

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

MONTREAL

CORN EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION

TO BE PRESENTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT, AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION, ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH JANUARY, 1876.

MONTREAL:

1876.



OFFICE-BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1875.

Elected at the Annual General Meeting, held on 13th January, 1875.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

President, - - - - C. H. GOULD.

Treasurer, - - - - A. A. McCulloch.

R. T. Routh, S. St. Onge,

H. Labelle, J. Magor,

ROBERT Archer,

T. W. RAPHAEL.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Chairman, . - - R. ESDAILE.

T. W. RAPHAEL, J. HN OGILVIE,

GILBERT SCOTT, M. LAING,

JAMES McDougall.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

At the close of the thirteenth year of the existence of the Montreal Corn Exchange Association, the Committee of Management have pleasure in laying before the members a brief statement of affairs since they entered upon their term of office. The matters which have come under their consideration have been less varied than in any previous twelve months, most of the questions engaging their attention being of transient interest. The first reference is, as usual, to the

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

According to the Treasurer's statement of income and expenditure, the balance now at the credit of the Association is \$2,230.12, against \$1,783.70 last year. The number of members added to the roll during the year 1875 was 26; but this was considerably more than counterbalanced by resignations, and the removal of names for non-payment of subscriptions, the total deductions being 49, or a net decrease of 23. This diminution of members would ordinarily have led to a decrease in revenue of \$345; had there been no diminution, the increase on the year would have been about \$800 The Treasurer again requests that the attention of members be drawn to a By-Law relating to annual subscriptions, as follows:—

"Fees shall be payable always in advance, and shall be renewable on the 1st of January in each year, and the same shall be charged on entrance to parties joining on any intermediate date, and be renewable on the 1st of January, as if they had been members for the whole year."

GENERAL STATE OF TRADE.

The past year's business in the Grain and Flour trade has, in general, been far from satisfactory; prices were variable, with a downward tendency, and the depression which has prevailed, has, in numerous instances, left only small balances on the credit side of the ledger. While the "Corn" trade, however, has not been nearly so satisfactory as in some previous years,—still the stagnation in other departments of commerce has probably been much greater. Two Bank suspensions during the year, resulting in the loss of a large amount of capital, have created a feeling of distrust among investors, and the year closed with a marked decline in some stock quotations. Money has latterly been obtainable on comparatively moderate terms for legitimate business purposes.

The manufacturing industries of the Dominion, generally speaking, have suffered immensely from the monetary pressure, —importers and wholesale dealers also experiencing difficulty in disposing of their merchandise. One of the industries which suffered most severely, was the lumber trade; the prospect, however, this season, is that the operations in the lumbering regions will be much less than usual, and to that extent will benefit parties who hold over heavy stocks. The importations at this port during 1875 are understood to show a very large decrease in value (fully 20 per cent.) as compared with the preceding year; but the shrinkage of values in the foreign markets, would probably show that there is not the same ratio of decrease in quantities.

The hope seems to be becoming more prevalent, that the Spring may open with fair prospects for all branches of business.

HARBOUR COMMISSION .— CONTEMPLATED IMPROVEMENTS.

A communication having been received from the Board of Harbour Commissioners, intimating the retirement, by lot, of Mr. W. W. Ogilvie, the Representative of this Association in that body,—an election was held on the 11th of August last, which

resulted in the choice of Mr. C. H. Gould, President of the Association.

Your Representative informed the Committee of Management at the time, of an important proceeding of which you are all doubtless now aware,—that a Commission of eminent engineers had been appointed to investigate and report upon a general and progressive plan of harbour improvements. The Commission consists of General Newton, of New York; Bruce Bell, Esq., of Glasgow, Scotland; and Sandford Fleming, Esq., of Canada. These gentlemen assembled in this city during the fall, and pursued their inquiries,—taking the evidence of such merchants and others as it was imagined would assist in arriving at a just conclusion on so important a subject. Their report will be looked for with much interest, by all who are concerned in the increase of the trade and commerce of Montreal.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE CANADIAN CANALS.

