, instead of a deficiency of \$10,000 as submitted in the first statement, it now shows a surplus of \$3,000, and 75c will be realized instead of 40.

A DEMAND of assignment has been made on P. L. G. Auger, a general dealer of St. Pie, Que., who has been in business in a not very extensive way for the last 25 years. He failed about four years ago and compromised at 15 shillings in the £. His present indebtedness will not likely be heavy.

MESSRS MCGARITY & THOMPSON, of Ottawa, a comparatively new firm, though succeeding to the old established business of John Thompson, held a meeting of their creditors in Montreal on the 27th inst. and offered to compromise with their creditors at sixty cents in the dollar. The statement submitted showed liabilities of \$22,000 and assets \$21.000. The bulk of their creditors however were not disposed to entertain the offer made ; but demand seventy five cents. secured, which is at present under consideration McGarity was of the late firm Dufresne and McGarity and had contributed on capital to the present firm.

HEAVY shipments of potatoes continue to be receipts were : passengers \$20,243.35; freight made from all the ports of Nova Scotia to the novel way of constructing railways.



Thomas Walls & Sons. To Merchant Tailors :

To Merchant Tailors: GENTLEMEN,-Our Woollen and Tailors' Trimmings Department is now complete. We can show you a large, varied and choice selection of beautiful goods, in the newest designs, in Scotch and West of England Tweeds, Suitings and Worsted Coatings. In this latter line we can offer you special value. Our stock of Broads and Narrows, in West of England Goods, in black, blues, Ox-fords and Cambridge, is well assorted In this depart-ment you can obtain all you require for your business. In our Staple Department we can offer Dry Goods Merchants some good lots very low, in English and American Prirts, Cottons, Shritings, Towellings, &c. In our Shawl and Sik Departments we have some good large lots, well worth the attention of Jobbers and Wholesale Buyers. Terms Liberal to Good Men.

Macnab, Marsh & Coen,

WHOLESALE

HARDWARE MERCHANTS. **5 Front Street East.**

TORONTO.

United States. Eight Schooner loads are frozen in at Canning and Wolfville in the Bay of Fundy. A heavy loss will accrue to the shippers Vessels are loading at the Railway wharf Halifax with potatoes some of which are all the way from Trois Pistoles Quebec. It is supposed by some that the Nova Scotia farmers will sell themselves out of seed they are so anxious to take advantage of present high prices.

E. J. KEMP, for six or seven years a retail grocer of some note in Montreal, has compromised at thirty-seven cents. He had worked up quite a family business, but was nevertheless much behind, owing \$13,000. It is a suggestive fact that in most cases where a trader is allowed his own time, and creditors are lenient, he swims along, and to outward appearance flourishes; but when the screws are put on, and an assignce put in charge, the assets are found unreal, and the estate often financially rotten.

A CENTENNIAL JUDGE .- An exchange says : A New Brunswick exhibitor went back to Canada from the Centennial without an award for his shingle machine, and reports that the judge didn't know what shingles were until, after a painfully minute description, he recognized them as "a species of wooden slates." That judge, we understand, has recently informed the public that "deal is a kind of siding six feet long, and tied up in bundles like lath."---Lumberman's Gazette.

EVIDENCE given before a committee of the Nova Scotia Legislature, shews that whole stretches of the Western Counties Railway were formed of logs and brushwood. covered with a facing of earth, and that nearly all the money expended so far, came from the public treasury, very little of the contractors money having gone into the work. Certainly a



VALENCIA

3.000 boxes prime.

JAS. SHIELDS & CO

OLD

RAISINS.

declared we notice one of 260 per cent paid by the Aron Marine Co. of Windsor, N. S. Several Yarmouth Companies have also declared large returns though following closely on the payments comes the news of heavy losses.

THE estate of Geo. Thompson, wholesale tea merchant, Montreal, who failed recently through complications with H. J. Tiffin, is certainly not a very satisfactory one for parties concerned. How so large a deficit could have occurred is unaccountable, and certainly indicates gross mismanagement. The liabilities direct and indirect, are quoted at \$60,000, with assets representing only thirty cents in the dollar; but which will probably not pay creditors twentyfive per cent. The refusal of such settlements must surely have a beginning ere long.

JUDGE Ritchie of the Supreme Court of Canada, is to preside at the trial of the cele brated contractors claims, at Halifax on 2nd proximo. It is about time those cases were adjudicated on.

THE Windsor and Annapolis Railway has applied to the Nova Scotia Legislature to guarantee the interest on their A bonds to the extent of £50,000, the money to be used in improving the line and building new bridges.

A New York company seeks an act of incorporation from the Legislature of Nova Scotia to build a line of railway from New Glasgow to Whitehaven, N.S. They claim that the time between New York and Whitehaven can be reduced to twenty six hours, and by a fast line of steamers the passage to Liverpool will not exceed a week. The act will be granted.

A BANKING INCIDENT .- While so much is being said just now derogatory to bank clerks as a class it is only fair to relate to their credit an incident that occurred the other day in an | brls.; Refined, 4,961 brls. Markets.-Refined

institution not a thousand miles from Lindsay. As related by the Post of that town, the Inspector was paying his usual visit, and had among other things counted the teller's cash which was found "O. K." On returning the cash to the teller the latter at once carefully counted it. The inspector, a little surprised, asked the cause of this needless ceremony. whereupon the teller replied that he "never allowed any man to handle his cash without counting it after him." The result of this cool reply and keen business method was a prompt and handsome increase in the teller's salary.

OIL MATTERS IN PETROLIA.

(From our own Correspondent.) PETROLIA, March 27, 1877.

Not much change in oil matters. Some of the wells reported last week have been tested and are fully up to statement made. Next week I shall be in a position to give the production of The shipments are still large for this each. time of the year, being from March 15 to 23rd -Crude. 5333 brls., Distillate, 1320 brls., Refined, 470 brls. Since 1st Jan. to date has been shipped-Crude, 90.29) brls. ; Distillate, 24,031

have just opened re-orders in their special lines of Ducks. that scores of their customers have admitted to be the CHEAPEST IN THIS MARKET. Also a CABLE RE-ORDER of that notorious line of WEED. that so a any of their cu tomers have been re-ordering and their now well k. own Bran's of Rough Hollands. CRAMP, TORRANCES & CO., IMPORTERS. GENERAL MERCHANTS, No. 65 Front Street East, TORONTO. ROSAMOND Ca. WIIII.EN ALMONTE, ONT. FIRST PRIZE.

The Gold Medal awarded by ithe British Commissioners at the Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia, for the best Tweeds.

The only Gold Medal given at the Centennial for Woollens.

121 to 27c; Crude, \$1 to 1.25 per brl.; New York, Refined 16gc (wine); London, England, 18. per gallon (imperial). There are at present 450 wells working, and some 200 neglected. I glean from the "Oil Derrick," United States,

that the total quantity of oil shipped from the United States to Foreign countries for the year 1876 was 4,470,401 brls. of 45 gallons; 2,735,792 cases of ten gallons each. This oil was shipped from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond to different parts of Europe, and it appears that Bremen received 1,264,612 brls. and 5,000 cases, making it the largest receiving point in Europe.

Wyld & Darling Bros. Our WORSTED COATINGS And all other Popular Lines of Imported Woollens, Are pronounced by Independent Buyers to be UN-SURPASSED in any Market for Variety of Design, Excellence in Value and General Adaptability TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF "THE TRADE."

Wyld & Darling Bros., toronto.

THE MONETARY TIMES, AND TRADE REVIEW.

TORONTO, CAN., FRIDAY MAR. 30, 1877

ENFORCEMENT OF THE DUNKIN ACT.

When the Prohibitionists found they were too weak to obtain a majority in the Dominion Parliament, they set to work to see what they could do in the way of local prohibition, under the Dunkin Act. They have been able to procure the adoption of that act in several counties of Ontario, with the result that, while the sale of liquor is licensed in some places its sale is prohibited in others. In the towns, the greatest degree of resistance to the measure is met. But the movement shows considerable vitality, and it would not be easy at present to predict the limits within which it is likely to be bounded. If Prohibition could show in this way that it counted anything like a majority of the whole population, it would be able to carry Parliament by storm and obtain for itself uncontrolled sway; but whether it will ever be able to do so, it is impossible to judge from present indications.

So long as Prohibition sways only a local sceptre, under the Dunkin Act, it cannot be very effective even where it appears to have control. The prohibition of the sale of liquor must be very incomplete, while importation and manufacture go on. One result would be illicit sales and clandestine drinking; but on the whole there could hardly fail to be a decrease in the whole quantity of liquor consumed. In places where a large majority is in favour of Prohibition, the law will be generally enforced, but where the majority is the other way no sufficient degree of detective power can be expected rigidly to enforce the law.

It is doubtful whether the Dunkin Act can legally be invoked in any Province besides the two that formed Upper and Lower Canada where it was passed, and until this is settled by competent authority, or the Act is specifically extended to the other Provinces, the Prohibitionists will not be able to achieve any practical results outside of Ontario and Quebec. If they were able to enlist the services of the Roman Catholic priests of Lower Canada in the cause, it would do more to ensure the success of prohibition than anything else.

In face of this movement, persons interested in the branches of manufacture and commerce, against which it is aimed, will do well to regard its success as among the possibilities of the future, and act accordingly. It must be a moot question whether equity would not require that, in prohibiting a commerce that has been carried on under the sanction of law, the Legislature should not provide some compensation to those whose fixed capital is made valueless by the change. But that the chances of obtaining compensation are very slender is a fact that must be faced; and in proportion as the movement gathers strength, the inadvisability of increasing the total of such fixed capital cannot fail to impress itself upon those interested. Of the evils of intemperance, unhappily, no one is permitted to doubt; but men will continue to the end of the chapter to differ as to the best means of putting an end to them. Some day the question may be decided by force of a legislative majority.

THE TARIFF DEBATE.

The debate on the tariff changes has not much contributed to the elucidation of the subject. Instead of clearing away the mists that hung over it, the effect seems to have been to increase the obscurity. The small changes which the Minister of Finance deemed it necessary to make, for revenue purposes, did not necessarily involve a discussion of the entire basis of the tariff, on the grounds of Protection and Free Trade. The real objection which naturally arose to the policy of Mr. Cartwright, was that, when he found himself in want of more revenue, he did not select for increased duty some articles which the stimulos of a higher duty would gradually encourage the manufacture of in this country. Therein, in our opinion, lay his error. To ignore the strongly growing desire that this line

of policy should be followed, whenever opportunity offered, is to place the Minister of Finance in antagonism with a phase of public feeling which is daily increasing in strength.

If the question which the proposed tariff changes raised had been met on this ground, Mr. Cartwright's critics would have taken up a stronger position than they did, though it is not probable that there would have been any marked difference in the division list. It is quite possible that the views which political parties in Parliament find themselves obliged, by the conditions of the general warfare in which they are engaged, to adhere to, differ widely from the growing opinions which find freer expression out of doors.

The gage of battle thrown down by the Opposition covered the whole field of Protection and Free Trade. It was not a battle forced on by the tariff resolutions of the Government. It would have been quite possible to discuss the proposed changes. on strictly national grounds, if the contest had been confined to the narrower range which the specific items indicated. Α cause is seldom advanced by prematurely exposing it to an overwhelming defeat. What we wish here distinctly to mark is the wide difference between the assertion of a general policy of protection and the desire to take advantage of opportunities, such as offered when the deficiency admonished the Minister of Finance that he must get more revenue, to lay necessary duties in such a way as will tend to stimulate domestic manufactures. The two policies, though they may have something in common, are quite distinct.

