

News of the Week.

CANADA.

QUEBEC TIMBER REPORTS.

In publishing our Annual Circular, and taking a retrospective view of our Markets, we have on the whole, to congratulate the trade, both manufacturers and exporters, on the year's business, although latterly, the extreme stringency of the Money Market in England has materially checked the consumption of wood goods, and, if it last, may prevent stocks, which are by no means immoderate in England, from diminishing, as they would do under a more healthy state of financial matters.

In October, we took occasion to warn our friends on the St. Lawrence and Ottawa against manufacturing an excessive quantity, and we hope our warning will be attended to; for, with an average Export of about fourteen millions of feet of White Pine, a supply like this year's must inevitably be injuriously felt in the market, unless things improve wonderfully in England. By the latest dates, prices were rather giving way, under the continued dearthness of Money; but still, under such unfavourable circumstances, the reduction in price was small. The stock of White Pine wintering is larger considerably than last year, but a good deal is of ordinary and inferior quality. Red Pine is large in Stock, the low price in England having prevented any large export, and unless the quantity manufactured be very small, we do not see any great chance of improvement. At one time, in September and October, a rather better feeling existed, but it died away, and the Market has closed dully at our quotations.

Deals have been dull and difficult of Sale all season, and the small proportion of first quality has been a fruitful source of disappointment to both buyer and seller. Unless parties in England agree to take much larger portions of seconds and thirds, we see difficulty in selling the Stocks now on hand to advantage.—*Forryth, Bell & Co.*

Since we addressed you through our Annual Circular of last year, the history of our trade has been different to what any expected; all without exception looked forward to a reduced fleet, a reduced supply, and prices if not unremunerative yet much below what they were maintained at throughout both the spring and midsummer; our fleet instead of being a diminished one, is greater in tonnage than that of last year by 124,995 tons, and even exceeds the average of the past seven years by, (the nominal number of), 2032 tons; the supply of our great staple article White Pine, which as late as the month of May last was thought would not exceed fourteen million cubic feet manufactured in the woods, has reached 18,000,269 feet, and prices notwithstanding a downward tendency since midsummer have upon the whole been well maintained, and the manufacturer well repaid for his labour, and were it not for the cry raised in the earlier part of the season of want of water in the smaller streams and tributaries of the Ottawa, to float the timber to market, we should have had prices maintained without any decline to the close of the season; this report, although not without some foundation at the time, was greatly magnified by parties who supposed it was their interest to do so, on the ground that rumors of a short supply would operate in favour of prices, forgetting that whatever temporary effect it might produce at the time, it would naturally cause the British Shipowner to take the alarm and provide other engagements for his tonnage in the autumn, and to which must in great part be attributed the falling off of our autumn fleet, and the consequent downward tendency of the market towards the close.

The Stock wintering over of White Pine as will be seen by the tables, amounts to 11,776,501 cubic feet against 9,513,044 feet last season, and includes a large quantity of what may be called second and third class timber both as to average and quality; of this quality, one and a half to two million feet, may be reckoned between culls and timber unfit for shipment, and we should say one third of what remains (after deducting this quantity), say three millions is composed of small and inferior, say 53 feet average and under, leaving about seven million feet as the Stock of really good and valuable White Pine timber in the Port; the downward tendency of prices experienced from Midsummer to the close is attributable also to the presence in the market of such a large quantity of unsound and inferior timber, got out chiefly in small lots by farmers and others, and in many instances purchased on speculation by the regular manufacturer and brought down for sale; we need not remind our manufacturing friends that what they may gain on the one hand, is more than doubly lost on the other by the depreciation their own good timber sustains from such trash so brought down and glutting the market; and here we deem it a pleasing task to have to congratulate both the producer and exporter on the move that is now being made between them, the one not to manufacture or indirectly cause to be brought to this market, and the other not to purchase any thing but what is really sound, this project, if carried out in the spirit in which it has begun, will doubtless serve to place all parties on a better and safer footing, and gain for the trade a character, alike for security at home and respectability abroad.

Deals—owing to the extreme stocks still on hand being 2,198,663 Std. Pieces of Pine and 348,090 of Spruce, continue languid, and no trade of any importance can be expected until the manufacture is materially reduced; the

stock on hand is chiefly composed of seconds and thirds, the latter being a perfect drug in the market, with a very small proportion of firsts, and in few hands, parties getting out logs should therefore be careful to cut none but first quality.

Freights opened at 37s. 6d. for Liverpool, and £4 15s. for Deals to London, but came down in the first half of the month of June lower than has been known for years, reaching the nominal figure of 30s. to Liverpool and £4 10s. to London; they gradually worked up again after mid-summer, and the closing rates may be quoted at 47s. to Liverpool and 7 guineas for Deals to London.—*Wood, Peiry, Poitras & Co.*

Arrivals and Tonnage at the Port of Quebec, for the Years.