Reference was made in the Annual Report last year, to the proposed enlargement of the Canals by the Dominion Government, as suggested by questions in a circular which had been issued by the Chief Engineer of Public Works. The enlargement of the Welland Canal is now progressing for a depth of 12 feet or water,—the increase to be subsequently made to 14 feet. The enlargement of the Lachine Canal is also in progress.

It is most earnestly hoped that work on the other Canals between Montreal and Prescott, will also be immediately entered upon, especially on the Williamsburg Canal, the shallowness of which is greatly detrimental to trade. The capacity of the Canal System for through traffic is, of course, restricted to that of the shallowest canal. It is believed, that when the capacity of the St. Lawrence Route and its Canals, is uniformly enlarged, a great increase of traffic westward and eastward will be the result; and the arrangements for increase of harbor accommodation at Montreal, on a comprehensive and progressive plan, will enable its merchants to participate in all the advantages that may accrue.

DOMINION BOARD OF TRADE.

It need scarcely be mentioned here, after so long an interval, that the Association was represented at the Dominion Board of Trade, in January, 1875, by Messrs. James McDougall, R. T. Routh, Louis Tourville, G. M. Millar, and John Magor. Apart from a general interest in most of the questions discussed at that meeting, your delegates more prominently participated in the consideration and discussion of the following subjects: - Harbour Charges at Montreal; Inspection of Fish; Exemptions from Municipal Taxation; Repeal of Stamp Duties; Welland Canal Enlargement; Wrecks in Canadian Waters; and Customs Regulations. A copy of the full report of proceedings was sent to each member of the Association. The next meeting is announced to take place at Ottawa on the 18th inst. The programme contains many important questions, including those of Transportation, Railway Freights, the Coasting Trade, and Reciprocity; and the Committee recommend the appointment of a new delegation.

TELEGRAPHIC CONNECTION WITH THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE.

The question of direct telegraphic communication between the Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the mainland, is being again agitated, with a view to inducing the Dominion Government either to lay a cable to the Magdalen and other Islands, or to grant pecuniary assistance for that purpose. There can be no doubt, but that during the season of navigation, such communication would be invaluable in many respects, and enable assistance to be rendered in cases of wreck. Your Committee united with the Council of the Board of Trade in a petition to His Excellency the Governor General in Council on that important question,—also one to the two Houses of Parliament;—and they will be presented early in the approaching session.

AMALGAMATION.

The following resolution was adopted at the Annual Meeting held in January, 1875:—

"That it be an instruction to the incoming Committee to give the question of amalgamation with the Board of Trade, their serious consideration, and report to a general meeting of this Association, at as early a date as possible."

The Committee of Management have deemed it inexpedient to take up the subject formally, the opinion seeming to be pretty generally entertained, that it would be premature to re-open the question so soon after the new financial arrangement with the Board of Trade, arrived at a year ago.

WEATHER, CROPS, &C.

During the agricultural months of the past year, the weather in Canada was exceptionably variable. There was an absence of much of that extreme heat usually experienced in summer, while the rain-fall at frequent intervals was abundant, but not excessive—at least, so far as it affected the growing crops,—for the harvest-yield of cereals resulted in a marked improvement over 1874, both as to quantity and quality. Root crops, however, are understood to have fallen short of the average.

It is to be regretted that reliable information as to the cereal yield in Canada is so defective and conflicting. The volume of Census Returns, which includes agricultural products, issued in the Spring of 1875, states the Wheat product in the census year to have been 16,300,000 bushels. A statement has appeared in the British Agricultural Returns, from year to year for some time past, reporting the Wheat product in Canada, in 1868, to be 36,365,000 bushels. The Census of 1861 gave the product of Wheat as 27,540,215 bushels,—that for 1851 being 15,756,493 bushels. Attention was called in the Dominion Parliament to what appeared to be a great discrepancy in the figures for 1871, when it was authoritatively stated that all previous Census figures for cereal products were greatly exaggerated, while those of the last Census were correct. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture referred the discrepancy to some extent to declining crops. He is reported to have said:-"The question was one of speculation, since " our statistics had not been very creditable to us; but there were

"several things which might account for the apparent change in the volume of our products. As to Wheat, much of the land of Ontario had been exhausted by successive crops of the same grain, by over-cropping and the neglect of a proper rotation. There were also the ravages of the fly."