So eager were the combatants for battle that they repeated old war cries without stopping to enquire if the words used were wrested from their true and obvious meaning. The distinction between a revenue and a protectionist tariff was not properly defined. The defenders of the existing tariff policy, which had been attacked along the whole line, assumed that $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is a revenue tariff and that twenty per cent. would be protection. There are two senses in which the term revenue tariff may be understood: it may mean the highest tariff which can co-exist with the maximum amount of revenue, or it may mean the highest tariff which the exigencies of the revenue demand. The opponents of a change generally assumed that any increase in the existing scale of duties would be attended with a loss of revenue. This is a point on which there seems to be a strong and unaccountable misconception. A glance at the history of American tariff legislation will show the erroneousness of the assump-

tion that 17¹/₁ per cent. is the maximum of a revenue tariff, beyond which any increase will diminish its productiveness. Before the civil war the tariff of the United States was pitched at the scale of 30 per cent. with minor variations ranging from twenty to forty per cent. When the war expenditure made it necessary to augment the revenue, the general scale rose at least fifty per cent. on the old rates. Customs' duties so high as forty-five per cent.must frequently have defeated their own object, if they had not been in some measure counterpoised by excise duties. But the ante-war tariff of thirty per cent. was a productive tariff. There is no reason to believe that a $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. tariff would produce more revenue than a 20 per cent. tariff in this country. We are quite sure that, if the Minister of Finance requires still more revenue he would raise the whole of the $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. to 20 with full confidence of a favorable result. It will tend to clear this discussion from some of the mist that envelopes it, if the notion that a $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. tariffmarks the maximum revenue figure be discarded, as an assumption not founded in assured fact or supported by circumstances of probability.

When it becomes necessary to raise more revenue, as occurred this session, the additional amount should, in our opinion, be levied on such articles as Canada has some special facilities for manufacturing. It is probable that Nova Scotia will become a great iron-producing country, because there the two materials necessary for its production, coal and iron ore, are found side by side. These two materials have lain there till the present time, without its being possible to make them aid to any extent worth speaking about in their mutual development. At present an attempt is being made to create a new industry there; and if a slight additional duty on pigs, for a short time, would aid in placing the new industry on a competitive footing, it seems to us it would be sound policy to lay it. We do not give this as a case that should have been dealt with, but only bring it forward to illustrate our meaning.

Another fallacy which cropped up during this discussion was, that any slight increase in the tariff which should incidentally benefit some new branch of manufacture, would necessarily draft labour from a profitable to an unprofitable destination. This assumes three things: that one of these employments is profitable; that the other is unprofitable-both of which are gratuitousand that the only source of labour supply for a new industry is to be found in an old one; that the workshop draws its strength

that we are importers of labour, as well as the products of labour, is forgotten or overlooked; and that we are obliged to limit the importation of labour, which means productive power, chiefly to that which is unskilled and least productive, on account of the absence of greater variety of employments. Whenever we can establish and maintain néw branches of industry, we shall have no difficulty in importing the labour and the skill necessary for carrying them on. If these fallacies be eliminated from the discussion, in future, a great point will be gained.

FINANCIAL REVIEW.

The following is the last official return for the Banks of Ontario and Quebec :

T TADIT ITTE

LIABI	LITIES.	
	Jan. 31st, '77.	Feb. 28th, '77.
Capital authorized\$	68,966,666	68,966,666
Capital paid up	62,125,924	62,235,409
Circulation	19,383,501	18,668,404
Government deposits. Public deposits on de-	9,621,313	10,115,588
mand Public deposits at	34,402,641	33.352,109
notice Due other Banks in	26,606,183	28,170,531
Canada Due from Banks not	1,526,067	1,060,293
in Canada	2,765,455	2,279,060
Sundries	84,074	127,638
1	94,389,234	\$93,773,623
ASS	ETS.	
Specie and Provincial		
Notes	13,946,614	15,057,312
other banks Due from other banks	3,856,510	4,313,233
in Canada Due from banks not	3,334,512	3,208,338
in Canada	8,465,480	6,562,571
Available assets	29,603,116	29,141,454
Government stock	1,440,271	1,405,595
Loans to Governm'nt	180,735	114,283
Loans to Corporations Loans on bank stocks	4,413,649	3,57 9, 6 54
and bonds	9,109,101	8,947,955
Current discounts	113,688,787	115,855,404
Notes overdue	6,258,886	6,250,945
Real estate	966,865	967,956
Bank premises Other assets	3,082,093	3,105,926
Outer absets	1,652,520	1,541,747

\$170,396,023 \$170,910,918

The ordinary changes arising from the routine of business in February are seldom of much significance, and in a period like the present must be without specific interest. The diminished liabilities and increased assets merely indicate the continuance of the depression which leaves so much capital unused and unproductive, that the banks find difficulty in placing their funds. Already notices have been

This movement is likely to be general, for irrespective of the slackness of demand for money for business purposes, there has been, and yet continues, so large an influx of funds from England and Scotland seeking investment here, that there must come a weakening in the rate allowed for local deposits. Although it is a fact that these foreign funds hitherto have found securities ready to absorb them, yet it must be remembered that they have gone to a very large extent indeed to fill the gap made by the deficiency of last harvest, a falling off from the average much below what is generally understood, and which has imposed a burden on the country which will be felt for some years. The competition of foreign capital is not felt so much now, but when there returns a good harvest time-particularly if we are favoured with successive years of abundance-the banks will find it necessary to reduce their rates for deposits, and almost inevitably there will be a lowering of the rate all round for borrowed money.

The Banks would do well to take into their consideration the question of imposing certain restrictions upon the handling of their stocks. The Scotch bankers meet for mutual discussion on matters affecting their special business interests, and we cannot but think that if our bankers did so they would discover that the opportunity would develop measures of great value in the conduct of their institutions.

The malicious rumours set afloat within the past few days-rumours without a shadow of foundation, but which we know to have caused the withdrawal of deposits from more banks than the one struck at, indicates a source of danger from a crime which finds these institutions very unprotected from its perpetrators. Bank panics have been induced by reports of this kind, and banks have failed, when perfectly solvent, under sudden pressure. That a large share of the capital of our banks should be merely used as gambler's stakes is discreditable to the country and injurious to the banks to an extent and in a manner they may any day realize by a disastrous shaking of public confidence. The bank more directly the subject of these rumours, shows in February a considerable increase in deposits at notice, which in January were \$2,332,271, and in February \$3,656,950; the specie and Provincial note reserve is also increased very largely, and circulation has shrunk only in the same proportion as other banks. We note too a diminution in its return of notes overdue unsecurea \$ 150.000. Holders of bank stock and the public have given by some of a reduction in the rate of a right which the law should protect to from the weakness of the field. The fact interest on deposits payable after notice. have their property and interests guarded

THE MONETARY TIMES AND TRADE REVIEW-INSURANCE CHRONICLE.

from the fraudulent machinations of mere speculators.

The facilities for stock operations are too great; they have led to such a general dabbling in speculation that a recent visitor to Montreal informs us that he can only compare that city now to San Francisco, where nothing is talked of but mining shares by all classes; so in Montreal, there is a rage for gambling in bank stocks. If this has been caused by hard times, it will be found to have been by far their worst result.

AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE COM-PANIES.

A noteworthy amount of attention is just now being given by the leading newspapers and periodicals of the United States to the general subject of life insurance; and especially to the discussion of the condition of life companies generally in view of the disquieting failures of the Continental, the Security and others. Articles, especially worthy of perusal, have appeared upon this subject in Scribners Monthly, and in the Nation. The magazine points out the fact that these last ten years has had the effect, in life insurance as in every other business, of bringing to the front "an unworthy class of men, who have built up unsound companies on speculation, and in some instances have resorted to fraud to conceal their weakness," but contends that all branches of trade deserve to have like condemnation in that they have indulged in over competition, excessive haste to grow, and are guilty of extravagant expenditures, and misrepresentation of their affairs.

We must not, however, run away with the idea that such conditions are unprecedented. Other countries have passed through similar periods of unhealthy inflation and falsification. Indeed, it is stated in an article which we print elsewhere, that the youth of the American system has been healthier far, in •respect of morality, than that of the English, and even to-day the English Insurance atmosphere is not clear. The disgust and suspicion that have been occasioned with respect to American Life Companies by the revelations concerning a few defunct ones, have extended perhaps unfairly, but naturally enough to many companies that have not merited it. And it is even contended that, compared with the wickedness developed in other business, American insurers have been too easily frightened. In this connexion the Insurance Monitor points out that the companies of the United States now hold something like \$400,000,000 of assets, covering risks amounting to nearly \$200,000,000, figures which it considers "dwarf the actual loss

through life insurance failures into comparative insignificance."

It is well, of course, to combat general distrust with figures such as these, and to re-affirm the soundness of the general run of companies, but for the satisfaction of those who have suffered and by way of future precaution, the need is not alone new legislation for which such clamorous demands are made, but, as we find it in another column of the same journal : "What is needed to purify the insurance atmosphere is the same as is required to purify the commercial and business atmosphere generally-a swift and certain execution of the laws. When it becomes certain that crime will be punished there will be less of it; and the good men of the profession, who are now smirched by the ill repute and the evil deeds of the bad, will be relieved from their present embarrassments. Criminal prosecutions for criminals; Jersey justice for felons! These are better than legislation."

We spoke a moment ago of figures. It would seem to be more than ever necessary if confidence is to be restored, that what are called across the line the "hard pan" figures of the position of each company. shall by some means be made abundantly plain and accessible to the insurers and the general public. And here, it seems to us, in spite of the outcry about the uselessness of Insurance Commissioners, is the particular in which such functionaries, if competent and honest, can be of great and immediate service. If some have been remiss, and others worse than useless, that need not imply that no honest or able men can be found. A rigid valuation of assets, severe pruning of expenses, and in some cases the removal of officers deficient in character and ability, are points which it is right to urge, as they are being urged upon the home companies by the American insurance press. The pursuance of such a policy will doubtless remove a number of unsafe and undesirable companies. Canadians who hold life policies in United States companies naturally desire to be informed, amidst all this excitement, whether the companies chartered to do business here are safe. We are glad to be able to say that among all the American companies taking risks in Canada, there are not more than one or two that there is room to doubt. These are companies whose modes of doing business are by no means reassuring as to either their character or standing. They may be sound, but they sometimes act as if they doubted their solvency. We have already had occasion to mention one which has been buying up its policies in Canada at prices which are most unjust to the holders.

created by the publication of the fact that very large salaries are paid to the Presidents of some American companies, even exceeding that paid to the Chief Marine Inspector of Vessels in England, who gets a salary of \$25,000 a year. The talent necessary for the conduct of Life Insurance, where untold millions are at stake, is everywhere a rare commodity; and the President of these companies, so far from being a mere figurehead, devotes his whole time and energies to the work. The ratio of expenditure to income would always be a fair test as to whether companies were extravagance in their management. We would again warn our readers against being influenced by interested parties and surrendering their policies upon any pretext, without adequate compensation.

INDISCRIMINATE COMPROMISES.

It is generally agreed that the system of accepting compromises from insolvent traders and allowing them to continue, is disorganizing the whole mercantile community. The evil has existed for years, and appears to be growing. When remonstrated with upon the practice, some wholesalers have replied: "What can we do but accept what is offered us? If we put the estate into an assignee's hands we shall get still less."