But it seems that the official statement of the yield of Wheat in Ontario does not support these assertions, since that of 1871 was the largest for many years, and the yield of 1874 was deficient, not by reason of any of the causes mentioned by the Minister of Agriculture, but because of the unusual severity of spring frosts after the snow had disappeared, which destroyed the plant in some places, and very much injured it in others.

Reference is made to this matter by the Committee of Management, for the purpose of drawing attention to the necessity which exists for having adequate arrangements made to procure systematic and reliable returns relating to the cereal productions of Canada. There is also an evident necessity for the adoption by Government of a more systematic plan for collecting and publishing trade statistics. For example, the data for determining quantities and values in the inter-Provincial commerce are so defective as to be nearly, if not quite, useless.

The Report of the Agricultural Department at Washington, states that the Wheat crop of the United States for 1875 was a short one, and that the deficiency is augmented by a marked deterioration in quality. The entire product is about 80 per cent. of last year's (1874) production, thus indicating a crop of 246,482,160 bushels, while the quality shows an evident depreciation. As regards the Corn crop, the same authority remarks that local injuries from storms depressed the general average below that of the preceding year in quality. But the crop of 1875 was one of the largest ever grown in the country, probably equalling the very large crops of 1870 and 1872; it is at least a fourth greater than the crop of 1874, which would make it over 1,062 millions of bushels.

In Great Britain, the land sown in Wheat in 1875 was 3,342,388 acres, showing a decrease of 7.9 per cent., (or 287,912

acres) as compared with 1874; the acreage under Barley was 2,509,598, or an increase of 9.7 per cent. (or 221,611 acres),—and the increase in Oats 2.6 per cent. (or 67,664 acres.)

MONTREAL PRODUCE TRADE.

The Produce trade of 1875, as indicated by the Receipts and Shipments of Flour, Grain, etc., in the tables on page 11, shows a somewhat general diminution on the year, but more especially as regards the exports. In 1874 there was a decrease of over two millions of bushels in the receipts of Wheat, and three quarters of a million in Corn; but in 1875 there was an increase in Wheat of over 900,000 bushels; Corn, however, showing a further decrease of nearly one million bushels. Peas, Barley, and Oats each showed increases in 1874; but in 1875 the first two articles only indicate a very small increase, while Oats show a falling off. The aggregate Shipments of Wheat, Corn, and Peas again show decreases, being respectively 382,977 bushels, 837,155 bushels, and 187,123 bushels. A comparison of the shipments to particular ports, (see table on p. 12), will show that there is an increase of 483,992 bushels in the quantity of Wheat sent to Liverpool; but decreases of 586,666 bushels to Glasgow, of 130,089 bushels to London, and of 68,631 bushels to Cork, &c. for orders. Since the close of navigation, shipments of Wheat via Portland have been very small. The falling off in the total shipments of all kinds of grain, including barrels of Flour and Meal reduced to their equivalent in bushels, amounts to 1,242,430 bushels on the entire year, as compared with 1874.

There have been large shipments of grain and flour since navigation closed, from Toronto and other points in Ontario,—favorable through rates and quick despatch by railways to New York, and steamships to Liverpool, having been obtained. There was a greater accumulation of grain at Toronto, at the close of navigation last year (1875), than ever before.

Lowest and Highest prices of Flour and Wheat in Montreal during 15 years.

YEARS.	Spring Extra Flour, (formerly No. 1 Super) from Canada Wheat, per 196 lbs.	U. C. SPRING WHEAT, per bush. of 60 lbs.	SA.	No. 1 Super. Flour, from Canada Wheat per 196 lbs.	U. C. SPRING WHEAT, per bush. of 60 lbs.
1875 1874 1873 1872 1871 1870 1869	4 405 85 5 506 55 5 656 80 4 906 60 3 956 80 4 105 50	\$ c	1867 1866 1865 1864 1863 1862	$ 5 408 25 4 206 75 3 754 60 3 854 57\frac{1}{2}4 105 10$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

INSPECTION OF FLOUR.