We would suggest that it is needful sometimes to look beyond the individual estate. or the present interests of the creditors interested in it, and consider the effect of a certain policy upon the body commercial and upon the future. If, for instance, a trader offers more for his estate than can be had for it by liquidation (on the principle that "it is worth more to him than to any one else"), it may be that it is not therefore the best thing to do to accept his offer. If he has shown himself incompetent by buying recklessly or crediting too largely; if dishonesty is apparent in his statement of affairs; if his family or other expenses have been extravagant, or out of proportion to his trade; or if there are manifestly too many shops in the town or locality for this one to succeed, it is surely folly to tempt another failure in the future, by encouraging him to compromise and go on again. How are undesirable men to be weeded out and the trade purged, unless such faults as we have named are watched and punished?

tree which are most unjust to the holders. There has been some unnecessary alarm There is abundance of experience to show that under conditions such as we have instanced, to compromise once has only been to pave the way for a second and a third failure. It would have been money

in the pockets of wholesale houses, therefore, to have wound up the estate at once. If there are six general stores in a village which can support but five, is it not wise to discontinue one especially when the sixth has already failed and is asking leave to go on again?

Creditors, when assembled to consider an insolvent's affairs, are ordinarily given to follow the lead of any one of themselves In the direction of leniency. Talk of the hardness and cruelty of creditors! There is rarely any such thing in Canada, as cruelty to a deserving debtor, and their readiness to take what is offered causes them a loss of money sometimes. We recall an instance in which a firm showing a fair but reduced surplus, offered seventy-five cents in the dollar, and it was on the point of being assenting to, when one creditor objected, and gave reasons which carried the majority with him against the settlement. The result in this case was that the firm paid in full with interest. In another case, a number of houses had given proxies to a representative at an insolvent's meeting. and that representative favored a settlement at sixty cents, although the estate showed a surplus. Here again a firm creditor, who attended the meeting and raised his voice against compromising, carried his point, and sixty-six cents in cash was realized from the estate by selling the stock.

Here the personal attendance and the firm stand of one creditor secured an increased yield from an estate and removed a superfluous trader. The personal care of some creditors has just averted the settlement, at twenty-five cents, of a Belleville furrier, whose failure had some sinister features, and the stock has been sold out of his hands. In weeding out the incompetent, the superfluous, and the dishonest, good work is done.

We would impress upon the principals of wholesale houses the importance of giving personal attendance at meetings of creditors. They will find it abundantly profitable. The too frequent practice of placing proxies in the hands of lawyers and professional accountants ought to be abandoned. Unfortunately among these there are persons who have found it to their interest to act in behalf of the debtor, instead of those they were expected to represent. Instances are not wanting to prove that such a course has been adopted. We remember an instance, only a few weeks ago, where a large house had stopped payment, and at a preliminary meeting of creditors arranged to pay in full by getting an extension of time without interest. Upon hearing this, a friendly lawyer obtained an interview with the untortunate debtors, and it did not require afternoon in this city, but not being satis-

much time for this loquacious gentlemen to persuade his clients that it was not in their interest to pay in full, for he knew how to obtain a settlement for them at about sixty cents. The sequel of this is that the firm has since compounded at this rate. The insolvency law, even though amended every session of parliament, will not prevent unprincipled men from defrauding their creditors so long as the latter neglect to give such meetings more of their personal attention.

UNION MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COM-PANY OF MAINE.-The twenty-seventh annual report of this company is at hand. It bears the signature of Mr. John E. Dewitt, the recently chosen president, whose tenure of a like position in the United States Life Company was so successful. The system pursued by the Union Mutual, as set forth by the president, is all that can be desired, and the language and sentiments of the report disclose the unusual calibre of the man, as well as a minute knowledge of the principles and practices of life insurance. It is excellent reading. The company's securities and assets of all kinds have been subjected to re-appraisal and reductions made where shrinkage in value required it. This being done, the surplus, after providing for reinsurance of risks on the 41 per cent. basis, is \$722,236. We observe, appended to the president's report, an account given by the Governmental Commissioners for Maine and Massachusetts, of the result of their examination into the company's affairs, in which, addressing the president, they "deem it their duty to submit to its managers and policy-holders,"the conclusions to which they have come. It seems to us that these officials are going a little out of their way to report to anyone, except the Government who employs them ; and we question if such a proceeding would be considered regular or altogether wise in any country except the United States. In this case they have only good to report; but their consenting to gratify the heads of any institution in a manner outside their official functions might be so interpreted as to impair their usefulness as unprejudiced public inspectors.

-A number of dissatisfied policyholders of the Niagara District Mutual Insurance Company called a meeting of its members to urge upon the local Government the necessity of a thorough investigation into the condition of the company. Many members having refused, we understand, to pay assessments made, were sued in consequence. This meeting was held yesterday

fied with to the announcement of the fact that the Government had already taken action by sending one of its officers over to St. Catharines to look into the company's affairs. They determined to raise a fund and to petition the Dominion Government to send Prof. Cherriman to look after their interests. We shall look with interest for the official report of the examination, the need for which was quite apparent. And it will be very satisfactory to find that this old company in better shape than the doubts and fears of many of its members indicate.

THE HARD TIMES.

We are glad, upon occasion, to give both sides of a question, and do not desire to press too hardly upon any section of the business community. Occasionally we hear from friends among the retail trade who consider that we are "down upon" them, and that we neglect to criticise the wholesale houses. Any one who reads our columns attentively will hardly fail to see that this is not the case; but we gladly give place to some extracts from the letter of a " Retailer," who is speaking of the hard times which country dealers are experiencing at present, and the many difficulties they encounter, says :

"The evil is being intensified by the wholesale trade sending out such crowds of commercial travellers, who sell goods to every retailer whether good or bad. Now the retailers who are sound have a very deep interest in this matter, and it is in their hands to do a great deal to bring about better times. Let every good man in the retail business refuse to give an order to any commercial traveller under any circumstances, but select one trustworthy wholesale house in each line of business in which he deals, and go and buy from that house alone, or send them orders by letter. The wholesale trade will then soon tire of sending out commercial travellers to sell only to doubtful men."

There is an old-fashioned common-sense ring about this suggestion, and there are some houses who approve it ; but we fear the notion of bringing about better times by such a method is Utopian. The commercial traveller is too fixed and too numerous a fact to be thus ignored. Nor, indeed, is it absolutely needful to ignore him. Let each good retail merchant, as our correspondent suggests, confine his purchases as nearly as possible to one house in each line and buy from the traveller of no other, and a great step would be taken towards better times.

We close in the words of another valued correspondent : "It is true there are too many in business, retailers certainly, and may be wholesalers too, still many persons think that it is keen competition only, which solvent merchants have to fight against, but there is much to con. tend with through business men failing, and bankrupt stocks increasing in number, through incompetency, duplicity, and rascality; and again through incendiarism preying on the vitals A merchant must be of healthy business. financially robust to withstand those cankers which infest every section of our mercantile community."

TONTINE SAVINGS ASSOCIATION .- We have received a neat little pamphlet descriptive of a new plan under the above name, of investing savings. It has just been incorporated under chap. 34 of the statute 37th Vic., with headquarters in London, Ont., Mr. J. F. Mahon, cashier. The principle of the Association is the application of the Tontine principle, which has met with favour and success in life insurance to the ordinary savings bank, and in this case the experiment is being made in connexion with Johnston's Bank in London. The prospectus gives out that depositors will receive, not only the ordinary rate of interest allowed by savings banks, but will participate at certain intervals in the accumulated profits resulting from the investment of the whole deposit for the whole tontine period. These periods vary in duration from one year to three years, and the lowest fund for investment is \$100. The salient features of the system are set forth with much ability and clearness in the pamphlet before us; and the tables given lead to the conclusion that for persons whose transactions are limited, and whose needs do not extend to the amounts usually loaned by Building Societies, the Tontine methods of this association form an advanageous means of investment.

LONDON LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY .-- It will be seen by the statement elsewhere of the London Life Insurance Company, that a considerable and increased business has been obtained for 1876 by this young institution. The assets are increased by nearly one half, which is a noticeable gain as compared with the growth of the liabilities. Their re-insurance reserve has been calculated at 41 per cent, which is a prudent and conservative step. Another good feature is the writing off, thus early, of the preliminary expenditures made in organizing the company. It is a somewhat rare step for a company not yet three years old to take, but a very proper one nevertheless. About seven per cent of the company's income is derived, we observe, from Accident insurance premiums, of which one hundred and thirteen are in force, averaging over \$1,300 each. An increase of the stock to \$250,000 has been decided upon.

-Interest tables are so necessary a part of desk furniture for business men, that any improvement of them must be generally welcomed. We have seen the advance sheets of interest tables to be issued by Mr. C. C. Cook of the Imperial Bank, Ingersoll, in which a novel convenience is found which must save time and eye sight. The pages are tinted pink and the rate of interest water-lined as it were, in large figures down the page, which relieves one from tracing out the corresponding amounts with a straight edge, or with the finger. The book deserves to 'have a good sale. It would have been well had the tinting been green or blue, as being more restful to the eyes. -The Beaver and Toronto Mutual Insurance Company has succeeded in getting its bill through the House of Commons with but slight amendments. The principal one of these provides that in the event of the company deciding to continue business, it must deposit \$50,000 within one month with the Dominion Government. It is hardly likely that this deposit will be made; it follows therefore that the company will have to re-insure its risks and wind up its business. The bill not yet having passed the Senate, no immediate action will be taken.

-Newfoundland exported about \$8,000,000 in products of the fishery, forest, and mine, last year, of which some \$619,000 came from copper and lead. Many branches of trade not hitherto conducted on the Island have been begun, agriculture is being carried on to a promising extent, and there are 120 large fishing vessels on the stocks in anticipation of a good season. It is about time this rich island was incorporated into the Dominion of Canada.

-Evidence given before a jury in Woodstock has resulted in the commitment for trial of Philander Slaght, as an accessory to the burning of his.grist mill in that town on the 4th ult. A detective from Toronto named Ettleson, also caused the arrest of one Manly for arson. The following is a copy of a remarkable letter which Manly had written for some accomplice evidently and gave to the Mayor.

" Monday

as you said you would be here on Monday you will get this I have primed eight stores and pierced both walls of the Banks and there is a Cooper Shop and several planing mills which will serve as good decoys bring my other needle for my instrument as i broke my fine one also some more of that combustible as I used the last on tuesday night and it did not get into the stable as i expected also there is five Hotels pierced and i am watched so close i do not think it safe to stay any longer so I will go to Hamilton to-day and i will leave the rest to help you."

The citizens of Woodstock are to be congratulated on their efforts to discover incendiaries who have troubled their peace; the evidence thus far seems to indicate that they have got hold of the right parties.

UNION BANK OF P. E. ISLAND.

At the Twelfth Annual Meeting of this Bank held in Charlottetown on the 7th inst., the *Report* of the Directors was read of which the following are the main portions.

"In submitting to the Shareholders the result of last year's business, the Directors have the satisfaction of stating that the affairs of the Bank continue in a sound and prosperous condition, and that although it has been a year of great general depression in trade throughout the world, the Bank's profits have exceeded those of any previous year.

After covering all charges of management and writting off bad and doubtful debts,—The net ordinary profits of the twelve months just closed, amount to \$34,078 96; Premium on New Stock sold \$34,789 40; Two dividends of \$50 each absorbed \$14,60 00; Reserved for dividend of Premium on New Stock, payable 20th March, 31,789 40 Transferred to Reserve Fund 20,000-00. It is with much satisfaction that the Directors have been able thus to increase the Reserve Fund. They would impress upon the Shareholders the advantages of adding to it yearly, thus aflording additional security to Bank's Depositors, and, at the same time, rendering a dividend certain in the most unprofitable of seasons.