The quantities of Flour inspected in Montreal during the past fifteen years, were as follows:— $\,$

1861651,837 brls.	1869429,655	brls.
1862626,691 "	1870556,452	6.6
1863618,520 "	1871472,277	66
1864363,454 "	$1872 \dots 430,992$	"
1865246,658 "	1873460,341	"
1866260,130 "	1874499,486	4.6
1867404,320 "	1875 440,877	
1868 397,660 ''		

TRANSHIPMENTS AT KINGSTON.

The quantities of the various kinds of grain transhipped at Kingston into barges for Montreal, are shown by the following statement for the past two years:—

								1875.	1874.
Wheat.	bushels							5,156,444	 6,116,079
Corn,								1,321,251	 2,154,346
Peas,									 324,281
Oats,								AM 010	
Barley,								39,397	 16,573
	Total	١.						7,050,790	 8,611,279

MOVEMENTS OF PRODUCE.

TOTAL RECEIPTS OF PRODUCE AT MONTREAL DURING THE YEAR 1875.

	William	-		-			-					
	w near, bush.	Corm, bush.	Peas, bush.	Oats, bush.	Barley, bush.	Rye, bush.	Flour, bris.	Oatmeal, bris.	Cornmeal,	Ashe	1-	Cheese
Per Grand Trunk Railway. **Lachine Canal and Quebec Steames.	1,158,051	39,410	287,270 869,778	102,200	98,800	101	768,705	10.7	1,100	Pots. Pear 10,000		bxs.
Total 1875.	8,615,238	1,804,010	1,157,040	258,098	181,935	101	1,023,551	17.945	1 751		1	49,089
Increase or Decrease	1	999,274	12,301	24,906	6.283	130	1,075,353	17,233	2,800		105 161,812 288 93,060	542,191
		Dec.	Inc.	Dec.	Ine.	Dec.	Dec.	Inc.	1,049 Dec.	2,922 183 Inc. Dec.	68,752 Inc.	166,288 Inc.

TOTAL SHIPMENTS OF PRODUCE BY ALL CHANNELS FROM MONTREAL, DURING THE YEAR 1875.

Ashes. Butter, Cheese,	35 1,747 125,916 38 125 19,697 44 159 1,396	13,452 1,991 147,509 542,236 17,139 1,349 99,341 379,262	Inc. 642 48,168
l, Commeal.	: :	8 15,337	
Oatmeal brls.		19,814	4,87. Dec.
Flour,	488,838 3,706 312,665 28,190 10,208	830,250	
Rye, bush.			Inc.
Barley, bush.	1,086 131,865 550 53,951	1	
Oats, bush.	96,150 180,697 450 87,280 364,577	103.200	Lue.
Peas, bush.	1,378,438 25,412 43,935 113 128,285 1,576,188	1,763,30	Dec.
Corn, bush,	1,685,848 2,580 28,535 7,257		- 11
Wrieat, bush.	7,856,424 64,054 72,554 8,526 172,031	352,977	Dec.
Down Diameter	Portland Montreal and Champian R R. Coatloook Total 1875	Increase or Decrease	

MOVEMENTS OF PRODUCE—continued.

SHIPMENTS OF PRODUCE TO PARTICULAR PORTS.

Via River St. Lawrence, from the opening (May 6th) to the close of Navigation, (20th November 1875,)