The final instalment of New Stock was sold on the 14th ultimo, and the prices realized ranging from 60 to 66 premium—show the high value the public place upon the stock. The net amount realized for premium on New Stock amounts to \$31,789.40, from which, as directed by the Act of Incorporation, a dividend amounting to a little over 19½ will be paid to all the Shareholders, on the payment in full of instalment of Stock due the 14th inst.

stalment of Stock due the 14th inst. On motion of William Welsh, Esq., seconded by Hon. James Warburton, the Report was unanimously adopted. The election of Directors for the ensuing year resulted in the old Board being again returned.

GEORGE MCLEOD. Cashier.

meetings.

LONDON LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Annual Meeting of the shareholders of the above company was held at its offices in Molson's Bank Building, Dundas Street, London, Ont., on Wednesday the 21st instant. A large number of the shareholders were present, amongst others were Messrs. Joseph Jeffery, A. T. Chapman, D. Macfie, W. F. Bullen, Edward Harris, Geo. B. Harris, Col. John Walker, W. Bowman, P. Birtwistle, John Burnett, Benj. Dawson, A. S. Emery, J. H. Elliott, Thomas Green, J. M. Denton, J. F. Mahon, J. Johnston, Col. Jas. Moffatt, Geo. Robinson, C. N. Spencer, John Stewart, Isaac Waterman, John Wright, &c., &c.

The President Mr. Jos. Jeffery, was called to the chair, and the manager Wm. Mardon acted as secretary. The notice calling the meeting, published in the Ontario Gazette having been read, the manager presented the Director's report for the year.

Report.

In presenting the Second Annual Report of the company's business from 1st January, 1876, to 31st December, 1876, your directors congratulate the shareholders on the result of the past year's operations. Notwithstanding the excessive depression in all commercial enterprises during the past year, and perhaps more especially that of Insurance, wherein competi-tion has been of the keenest kind, the progress of the company has been most satisfactory. The total number of applications received for Life Insurances was 501, of these 38, not being considered advisable risks, were declined by your directors, on advice of the company's consulting physician; on the remaining 463 lives, policies were written assuring the sum of \$500,500the premiums amounting to \$14,072 36; of the 463 policies issued, 49 lapsed after [paying a first instalment of the premium, and 52 were not carried out. Of the 384 policies in force at 31st December, 1875, one for \$1000 became a claim, and 133 lapsed from non-payment of the premiums, thus leaving in force at 31st December, 1876, 612 policies, assuring \$670,130—the pre-minms on which amount to \$20,069 79. In the Accident Branch one hundred and

In the Accident Branch one hundred and forty-three policies were issued, assuring the sum of \$183,000, of these three have expired,

twenty-seven have been cancelled, leaving in

twenty-seven have been cancelled, leaving in force on the 31st December, one hundred and thirteen policies, assuring \$155,000 00. The assets of the company amount to \$46,-964 06; being an increase of 50 per cent. over last year. The liabilities amount to \$47,363 94; being an increase of but 32 per cent. over last year, and are as follows: To stockholders, \$22,420; and the policy holders for re-insurance reserve. and to policy holders for re-insurance reserve, \$24,943 94. This amount has been calculated \$24,943 94. This amount has been calculated by the Hon. Elizur Wright, U. S. Insurance Commissioner for the State of Massachusetts, the best Insurance authority on this Continent; the Reserve has been calculated on the tables of combined American experience and interest at 41 per cent. per annum, this rate being the only sound basis on which all Life Insurance reserves should be calculated. Had the reserve been calculated on the same basis as last year, viz., 5 per cent. interest, it would only have amounted to \$23,843,49, a difference of \$1,100, and which would have shown the liabilities that amount less. In accordance with the requirements of the Insurance Act of March last, 39 Victoria, Chapter 13, the company has deposit-ed with the Local Government the sum of \$25,000; and now holds a license to transact business in the Province of Ontario. Your directors would here point out the ample secur. ity to policy holders. The liabilities to them amount to \$24,943 94, and the security to \$137,-044 06, being assets as per balance sheet \$46, 964 of, and balance of uncalled subscribed capital, \$90,080; or nearly six times the amount required to reinsure all the company's risks.

The whole Board of directors now retire but are eligible for re-election.

WM. MARDON, JOSEPH JEFFERY. Manager. President. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31ST DECEMBER, 1876.

Receipts.

To Balance at 1st January, 1875	\$42,500	62
" Life Premiums	17.071	02
" Accident Premiums	1,206	
" Interest on Deferred Premiums	234	20

" Income from Investments.... 2,303 70

\$64,375 79

Disbursements.

	Balance at 1st January, 1870		
ŭ	Investments	11,583	68
	General Expenses account-		
	Salaries, Agent's travelling ex-		
	penses, Rent, Gas Light, clean-		
	ing Offices, License Expenses,		
	&c	8,317	32
64	Printing, Stationery, &c	224	
"	Postage and Stamps	158	
66	Office Furniture	73	
۰.	Agents' Commissions	874	
**	Medical Examiners' Fees	1,174	
**	Death Claims	1,000	
66	Accident Indemnity Claims	184	
"	Balance cash in Molsons Bank	163	
	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	103	73

\$64,375 79

	sets.			
Huron & Erie Stock Ontario S. & I. Society	\$ 2,112	00		
Stock Dominion S. & I. So-	18,850	00		
ciety Stock Agricultural S. I. & So-	7,200	00		
ciety Stock	2,200	00		
Canadian S. I. & So- ciety Stock	4,590	00		
Mortgages on Real Estate	2 450	80	\$38,402	80
Cash Molsons Bank			163	95
Deferred half-yearly & quarterly Life Pre-				
miums			4,707	15

Premium Notes, (for first Premium only), Accrued Interest Office Furniture, &c Balance	2,506 944 239 399	01 30
	\$47,363	94
Liabilities. To Stockholders " Re-Insurance Reserve of Life Policies, calculated on Tables of American experience, and		00
interest at 41 per cent " Reserve on Accident Policies	24,551	

\$47,363 94

Balance to debit of Profit and Loss account, \$399 88.

To the President and Directors of the London Life Insurance Company :

GENTLEMEN,-We hereby certify that we have carefully audited the books and accounts of the London Life Insurance Company from 1st January, 1876, to 31st December, 1876, and that we have had produced to us Vouchers for all payments, and that the assets, in the shape of Mortgages, Stocks, and Premium Notes, have been severally produced, and that they agree with the books and accompanying balance sheet, and the Statements of Receipts and Disbursements are correct, as shown by the books of the Company.

WILLIAM F. BULLEN, Auditors. JOHN BURNETT,

London, Ont., March 15, 1877.

The President Mr. Jos. Jeffrey moved, seconded by Mr. A. T. Chapman, that the report just read be adopted and approved of. After a few remarks by Col. Jas. Moffatt, the resolution was carried unanimously.

The President then addressed the meeting on the subject of increasing the capital stock of the company, and read the following resolution which would be voted on by the shareholders :----

"That the capital stock of the company be increased to two thousand five hundred shares of one hundred dollars each, the new issue of shares to be allotted to the present shareholders pro rata. It was then moved by Mr. D. Macfie, seconded by Mr. Wm. Bowman, that the resolution just read be adopted, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. John Burnett, in moving a vote of thanks to the President, Vice-President and Board of Directors, said he had great pleasure in doing so as the whole Board had given their time and devoted their attention to furthering the interests of the company during the past two and a half years, without any fee or reward, and more especially was this the case in regard to the President, who had given his services (and all present knew the many engagements he had and the value of his time) more or less every day since the company was storted, in the direction of the company's business. He would now move the following resolution,—" That the thanks of the shareholders are due and are hereby tendered to the President, Vice-President, and Board of Directors for the valuable services they have rendered, and the care and attention they have given to the interests of the company during the past twelve months; seconded by Col. J. Moffatt and carried unanimously.

The President Mr. Jos. Jeffery, replied on be-half of himself and co-directors, thanking the shareholders for their vote of thanks. It had been his constant endeavour since the formation of the company to advance in every way its interests, and he was proud to see the position the company had attained, notwithstanding the are not in the trade, and who merely purchase unfair rivalry of some older companies. The for their own family wants. Now I distinctly expenses so far had been heavy, but all prelimi-

nary charges had been paid, leaving no burden to encumber future years, which was a state-ment few new companies could make. The business done during the last year greatly ex-ceeded that done in 1875, and the business of this year up to date exceeded that of last year (1876) for the same period, by one hundred per cent an increase which far exceeds the most sanguine expectations. The success of the company is now firmly established, and it is the ambition of myself the rest of the directors and our manager, to make the London Life Insurance company the leading company of Ontario, and to add another to the many successful monetary institutions of our city. In conclusion he would say that a great deal of the success of the company during the past year and a half, was due to the able management, perseverance, and untiring vigilance of the manager, who had the entire confidence of the directors, and who he might add from his own knowledge had worked day and night to further the company's business.

Mr. W. F. Bullen moved, that the thanks of the shareholders be presented to the Manager and also the company's consulting Physician and agents, for the care and attention they have given to the company's business during the past twelve months, which was seconded by Mr. Wm. Bowman, and carried.

The Manager briefly replied, returning thanks on behalf of himself and the other officers, and referring to the valuable advice and cordial support he had received, ever since assuming the management of the company, from the President and the rest of the Board. Trusted that his management during the present year would be as successful as the past, and again secure their approbation.

Mr. Edward Harris, briefly addressed the meeting, showing from the statistics of the Dominion Insurance Blue Book that in the number of new Policies issued during 1876, the London Life Insurance Company stood fourth among the nine Canadian companies. The company standing highest was thirty years old, the com-panies standing second and third, were over five years old, whilst the London standing fourth was only two and a half years old. Amongst the American Insurance Companies doing business in Canada, there was only one had exceeded the number of Policies issued, whilst none of the British Insurance Companies doing business here had reached the number issued by the London.

The election of directors was then proceeded with and Messrs. W. F. Bullen and John Burnett were appointed scrutineers. On close of the ballot the scrutineers reported that the old board of directors and auditors were reelected by a unanimous vote.

At the close of the meeting the Directors met to organize for the year, when Mr. Joseph Jeffery was re-elected President, with Mr. A. T. Chapman, Vice-President, and the executive committee same as last year.

Correspondence.

WHOLESALERS SELLING AT RETAIL.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times.

DEAR SIR,-I desire through the columns of your valuable paper to call the attention of the mercantile class to an unfair and unjust practice that is becoming, (unfortunately for the retail trade), too prevalent.

I allude to the fact that a number of prominent wholesale dealers in dry goods and groceries are in the habit of selling to men who contend that the wholesale men who resort to such a practice are not entitled to, nor should they receive the custom of retail dealers. It is a practice that demands the strongest censure, and the wholesale firms who are selfish enough to encourage such a business deserve to have their names exhibited to the retail traders, so that the latter class can steer clear of such houses.

I could, if necessary, name three or four wholesale firms in the City of Hamilton who do a large business with many of the retail traders in Paris, and who, in the face of this, are selling to non-traders in the same town.

I would suggest, Mr. Editor, unless the practice is discontinued that the retail traders adopt some plan for their own protection, whereby they would become acquainted with the names of the wholesale firms who are guilty of the practice I have complained of.

Yours truly. RETAILER. Paris, March 24, 1877.

LANDLORD'S PREFERENCES.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times.

DEAR SIR,-Your remarks, and the circular of the Assignee in the matter of the Insolvent firm of Boss & Desbrisay, in your last issue, lead me to send you the following respecting the firm of Lee & Son of this city, Furniture Dealers or Brokers. They commenced business about three years ago by buying the bankrupt stock of Holt & Co., with money borrowed from an employee of that firm, who soon after left for the United States, and turned up the other day at meeting of Lee & Son's creditors, and filed his claim for \$5,000-a claim he had not put into his Schedule or given any hint of, till the party appeared at the meeting to Mr. Lee's surprise. The firm of Lee & Son now sumbit liabilities of \$10,500, with assets estimated by them as being worth \$2,900; they show prefer ed claims for rent, taxes, wages and salaries as \$1,340; and a Son of the head of the firm, (formerly their Bookkeeper), in addition to hold ing all his father's Household furniture at \$1500 under a Chattel Mortgage, comes forward with a promissory note for \$500, and \$75 arrears of salary, fyles his claim and votes to sell the Estate en bloc for enough to pay the rent, preferred claims and expenses, thereby securing his \$75, and the creditors of the Estate would not get one cent on their claims.

The list of book debts sent in to the Assignee is similar to those of Messrs. Boss & Co. Of the "good" ones nearly all have contra accounts, or produce receipts; the doubtful ones are very doubtful, and the bad have an overwhelming majority, and yet this hopeful firm are going to ask for a deed of composition and Discharge, and probably will get it. One of the facts of this case shows the injustice to other creditors, of the landlord who happens to be a wealthy man, allowing the rent to run into arrears to about \$1000, and now stepping in and sweeping off all the assets in the place to pay his preferen tial (?) claim. He thus takes the goods of parties who, seeing a fair show of stock in the premises, gave Lee & Son credit, only to find that their goods, supplied within thirty days of that their goods, supplied within thirty days of Insolvency, must now be sold to pay rent in-curred a year ago. There certainly should be some change made in the law of Landlord's liens. Why should this wealthy man, who did not require the money, be paid now out of the goods of poor struggling mechanics who sup-plied Lee & Sons on the faith of what they saw in the premises. Yours, etc., Equity.

Insurance.

FIRE RECORD .- Halifax, March 23rd .- A fire at Pugwash destroyed the stores owned by Levi Borden, Peter McDonald, and Wilson, the latter occupied by G. C. Carter. Borden's loss is about \$4,000; insured for \$2.000. McDonald's loss is about \$1,300; insured for \$400. Wilson's loss is not known.

Halifax, March 25.—Two buildings at the head of Granite Wharf, owned by the estate of Davis & Co., and by Wm. Morley, were destroyed by fire.

Belleville, March 24.—The carriage factory of Mr. S. Way, Ameliasburg, was destroyed by fire ; insured for \$2,000.

Montreal, March 22.-The residence of Mr. Senecal. Notre Dame Street, was damaged by fire to the extent of \$50. Ottawa, March 22.—The old Rideau Club

building which cost \$14,000, was burned; in-Sured for \$5,000, \$2,500 each in the British America and Northern companies. The furniture and stock were insured for \$2.500, which will not cover the loss.

Hamilton, March 27th .- A fire broke out in Dorenvend's barber ship which was completely gutted. Mrs. Roberts' fancy goods stock ad-joining was very much damaged by smoke and water. The latter was insured in the Victoria Mutual for \$2.000, and Mr. Dorenwend for \$2.700 in the same Company. The building, which is the property of Mr. Charles Magill, was insured for \$4,000 in the Gore District Mutual Insurance Company. Crediton, March 27th.—The dwelling houes

of Henry Scilly, with three children aged 5 7 & 9, years were burned. No insurance ; total loss \$2.000.

St. John, N. B. March 27th .- A serious fire broke out in Indiantown, damaging a large amount of property, including the New Brunswick Paper Company's leather board mill to the extent of \$800; covered by policies in Can-adian offices; Geo., H. White and H. C. Stubbs, hay barns, with a hundred tons of hay, hay press, waggons, sleds, scales, &c., were burned to the ground. There is partial insurance. The fire was caused by the upsetting of a lamp.

Kingston, March, 22nd.-A fire occurred in a frame house occupied by a family named Carroll damaged slightly.

Peterboro 25th March .-- Dixon Bros. store took fire and was badly injured. The stock of goods was insured in the Western for \$5,000 and in the Canada Fire and Marine for \$10,000.

LIFE INSURANCE FAILURES

The infancy of life insurance in this country has been marked by a comparative freedom from those gigantic swindles of which we have so many instances in the history of life insurance in England. A great number of our companies have indeed been compelled to suspend, but, as a general rule, their failure has resulted more from extravagant and unwise management than from intentional fraud, and their assets have proved sufficient to effect the reinsurance of their policy-holders in other companies. But the cases of downright fraud and perjury which have recently come to light may well lead us to enquire whether, after all, our life-insurance management is entitled to much credit on the score of honesty, while the great number of failures cannot but direct public attention to their causes.

However large may be the business of a life. insurance company, the elements of which it is made up are of the simplest character. It consists in receiving from its policy-holders certain the proceeds to the proper parties according to certain well-understood principles. The only is that men rarely apply for life insurance on definite contributions at specified times, in safe-

legitimate contracts of any importance into which it can enter are to receive and pay certain sums of money at certain times.

The exceptional feature of life insurance is that the managers have found themselves in receipt of an income vastly greater than was necessary to meet their legal obligations, and have not been held responsible for the manner of expending the excess. True, there is a legal obligation to return certain balances to the policy-holders, but this applies only to what is left after paying all expenses, and as there is no limit to the kind or amount of expenses which the company may incur, the obligation affords no protection at all against reckless expenditure. We may readily see how this great excess of income over needs has arisen. To the average steady young man, impressed with a feeling of the uncertainty of human life, the fact that a company can guarantee him a hundred dollars at his death in consideration of an annual payment of two dollars or less seems very surprising. If he has any reason to desire an insurance on his life, he must feel that his bargain is a good one, and if the company is only so managed as to insure the fulfilment of its obligation to him, he is too well satisfied to ask for anything more. In this feeling of the policy-holder we find the exact limit which has hitherto been set to legislative supervision over the affairs of the companies. The latter have agreed, in consideration of certain premiums, to pay the assured a certain sum at a future time, and the main object of legislation has been to compel them to keep and invest such a portion of the premiums as to insure their ability to fulfil this obligation. The balance of their income might be squandered in almost any way, not positively fraudulent, without calling down censure from the law.

The great excess of the income of life-insurance companies over what is necessary to meet their obligations arises from the necessity of making provisions against very improbable contingencies. The policy holder pays every year a sum to guarantee his company against contingencies which might not arise in a hundred years, and which have not arisen during the history of life insurance in this country-such, for instance, as an extraordinary increase of mortality or a fall of the rate of interest below four per cent. Legislative supervision has really done little more than limit the expenses, dividends, and bad investments of the companies to a fraction of their income which may range from thirty to fifty per cent. As long as this limit is not reached the failure of a company could only arise from a concurrence of improbable events. In this, combined with popular ignorance of the subject and the impossibility of concerted action among policy-holders, we find a temptation against which we cannot expect human nature to be proof. The surplus income of all but the few larger companies (and it is doubtful whether even they should be entirely excepted) has been mostly spent in a competition for custom as demoralizing as expensive. Unreasonable commissions are paid to agents and runners for drumming up recruits, while the richer companies have vied with each other in fitting up showy offices without regard to expense. In the competition the new and small companies suffer so severely that they could never have entered the lists but for the excessive premiums which are charged to guarantee against contingencies. As a general rule, we believe, a new company has to expend about its entire receipts from premiums during a year or two in order to get started in business. Thus, the very measure which has been devised as a safeguard for the policy-holder has indirectly proved the most fruitful source of demoralization

We doubt if there is any other branch of human affairs in which the advocates of paternal their own motion, but nearly always wait for the solicitation of an agent. When they yield to his arguments, they do not know that they have to pay him—besides the mathematical cost of what they get—a large percentage for the trouble of convincing them; in other words, that a company which did not employ agents could afford to give them five, ten, or fifteen per cent. more insurance for the same money. In fact, so little has their deliberate judgment to do with the matter that the greater number of them suffer their policies to lapse after one or two payments.

Under these circumstances, it may be questioned whether the destruction of companies which has lately been going on at so fear-ful a rate is not really the best thing for the that could happen country that could If not, it is only to them. because under our present system other organizations of equally unhealthy growth will spring up. To make any permanent improvement, there must be a stop to the chartering of new companies which do not hold out a reasonable prospect of being less expensive than the older ones. The case is one in which competition, instead of being "the life of trade," is the destruction of good manage-ment. One of the best legal provisions which could now be made would be that no new company should be chartered or allowed to do business until the number insuring less than 100,ooo lives each was reduced to a fourth of the whole. A rather simple and effective provision would be to prohibit official examiners of companies from accompanying their reports by puffs and to make it their duty to tell the public everything the latter ought to know respecting the ratio of expenses of management of the companies to premiums received. Legal restrictions upon the manner in which a company may dispose of its surplus income, if made with any regard to reason, could not be otherwise than beneficial. In a word, the more difficul-ties which are thrown in the way of those companies whose expenses of management exceed their death-losses the better it will be for the morals of life insurance.—N. Y. Nation.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL. 4 o'clock, Mar. 28, 1877.

STOCES.	Lowest Point in Week.	Highest Point in Week.	Transact'ns in Week.	Buyers.	Seliers.
Montreal	168	171	2350	167	168
Ontario	100	100	98	1001	100
Consolidated		91	35		92
Peoples	·	89	24	91 89 B. C.	90
Molsons	····· ``	~ 31		B. Č.	30
				D . U .	172
Toronto		171	57		1/21
Jacques Cartier		33	22	331	34
Merchants		74	1655	73	73
Commerce		117	1658	3174	1171
Metropolitan		46	20	46	
Maritime		72 88	25		
Exchange	88	884	100	·····	90
Hamilton				97	
Union			1		76
Montreal Tel.		109	5717	1052	105
Dominion Telegraph				85	
Gas	. 151	153		151	
City Pass	. 73	75	510	74	76
R. C. Insurance		. 92		90	90
Sterling Exchange	. 108	109		108	109
Gold	. 104		l'	104	

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS

From our own Reporter. MONTREAL, March 27th 1877.

It is impossible to ignore the fact that there has been no real improvement in business during the by-gone week to distinguish it from its predecessors; and until confidence is restored little activity is looked for. Meantime the country merchants is almost as shy in buying

as is the wholesale merchant in selling, unless to well known and reliable parties; especially do we find this in the grocery trade, and at the moment it is almost impossible to get an offer for a large lot of any article. A marked feature in the wholesale trade this year so far, has been the small number of buyers who came to the city as compared with former years. The first indication of any revival in the flour market took place yesterday when a fair quantity of flour changed hands at full prices, holders remaining as firm as they have done during most of the winter.

The weather is fine and spring like snow and winter roads disappearing very fast under a genial thaw and warm sun. The ice bridge still holds good although in some places covered with a good deal of water.

ASHES.—Pots.—Market rather firmer and an advance has been established on our closing quotations of last Tuesday, considerable Firsts have changed hands (receipts having been liberal) the market closing firm at \$4,10 to 4,-173. Nothing doing in inferiors and prices are nominal : *Pearls*. In the absence of receipts no transactions have been reported for sometime and prices are nominal. The stocks at present in store are Pots 3484 brls; Pearls 844 brls. BOOTS AND SHOES.—There has been a 'pretty

BOOTS AND SHOES.—There has been a 'pretty fair business doing during the past week at steady prices. A good many buyers have been in town and made fair selections. But there is no change to note in prices.