ANALYMPY DI LEGICANE	Total for 1875. Total for 1874	Liverpool Glasgow London London Cork, &c., for orders Belfast Southampton Dundee Gloucester Gloucester Swansea	Destination.
Decrease.	1 42 01	2,630,827 1,309,519 1,163,191 1,659,233 21,942 19,355 54,639	Wheat.
509,590 587,763 200,624 71,062 Decrease. Decrease. Decrease.	1,688,428 2,276,191	2,500 525,716 475,292 417,743 241,699 16,678	Corn.
200,624 Decrease.	1,389,265 1,589,889	13,287 445,378 916,727 452,810 961,063	Peas.
	96,150 167,212	4,029 78,685 13,715 4,721	Oats,
9,965 Increase.	492,438 482,473	296,123 40,139 82,923 69,199 4,053	Flour.
17,638 Decrease.	20,305 37,943	7,683 11,583 939	Meal.
1,460 Increase.	14,617 13,157	34 10,750 2,370 1,452	Ashes.
45,452 Increase.	137,759 92,307	7,382 113,886 12,407 4,034	Butter, kegs.
	536,679 366,852	2,324 449,429 72,341 12,585	Cheese, Boxes.
169,827 190 389 6,505 Increase, Decrease, Decrease, Decrease	6,626 6,816	5,798 649 179	Pork, brls.
Decrease,	7,421 7,810	105 7,316	Lard, brls.
6,505 Decrease7	6,039		Bacon,

The receipts and shipments of Wheat at Chicago during past six years were :—

RECEIPTS		SHIPMENTS	S.	IN STORE AT	CLOSE
187527,638,707	bush	.22,580,320	bush	2 318 705	buch
187430,177,036	"	.27,353,635		2,105,779	
187325,167,516		. 23,076,644	66	1,645,000	
187212,724,141	"	.12,160,046		1,200,000	66
187114,439,656	"	12,905,449	"	1,290,639	66
187017,394,409		16,432,585		2,336,156	66

The receipts and shipments of Wheat at Milwaukee during past six years were:—

RECEIPTS 187527,638,707	bush	SHIPMENTS . 22,580,320	bush	IN STORE AT	CLOSE,
187425,697,444	"	. 22,352,171	6.6		"
$1873 \dots 28,430,033$	"	.25,022,576	6.6		"
$1872 \dots 13, 275, 726$.11,468,276			
1871 15,686,611			"		
187018,883,837				1,788,379	

Comparative foreign exports of Flour and Grain from New York for four years:—

1875.	1874.	1873.	1872.
Flour, brls 1,988,531	2,177,475	1,661,606	1,182,240
Corn Meal, brls 181,914	174,304	181,445	194,040
Wheat, bush 26,232,309 Corn, bush 12,980,670 Oats, bush 133,549 Barley, bush 120 Rye, bush 179,267 Peas, bush 495,746	34,771,602 18,847,114 125,149 3,200 639,062 450,758	27,753,714 $16,168,152$ $49,535$ $40,120$ $1,618,038$ $138,132$	13,263,604 25,332,416 32,243 17,402 607,165 155,343
Total Grain, bush. 40,021,661	54,836,885	45,167,691	39,408,173
Flour to bush 9,942,655	10,887,375	8,308,030	5.911,200
Meal to bush 727,656	697,216	544,335	582,120
Grand total, bush 50,691,972	66,421,476	54,020,056	45,901,493

The visible supply of Grain, comprising the stocks in granary at the principal points of accumulation at lake and seaboard ports, in transit by rail and frozen in on the New York canals,, Dec. 25, 1875:—

In Store at	WHEAT.	Corn. bush.	OATS. bush.	BARLEY. bush.	RyE. bush.
New York	6,001,458	656,890	1,180,587	284,496	79,907
Albany	11,500	5,500	50,000	302,500	12,500
Buffalo	1,713,813	66,560	167,825	121,117	25,643
Chicago	2,218,795	437,711	409,609	332,234	144,362
Milwaukee	3,080,884	20,394	60,488	157,917	11,213
Duluth	50,493				
Toledo	464,621	218,280	213,249	63,770	1,197
Detroit	162,902	27,710	41,564	33,451	
Oswego	400,000	110,000	50,000	190,000	10,000
St. Louis	593,408	332,369	68,996	103,885	25,550
Peoria	7,739	43,537	83,437	5,354	94,641
Boston	2,122	101,497	302,761	73,894	585
Toronto	327,197	1,550	7,197	164,989	2,540
Montreal ,	415,060	25,171	9,637	16,530	
Philadelphia	328,000	275,000	115,000	75,000	11,600
Baltimore	102,786	176,624	75,000	12,850	3,500
Estimated affoat at					
New York	600,000		50,000	400,000	16,000
On lakes and canals	555,544	120,000	280,000	110,000	
Rail shipments from					
lake ports	180,662	393,045	140,401	68,136	6,528
Week Dec. 25, '75	17, 216, 967	3,011,838	3;305,754	2,516,123	459,774
Week Dec. 18, '75	16,857,116	2,742,236	3,141,764	2,477,337	463,393
Week Dec. 11, '75	16,585,389	3,049,983	3,567,077	2,632,067	468,249
Week Dec. 4, '75	16,464,258	3,436,233	3,531,712	2,255,239	465,290
Week Nov. 27, '75	15,762,136	3,354,860	3,461,799	2,308,373	399,478
Week Nov. 20, '75	16,004,982	4,313,012	3,786,287	2,822,270	448,294
Week Nov. 13, '75	14,239,165	4,683,832	3,619,473	2,173,636	419,447
Week Dec. 26, '74	11,793,277	3,993,638	2,547,146	2,350,066	222,413