CATTLE.—On the St Gabriel market yesterday there was a splendid show of cattle for the Easter demand, some of them weighing no less then 2600 lbs. for which full prices were obtained say from \$5,50 to 7,00 for 100 lbs. live weight cattle a little inferior sold from \$4.00 to 5,50 per 100 lbs. live weight. Live Hogs was not very numerous sales reported were from \$5,50 to 6,50 per 100 lbs. live weight. There were no sheep offering.

DRY GOODS.—Business during the past week has hardly been up to expectations, and although some houses have been busy, it has not been general. The mildness of the weather will no doubt cause a demand for spring goods, and as many buyers have yet to come in to complete their purchases, from this time out considerable activity is looked for. The demand has been good for cotton fabrics, stocks of which are well worked down and merchants looking anxiously for importations which have been ordered from England. Clothing is quiet, but there has been rather more doing than during the previous week. Remittances are not what they should be, but are if anything a turn better.

are if anything a turn better. DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—There is nothing of any importance doing in this line of trade if we except a few sales of *Ei* carb at our quotation and Sal Soda at our outside limits; in other articles only a small jobbing business has been done within our range of quotations. We quote, *Bi Carb* \$3.75 firm; Sal Soda \$1.45 to 1.50; *Caustic Soda* \$3.50 to 3.75; *Soda \$*1.45 to 1.50; *Caustic Soda* \$3.50 to 3.75; *Soda \$*1.45 to 1.50; *Caustic Soda* \$3.50 to 3.75; *Soda \$*1.45 to 1.50; *Capperas 1* to 1‡c; *Alum 2* to 2‡c; *Epsom* Salis 2‡c; *Saltpetre* \$8.00 to 8.50; *Brimstone* \$2.75 to 3.00; *Sulphur* \$3.50; *Bleaching Powder* 1³ to 2; *Blue Vitriol* firm at 7 to 0c; *Cream Tartar* ground 30 to 00c; *Cream Tartar Crystals* 26 to 27c; *Borax* 12 to 14c Madder 10 to 12c.

26 to 27c; Borax 12 to 14c Madder 10 to 12c. Raw FURS.—Traders are now beginning to realize the fact that they must submit to a reduction in price of their skins, and are begining to bring them into market more freely but not in large quantities, which are bought within our range of quotations. Beaver \$1.50; to 2.00 Black Bear \$2.50 to \$8.00 according to size; Fisher \$4.00 to 8.00; Silver Fox \$20.00 to 35.00. Cross Fox \$2.00 to 3.00 Red Fox \$1.00 to 1.25; Lynx \$1.25 to 2.00 Dark Labrador Martin \$2.00 to 3.00 Pale Martin \$1.00 to 1.25; Prime Dark Mink \$2.00 ditto second \$1.00; Muskrat, winter, 12¹; to 15c Muskrat spring 18 to 20c; Raccoon 30 to 50. Skunk 15, to 40c.

FLOUR.—Receipts during the past week 10,-900 brls., total receipts from 1st. January to date 98,486 brls., being an increase of 15,441 barrels over the like period of 1876. During most part of the week the demand for flour was merely from hand to mouth, only small sales were reported at the quotations of last Tuesday, holders keeps very firm and show no disposition to meet buyers views. Yesterday there was a large number of buyers on the Corn Exchange and quite a demand was experienced a larger quantity of flour changed hands than any day for a long time. To-day the market was again flat, with nothing doing. The closing quotations are Superior extra \$7.10 to 7.20; Extra superfine \$6.80 to 6.90; Fancy \$6.60 to 6.70; Strong bakers flour \$6.60to 6.75; Spring extra \$6.30 to 6.35; Superfine \$6.00 to 6.10; Fine \$5.60 to 5.70; Middlings \$5.20 to 5.40; Pollards \$4.75 to 5.00; Upper Canada bags \$3.20 to 3.25; Oatmeal \$5.70 to

5.65, 607-meter v3.161 FISH.—Lent being almost over there is no demand for any kind of pickled fish. Dry Cod is very dull at \$4.75; Green Cod is almost unsaleable and prices nominal; Labrador Herrings the same remark applies to them. Salmon has been selling to a small extent at

\$12.00 II and IO for Nos. I 2 & 3 respectively. GRAIN.—Wheat.—Receipts during the week 400 bush.; the total receipts from Ist January to date I, 100 bushels, being a decrease of 276,-775 bushels on the receipts for the corresponding period of 1876. The trade in grain of all kinds remains completely at a stand-still, and quotations for the different descriptions, in the absence of any transactions, would be nominal. Seeds.— Not much doing. Timothy \$2.55 to 2.65; Clover 14c per lb.

GROCERIES .- This market has not yet recovered from the shock of recent failures, and no business of a wholesale character has been reported. Country merchants, who have been in town, seem disposed to put off their purchases till further on in the season, and in the meantime are only buying for immediate wants. Teas.—Japans.—There is no change to note in price, and although holders are more disposed to press sales, there are no buyers except for small quantities for immediate requirements. No offers obtainable for large lots. We quote Japans from 20 to 60c as to grade, a few small sales of Young Hysons were made at from 221 to 65c. Blacks are neglected. Cuffee is in very small demand and quotations are almost nominal Stocks are, however, low and prices are likely to be maintained. Java 28 to 30c; Maracaibo 22 to 23c; Laguayra 21 to 22c. There is very little Rio or East India coffee in stock. Sugar .---Stocks are generally beyond present wants and the market is weak, and round lots might possibly be bought a shade under our quo-Scotch refined 81 to 92c; American tations. granulated 101 to 103; dry crushed 11c. Raw Sugars are very little enquired for, stocks are still small and holders are firm at 91 to 10c. Molasces move but slowly and the market is weak. Barbadoes 45 to 47c; Sugar House 28 to 32c; Centrifugal held at 33c. Syrups.—Golden 44 to 50c; Amber 53c. Kice has shown signs of weakness this week, and quotations are now \$4.25 to 4.50, but very little doing Fruit-Sales continue to be of a retail nature at

Now \$4.25 to 4.56, but very inter using Fruit—Sales continue to be of a retail nature at our quotations, for round lots possibly less would be accepted; Layer Raisins \$1,45 to 1,50; Valencias 6 to 6½c. Sultanas 9c. Currants $5\frac{3}{4}$ to 6½; Figs 8 to 12c.; Frinces 5½c; Tarragona almonds 12½ to 14c.; Filberts 8 9c.; Walnuts 10½c.; Spices the market is quiet and nominally unchanged but if anything prices are the turn easier for all kinds.

HIDES AND PELTS.—The competition for hides has brought down prices and we now quote Nor Hides \$6. No2 ditto \$5. No3 ditto \$4. Calf skins $12\frac{1}{2}c$. per lb.

HARDWARE.-Business has not changed much

since last report, there is little] activity to note for present requirements, and with the exception of what is barely necessary there is very little buying or selling. There have been a few orders for spring importations taken but of a more meagre character than in former years. Tin Plates do not seem to strengthen much in price ' Pig and are selling freely at our quotations. Iron is being offered as low prices for delivery upon opening of navigation but we have heard of no sales. We continue to quote: Pig Iron Gartsherrie \$22.00 to 22.50; Summerlee, and Calder \$21 to 21,50 Eglinton, and Clyde \$19.50 to 20.Hematite \$26.00 to 27.00. Bars—Scotch and Staffordshire, \$2 to 2.10; best do, \$2.20 to 2.30: Swedes and Norway, \$4.75 to 5.50; Lowmoor and Bowling, \$6.00 to 6.50. Canada Plates—Swansea and Budd, \$3.60 to 3.75; Penn and Garth, \$3.75 to 4.00; Halton \$3.40 to 3.60. Tin Plates—Charcoal IC, \$6.75 to 7.25; ditto, IX, \$8.75 to 9.25; ditto DC, \$6 to 6.50 Coke IO, \$5.75 to 6.25; Boiler Plates, ordinary brands \$3.00 to 3.25; do. best brands, \$3.25 to 3.50; Lowmoor and Bowling, \$7.50 to 8.00; Galvanized Iron-Best brands No. 28, \$8.50 to 9.50; Hoops and Bands, \$2.90 to 2.75 sheets, best brands, \$2.90 to 3.10; Pressed Nails, \$7.00; Cut Nails, 12d to 7in., \$3.00; ditto, 5 d to 10d, \$3.30; do., 24d to 4d, \$3.80; 100 keg lots 5 per cent. discount. Pressed Spikes, \$4.00 to 4.75; Steel cast, 12 to 13c; Spring steel, \$3.50 to 4.00; best do. warranted, \$6.00 to 6.50; Tire ditto, \$3.50 to 3.75; Ingot Tin \$20 to 21; Ingot Copper, \$21 to 22; Horse Shoes \$4.00 to 4.50; Lead Pig, \$5.50 to 6.00.

sheet do., \$6,00 to 6.50; bar do., \$6.25 to 6.75. LEATHER.—Business continues quiet with little prospect of immediate improvement. Prices on the whole are fairly steady and Tanners are inclined to shorten the production rather than to continue manufacturing at a loss. Stocks are not allowed to accumulate to "any great extent, the surplus being shipped to England. Spanish Sole has been in better de-mand and best stock is firm in price. Slaughter Sole is quiet and weaker. Upper and Splits meet with only moderate inquiry. Measured Leathers are in good supply and buyers have the advantage. Harness and Bussets continue dull and depressed. We quote: Hemlock Spanish sole No. 1 B. A. 24 to $24\frac{1}{2}c$; do. No. 2, 22 to 23c; No. I Orinoco 23 to 24c; No. 2 ditto 21 to 22c; Zanzibar Spanish sole No. 1 22 to 23c; do. No. 2 19 to 20c; Buffalo sole No. 1, 00 to 22; do. No. 2, oo to 20c; Hemlock slaughter 26 to 27c. waxed upper light and medium 34 to 37c; do. heavy 33 to 36c; grained upper 35 to 37c; splits large 25 to 31c; do. small 16 to 22c; calfskins 27 to 36 lbs., 55 to 70c; do 18 to 20 lbs. 50 to 65c; sheepskin linings 26 to 35c; harness 22 to 28c; buffed cow 14 to 16c per ft.; enamelled cow 17 to 18c; patent cow 16 to 18c: Debbled cow 14 to 16c; rough leather 23 to 25c. OILS.—Petroleum.—The low prices at which

the article has been selling has caused a good demand and prices are if anything a little firmer than last week. Carloads sell at 15 to 151c; small lots and single barrels 16 to 18c; Linseed oil, boiled, 62c; ditto, raw, 571c; Olive oil 95c to \$1.00; fish oils are quiet and little demand. Stocks are light but sufficient for present re-quirements. Cod 60 to 62¹/₂c for Nfld.; ditto, other oils, 55 to $57\frac{1}{2}$ c; Seal, pale, $62\frac{1}{2}$ to 65c; ditto, straw, 55 to 571c; ditto, steam refined, 65 to 671c.

PROVISIONS .- Butter. -- Receipts 765 pkgs. ; shipments 514 pkgs., not much butter changing hands and the market has had a downward tendency, and the limits for butter to-day is 15 Cheese.-Shipments 1,011 boxes, no This article is also falling in value, to 22c. receipts. any small sales taking place have been at 13 to 141c. Lard quiet at 11 to 12c. Tallow Sic; Pork.—We have again to note a decline in the

just now is very small. Mess pork can now be bought at \$17.50, and Thin mess at \$16.50. SALT .-- Market is without material change transactions are unimportant, and quotations are to some extent nominal. Coarse boc;

Factory filled \$1.221 to 1.35; Fine 70 to 80c. Wool.—The wool market is unchanged in prices, there is a moderate call for small lots but the stocks held here are very small indeed. We continue to quote Pulled white wool 28 to 30c ditto Black 26 to 27c.

TORONTO MARKETS.

TORONTO, March 29, 1877.

Business of all kinds is quiet, and in some lines-notably groceries, the dullness is nearly unprecedented. Provisions, leather and hides. are each doing but enough to keep the employee's blood in languid circulation; while in grain and flour there has been a little life and firmness in prices. Boot and Shoe Manufacturers say that this week is the quietest of a quiet month in both sales and remittances.

There have been a fair number of Dry goods buyers in the city, brought in probably by the trade sale of Messrs Thomas Walls & Co. The prices obtained at this sale were, for some lines, very satisfactory, for others low. The purchases as a rule, were not heavy. There is no marked feature in the hardware trade—a steady but not large trade is doing. Money comes in very slowly this fortnight past; the rough weather and almost impassable roads have put a damper upon business in the country stores.

CATTLE .--- There is but a limited market this week, supplies for Easter having mostly been obtained previous to Monday last. A good number of beeves changed hands last week at prices ranging from \$4.25 to 5.50, for the various qualities. Almost none have come in these three days past, one small broken lot was sold to peddlers, but there is a general absence of demand at the moment, butchers being full. Some Chicago cattle have come in and been sent eastward. Sheep were more scarce than usual, Lambs and Calves fairly plentiful. FLOUR AND MEAL.—Flour stocks in store 8,705 bls. against 8,755 last week and 21,548 bls.

at the corresponding date in 1876. This market is generally firm, the demand for all grades is moderate at our quotations. There have been sales during the week both for local purposes and for shipping, of one, two and four hundred barrel lots. Some superior extra sold as high as \$7.00, extra closed firm on Wednesday at \$6.50, at which figure lots changed hands; fancy \$6.20 to 6.25; we quote spring extra \$6.00 to 6.10, the latter for choice brands. Superfine has moved at \$5.20 to 5.25, although some holders ask \$5.40 for certain brands. Oatmeal, in car lots brings \$5.25 to 5.35, In smaller quantities \$5.50 to 5.80, some movement is observable. Cornmeal unchanged.

GRAIN.-Wheat.-Fall; Stocks in store 80,-473 bush. against 83,553 bush. last week, and 331,068 bush. on like date of 1876. Spring 162,-339 bush. against 169,855 bush. last week, and 523,984 bush. same time last year. As the reduction indicates, some movement has been going on during the week, but it has been principally a milling demand for car lots. The grain market is steady, and without excitement ; prices very firm with advancing tendency. There is no No. 1 in market, the price is nominally \$1.50 to 1.53. No. 2 has advanced to \$1.48 to 1.49, and No. 3 is held at \$1.35 to 1.40, but none sold. There have been sales of No. 1 spring at \$1.39 with \$1.40 now asked. Yesterday's quotations in Chicago were : for No. 2, Pork.—We have again to note a decline in the lasy \$1.264 for April delivery, and \$1.314 for strong, and quotations would be shaded. price of this article, but the demand existing May. Corn dull; oats weak. Milwaukee wheat, Splits too are weaker. Materials are unchanged.

heavy, No. 1 \$1.441; No. 2 \$1.341. We observe that Mr. Robt. Gerrie writes, from Winnipeg, Manitoba, warning Canadian farmers that some of the wheat sold them as Red River wheat, is not Red River grain at all, but Western and much inferior. parley.-Stocks in store on 26th inst., 197,960 bush., against 244,174 bush. last week, and 523,984 bush. same date last year. There have been large sales of the higher grades, made within the week, at between 70 to 76c. Oat .- Americans are in market at 36 to 37c, but of poor quality. Canadian are steady at 47 to 48c, the quantity in store is 25,415 bush. against 29,518 bush. last week, and 5,910 bush. last year. *Peas.*—Sales reported at 73c; stocks in store 52,360 bush. against 51,571 bush. last week, and 119,079 bush. last year. Maize has been shipped actively into the interior for some time past, along the lines of the narrow gauge railways, etc. Demand continues, and we quote 49 to 50c per bush., on track here; there are but 3,000 bushels in store against 7,074 last week.

S. ACCOUNTS OF MILLION

GROCERIES .- Trade has rarely, in the history of city, been duller, in this line, than at present. Payments, are backward, and merchants are by no means in spirits, and but few in hopes for immediate improvement. Coffees are quiet, prices maintained. Fish.-The demand all through Lent has been unusally limited and has now almost ceased. Fruit unchanged in price and very little doing. Spices steady. In Sugars a decline may be noted of 1c. per lb. in Ground, Dry Crushed, and English and Scotch Refined. Teas are slow to move, no variations in quotations; the demand for blacks shows steady growth, the increasing taste for them being most noticeable in the cities and towns. Tobacco unaltered. Liquors quiet, the consumption of them has evidently been lessening in consequence of the scarcity of money, a sort of econony which but few will be found to object to.

The U.S.statistical Bureau gives the figures of imports from Britain of a number of commodities for January and February of this year, and they are generally from five to forty per cent. less than the corresponding period of last year. The exceptions are iron, lead, and unwrought tin, spirits, alkali, stationery, and silk dress goods, which show an increase. The quantity of wool imported is nearly six times greater; while woollen cloths, stuffs and carpets, are less by 30 per cent. Cotton goods by 25 per cent., linen piece goods by 32 per cent. Machinery, hardware, haberdashery, beer and ale, earthen and china ware all decreased.

HIDES AND SKINS .- The hide market is uniformly dull. There is no quantity coming from the country and none wanted. As a few come dribbling in they are taken, but half-heartedly, for there is a feeling of insecurity and doubt about prices which are weakening. The demand is light. Meantime we quote as before, 7, 6 and 5c, for Green Nos. 1, 2 and 3, respectively, there are a good many No. 3 offering, Cured and in-spected quiet at $7\frac{1}{2}$. Calfskins, cured we quote ic lower, no sales for some time; green 8 to 11c. Sheepskins, not many handling, prices as before 1.25 to 1.75.

LEATHER.-The feeling in leathers is weak, stocks are pretty generally full, and very little selling. There appears no desire on the part of buyers to touch more than is momentarily needed. It is admitted that tanners cannot buy hides and make leather at a profit at the present prices of both articles, but hides are regarded more likely to decline than leathers to advance. In Sole there is a rather better feeling because of a slight advance on Spanish hides in N.Y. and dealers here are therefore less disposed to give way. In Upper the feeling is by no means

OILS.—Prices of Cod oil are firm at 65 to 70c. Not much demand at present, tanners operations being restricted. In Strait, there is some movement, 50 to 55c being the figures. Linseed, raw, has declined to 61 to 63c; boiled to 65 to 67c. In Lard there is no material change. I'etroleum continues to move briskly, and the spoiled lot which flooded the market for a while has about worked off. Retailers in neighboring towns are amusing themselves selling coal oil at a loss. In Newmarket the price amongst a group of rival 'shops is ten cents, in Tavistock and Stratford we notice it is fifteen. This last is the quotation, for car-lots delivered at London, per imperial gallon.

SALT.—The market is steady, and there appears to be no overstock. Indeed, now that the season is over for packers, there does not seem to be much in market, and that in but few hands. We do not alter quotations. English dairy is held steady at \$1,80 to 2,00 per bag. From the quantity of coarse now coming into New York, (it is said that 70,000,000 lbs. arrive weekly as ballast) the chances are that we shall have that article plentiful and cheap in the coming summer.

PROVISIONS. The market is very flat, and no demand exists for lots in any line. There is a limited retail demand but the general condition is inactive and the feeling rather blue than othewise.

Butter of choice quality is scarce, price unchanged. This has raised ordinary from 1 to 2c. per 1b, which we now quote 16 to 19c. *Cheese*, there is no choice in market under 16c, and not a large quantity at that, the price is likely to continue at this until fresh makes come in. Pork, mess is slow of sale, but prices are steady. Chicago to-day announces steadiness in pork and lard. In the English markets some kinds of hog products have dropped within these few days, even after it was thought bottom had been reached. Lard remains steady in this market, and is not in over stock for home consumption. In Britain it is higher and firm. Bacon, there can be but little said of this article, there is but a retail trade passing and no de. ting to 1arge quantities. Hams are steady at 11¹/₂ to 13c. Eggs are moderately plentiful.

WOOL.—There is no animation in the market Large sales are unknown. Sup rs sell in lots of 600 to 1000 lbs., at 25 to 28c and No I. 20 to 24c. There is no sales for Combings. Dealers continue to buy and to store, but none goes at present into use. In fleece there is nothing doing at all, and the price has declined to 30c with no takers.

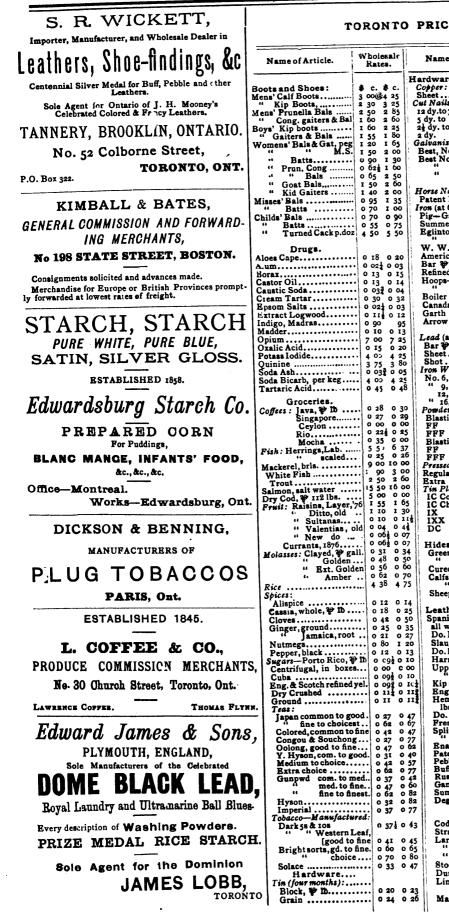


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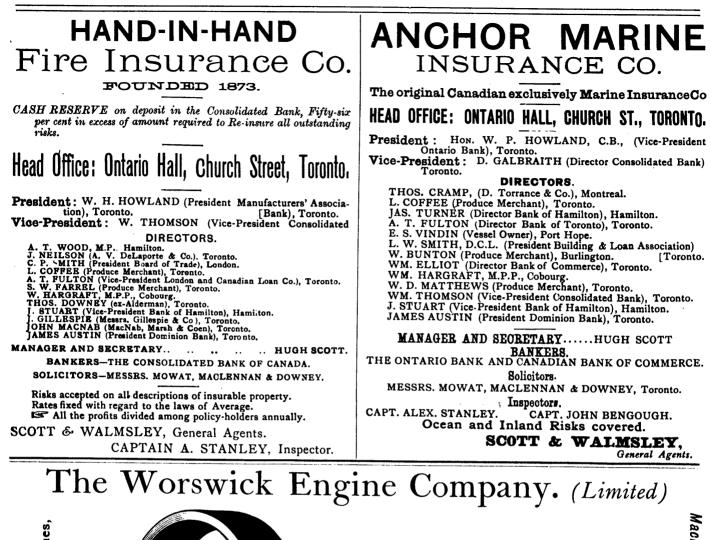
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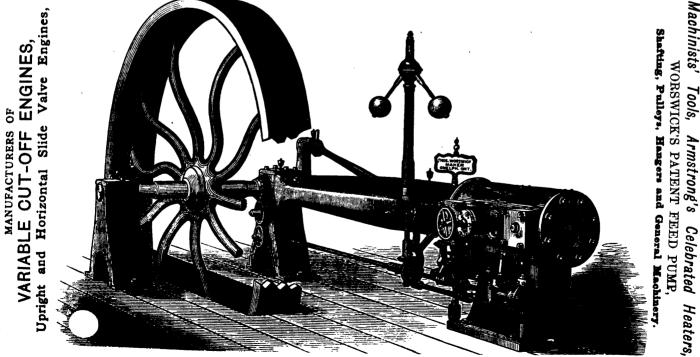
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TORONTO PRICES CURRENT.-MARCH 92, 1877.