STOCKS OF FLOUR AND WHEAT IN STORE.

The following table shows the quantities of Flour and Grain in store and in hands of Millers in Montreal on dates mentioned:—

	1	875.	18	874.	18	373.
	FLOUR. Brls.	WHEAT. Bush.	FLOUR. Brls.	WHEAT. Bush.	FLOUR. Brls.	WHEAT. Bush.
January 1 15 February 15 March 15 April 15 May 15 June 15 July 15 July 15 August 15 September 15 October 15 November 15	69,129 75,159 70,433 63,087 55,091 56,586 48,120 58,740 95,086 96,070 83,081 87,366 60,523 43,286 45,992 41,366 39,992 42,454 40,126 53,363 45,836	223,307 189,710 166,296 169,693 168,729 182,126 202,794 221,020 149,178 202,354 203,489 251,116 273,330 262,784 206,915 177,560 187,841 186,749 227,568 311,146	90,522 89,259 89,069 95,905 95,847 107,843 99,727 106,817 119,184 174,409 131,567 100,611 96,575 91,531 102,984 65,023 33,975 20,550 26,655 38,593 27,863	779.841 735,703 684,329 644,388 631,468 602,490 594,772 578,310 605,934 792,325 741,516 311,652 244,685 339,622 333,841 207,449 181,894 99,316 108,053 161,533	38,153 38,328 37,565 44,153 54,617 57,813 68,286 77,443 86,501 116,454 136,208 108,233 92,016 75,015 48,662 39,135 38,770 21,129 37,483 40,562	142,130 128,202 127,584 130,523 123,354 123,866 137,137 138,535 127,304 66,099 254,608 360,218 339,581 335,115 183,605 107,773 115,197 119,807 215,513 266,245
	49,174 43,581 49,812	330,358 456,312 415,060	22,068 42,341 52,946	245,188 218,313 280,177 255,700	57,974 55,286 70,830 89,631	465,357 645,360 697,746 764,807

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee of Management.

C. H. GOULD,

President.

Montreal, 8th January, 1876.

ABSTRACT OF TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

-		A. A. McCULLOCH,			Montreal, 31st December, 1875.
96	\$7,587 96	E. E.	96	\$7,587 96	E. E.
12	2,230	" Balance, 31st December, 1875	119 26	119	"Interest on Deposits
18	117	". Petty Cash Expenses	605 00	605	"Rent of Tables " "
34	418	" Pominion Board of Trade Subscription, &c	00	3,670 00	"Members' Fees, year 1875
53	687	" General Expenses	0	*, ***	Market Reports
79	1,656	"Executory Expenses	3	1 100 00	""Herald" and "Gazette," for Daily and Weekly
27	168	"Newspapers			&c., &c., &c
00	600	". Telegraphing	310 00	310	"Rent of Board Room, Telegraph Offices, Wall Spaces,
73	\$1.709	\$1.783 70 By Rent, Fuel and Taxes	70		To Cash on hand, 31st December, 1874
	Ør.	Treasurer in Account with the Montreal Corn Exchange Association.	W a	with th	Ar. Treasurer in Account

Audited and found correct.

Treasurer.

J. FAIRBAIRN, Auditors.