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CAPITAL, \$100,000.

The Worswick Variable Cut-off Engine will give one Horse Power one hour on three kinds of good soft coal. Without doubt, these Engines are the most economical Engine on Fuel now made. Send for circular. THE WORSWICK ENGINE CO., GUELPH, ONT.





INCOME, &c.	DISBURSEMENTS.
Net Assets, January 1, 1876\$1,649,364	Paid death claims and en-
Premiums received 851,695	
Interest and rentals 111,358	Paid dividends, taxes, and re-
\$2,612,418	Paid, purchased, surrendered
	and cancelled policies 159,118
	Paid commissions, medical
	fees, travelling and general
	agency expenses, printing,
	advertising, stationery, sal-
	aries, law expenses, and all
	other disbursements 204,700
	Balance 1,918,97
	\$2,612,410
LIABILITIES.	ACCUMULATIONS.
Death claims due subsequent	U.S. and N.Y. State bonds
to January 1, 1871 37,151	
Amount necessary to rein-	Loans secured by pledge of
sure outstanding risks (per	bonds and stocks 96,24
New York State standard) 1,840,379	
Unadjusted dividends and all	Real estate, free of incum-
other liabilities 38,224	brance
Surplus to policy-holders, be-	Prem. loans on policies in
ing security in addition to	force
re-insurance reserve 375,629	
	Cash in bank and on hand 21,00
\$2,291,384	Prems.in course of transit, net 129,78
	Interest and rents, accrued 30,02
	Ledger balances, and all other
	items 130,18
	\$2,291,38
Policies issued in 1876 4,116	Policies in force January 1877 17.50
Ratio of death losses to mean amount	at risk in 1876, 33 per cent. less than the
average of all the other companies.	

STATEMENT

William P. Stewart, Actuary MANAGERS FOR CANADA: Thomas A Temple, Maritime Provinces, St. John, N.B. F. A. Moore, Provinces Ontario and Quebec, Toronto, Ont.

DIRECTORS FOR CANADA: Hon. LEMUEL A. WILMOT, Fredericton, N. B. JOHN S. MCLEAN, Pres. Bank of Nova Scotia, Halifaz. B. R. CORWIN, New York.



DR. M. E. VALOIS. Inspector for Province of Quebec. IAS. BLACKBURN, Secretary.

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Court House Avenue, Brockville, A. S. Hall, Esq., Agent.
15 Place d'Arm-s, Montreal, G. H. Patterson, Esq., Agent.
14 St. Peter Street, Quebec, Messrs. Kiley & Ladriere, Agents.
124 Proce William Street, St. John, New Brunswick, D. W. Coward, Esq. Chief, Agent for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

SUN MUTUAL

Life Insurance Company.

HOME OFFICE:

164 St. James Street, Montreal.

Vice-President : President : T. J. CLAXTON, Esq. THOS. WORKMAN, Eso., M.P. M. H. GAULT, Esq., Managing Director.

I of NormE of NormHon. John McMurrich, Jas. Bethune, Esq., Q.C., M.P.P.E. Browne, Esq.J. W. Bickle, Esq.J. W. Bickle, Esq.A. M. Smith, Esq.J. M. Burns, Esq., Consolidated HWarring Kennedy, Esq.John Proctor, Esq.John Fisken, Esq.B. E. Charlton, Esq.J. B. S. C. Wood.J. Eastwood, Esq.		HANNE MON BOARD
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Angus Monison, 204,	Tran S. C. Wood.	George Roach, Esq., Mayor.

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Policies Non-forfeitable. Return of premiums guaranteed. Dividends appor-tioned equitably. Endowment Assurance thereby rendered profitable. Issues Life and Endowment Policies, combined with weekly allowance in case of injury-a deservedly popular form of assurance.

Surplus, as per last year's Report, \$45,915.47. All Pure Insurance. No Tontine, periodical examinations, or chance of policies being *diminished* on becoming claims. Contracts plain and straightforward.

Manager for Hamilton, N. HAMMOND. Manager for Toronto, Manager for Toronto, No. 8 Imperial Buildings. R. H. HOSKIN.

R. MACAULAY, Secretary.

ser Wanted one or two First-class Travellers; also Local Agents for un-occupied territory.

CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION.

Head Office-Temple Chambers, Toronto.

PRESIDENT. HON. W. P. HOWLAND, C.B. VICE-PRESIDENTS. WM. ELLIOT, ESQ. HON. WM. MCMASTER.

The recent failure of Two Life Insurance Companies in the State of New York,

And the attention which the leading press of the United States and Canada have given to the subject of Life Insurance, have very naturally caused policy holders and intending insurers much anxiety as to the safety of the provision sought to be made and led them to ask the question, "What will render Life Insurance Companies safe beyond all doubt ?"

The question is proper and all important. The following will be a good answer:

- 1st. By adopting a Table of Mortality, which has been proved by experience to be correct, and consequently safe.
- 2nd. By using a rate of interest sufficiently low to be certain of attainment during the many years covered by an insurance contract, and to compensate for any loss by bad investments or otherwise.
- 3rd. By ANNUAL VALUATIONS instead of only every FIVE or SEVEN years, and Annual Balance Sheets.
- 4th. This to be done under thorough governmental supervision by Statutary enactment, and an Insurance Superintendent.

The Confederation Life Association is the only Canadian Company that has fur-nished to the public these three conditions of safety, while the Board of Directors, by Memorial presented to the Minister Finance, and by personal representation sought to bring about the fourth.

J. K. MACDONALD, Managing Director.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE *CO*.

The "MINIMUM" system of Assurances has just been adopted by this Company, where,

By a partial application of the profits. rates of premium are charged

LOWER THAN HAVE EVER BEFORE BEEN OFFERED FOR LIFE ASSURANCE.

The following are the rates for Assurance of each \$1,000, with profits upon the system referred to:

AGE.	ANNUAL PREMIUM.	AGE.	ANNUAL PREMIUM.	AGE.	ANNUAL PREMIUM.	AGE.	ANNUAL Premium.
21	\$12 80	30	\$17 50	39	\$23 80	48	\$32 70
22	13 10	31	18 10	40	24 70	49	34 10
23	13 50	32	18 60	41	25 60	50	35 70
24	14 00	33	19 20	42	26 50	51	37 60
25	14 70	34	19 80	43	27 40	52	39 60
26	15 20	35	20 40	44	28 50	53	41 70
27	15 80	36	21 10	45	29 60	54	44 00
28	16 49	37	22 00	46	30 60	55	46 40
29	16 90	38	22 90	47	31 60	11	

The above table, and a full explanation of the "Minimum" system, are published and may be had upon application.

A. G. RAMSAY, Managing Director.

R. HILLS, Secretary.

AGENT IN TORONTO-J. D. HENDERSON. Oanada Life Buildings, 46 King Street West.

WESTERN

ASSURANCE COMPANY

INCORPORATED 1851.

-CAPITAL, \$800,000. With power to increase to \$1,000,000.)

FIRE AND MARINE.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO, ONT.

President HON. JOHN MCMURRICH.

Vice-President CHARLES MAGRATH. Directors

IAMES MICHIE, Esq.

JOHN FISKIN, Esq.

A. M. SMITH, Esq.

NOAH EARNHART, Esq. **ROBERT BEATY, Esq.** WM. GOODERHAM, Jr., Esq.

BERNARD HALDAN, Managing Director. FRED'K G. C. LOVELACE, Secretary. WM. BLIGHT, Fire Inspector. JAMES PRINGLE, General Agent. - Marine Inspector.

Insurances effected at the lowest current rates on Buildings, Merchandise, and other property, against loss or damage by fire. On Hull, Cargo, and Freight against the perils of Inland Navigation On Cargo Risks with the Maritime Provinces by sail or steam. On Cargoes by steamers to British Ports.

THE MONETARY TIMES AND TRADE REVIEW-INSURANCE CHRONICLE.



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Insurance.	āgents' Sirectory.	Insurance.		
	HARRY BLACK, Official Assignee, Accountant, Fire, Life and Accident Insurance Agent. Chat- ham, Ont.	ROYAL INSURANCE CO'Y		
	J. NATTRASS, Fire, Life, Marine, Accident Ins. First Class Co's only. Steamship and Railway Ticket Agent. 373 Richmond St., London.	OF LIVERPOOL & LONDON-FIRE AND LIFE. Liability of Shareholders unlimited.		
FIRE LIFE, GUARANTEE & ACCIDENT	Address Box 144 P.O.	CAPITAL		
Dapital Two Million Dollars-\$103,000 De-	D. and Commission Merchant, 51 Richelieu Block, Dalhousie Street, Quebec.	ANNUAL INCOME 5,000,000 HEAD OFFICE FOR CANADA-MONTREAL.		
posited with the Dominion Government.	DANIEL STEWART, Aylmer, Ont. Banking and Exchange Office. Collections and investments made, &c., &c.	Every description of property insured at moderate rates of premium. Life Assurances granted in all the most approved form		
HEAD OFFICE, - MONTREAL.	J. McCRAB, Official Assignee, Fire, Life and Marine Insurance Agent, Windsor, Ont. None but first- class Companies represented.	H. L. ROUTH, W. TATLEY, Chief Agents		
DIRECTORS: Sir Hugh Allan, President. Adolphe Roy, Vice-Pres. N. B. Corse. Andrew Allan. Henry Lyman.]. L. Cassidy.	S. CORNEIL, Agent for Royal Canadian, Hartford, Phenix of Brooklyn, Scottish Commercial & Mut- ual Life Asso. & Accident Ins. Co's., Lindsay. Ont.	TORONTO OFFICE - Royal Insurance Bdgs., Yonge St. F. H. HEWARD, Agent.		
Henry Lyman. Robert Anderson. EDWARD STARK,	A NDREW BROS., Agt's for Dominion Fire & Marine In. Co., Metropolitan Plate Glass Ins. Co., Can. Mut. Fire Ins. Co.&Gen Com. Ag't, 37 Adelaide St. E. Toronto.	PROVINCIAL		
Actuary.	O. J. McKIBBIN, Life Insurance and Real Estate Agent. Bankrupt Estate and other debts col- lected. Money to loan and invested. Lindsay, Ont,	Insurance Company of Canada. FOR FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE.		
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Fire risks taken at equitable rates based upon their re- spective merits. All claims promptly and liberally	J. C. NORSWORTHY, General Fire Insurance Agency; District Agent Canada Agricultural; Com- mercial Union; and Imperial of London, England; Tra-	The Hon. J. H. Cameron, D. C. L., Q.C., M.P.		
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