YEARS.	VESSELS.	TONS.
1852	1055	454,102
1853	1188	531,648
1854	1315	580,323
1855	677	346,449
1856	907	471,444

CENTRAL AMERICA.

The News from Nicaragua—Important Position of affairs in Central and South America.—The important news from Nicaragua which we publish in another column, shows the critical condition of the filibusters, and fully bears out the anticipations we have before expressed. It will be seen that after the battles of Massaya and Granada, in October, the Costa Rican forces advanced and took possession of San Juan del Sur and the Transit route. Gen. Hornsby, not succeeding in dislodging them with the force under his command, was reinforced by Gen. Walker in person, who attacked them at the Half-Way House and drove them back and then out of San Juan del Sur. The route being open, Walker returned to Granada and becoming alarmed for its safety, which was again threatened by the allied forces, he sent down a part of his troops under Col. Jacques to hold it. He then attacked Massaya, where he partly dislodged the enemy and destroyed a part of the town. Finding that it was impossible to hold both the Transit route and Granada, he determined to abandon the latter and burn it. This duty he confided to Gen. Henningsen, while he proceeded to remove his wounded and sick to the Island of Ometepe, on the lake. The enemy advanced on Granada and succeeded in taking the small fort on the lake about half a mile from the city, and planted two guns in battery, one on each side, and at the same distance from the fort, cutting off all communication between the city and the steamer. Gen. Henningsen, with 400 men, having partly destroyed Granada, was cut off in his retreat, and took possession of a church about half way between the city and the lake; he was at the last accounts besieged there, but is said to be well supplied with arms and ammunition, having, in fact, the greater part of Walker's stores, and a well of water. His expectation is to be relieved by Walker, who will have for this purpose Col. Jacques's battalion, which had been sent to Virgin Bay to reinforce the garrison of the Transit route, 100 men from California who were at Virgin Bay on the 2nd inst., and 300 from New Orleans, who were met at Castillo Rapids on the 3rd. If he has been able to maintain his ground, he will also have received provisions, clothing, howitzers, minnie rifles and ammunition, shipped from here some three weeks ago. It is also stated the natives on the island of Ometepe had massacred the sick and wounded which had been conveyed there. The accounts published yesterday from the Guatemala papers state that Central America exhibits a united front against the filibusters; and the accounts we publish to-day from there show that the latter are being cornered in something the same style as is done in Wall street occasionally. Rivas is recognised as President by all the native parties in Nicaragua, and we shall probably soon know the final result. The Honduras, San Salvador and Guatemala chiefs, in uniting, have set a good example to our Wall street filibusters who seem bent upon destroying each other.

The full detail of the interesting news from Central and South America, published in the Herald this morning and yesterday, gives at one view a daguerrotype of our commercial, filibustering, diplomatic and social relations with all those countries. There are many points in this news intimately connected with our progress and influences as a nation, as well as with the defeat or success of our individual filibusters. It is remarkable that except in Cuba, where the Spanish rule prevails, and in Central America, where all parties are united against Walker, there is a general movement against the church as it is constituted in those countries. In Mexico it is at open war and in arms against the government—the church militant prevailing over the church peaceful. In New Granada it has lately entered into the popular election, and placed Ospina, a Jesuit at heart and in principles, in the Presidential chair.—In Peru it is refusing its assent to the newly adopted constitution, which limits its privileges, and is fomenting rebellion. In Chile it has refused to recognize the supremacy of the civil power, and an open collision with the government has just been avoided by an astute evasion of the point in dispute. This anti-church movement is only one of the numerous processes of social and political disintegration going on in nearly all of the countries south of us. Considered separately, their present situation may be summed up in a few words.

Mexico is presenting some new aspects.—Santa Anna has come again into the field, and discharged a broadside at Comonfort in the shape of a protest. Comonfort, however, seems

to be getting the better of his enemies. Vidaurri has been brought to terms for the present; the church outbreaks in Michoacan and other parts of the West are said to be waning, and General Moreno has driven the monks and their troops into a corner of the city of Puebla. Old General Alvarez, known in Mexico as "the Panther of the South," has offered the President 5,000 troops to help sustain him.—Comonfort, who had abolished the army, is now reorganizing it on an entirely new plan. He has created a regiment of his own personal adherents and accepted the colonelcy of it; Senor Lerdo, his Secretary of the Treasury and author of the law against the church property, is doing the same thing, and as the step will probably be followed by other popular adherents of the government, the only vernal army of Mexico, that has been bought and sold so often will be superseded by one entirely addicted to the President.

Peru is about to be the scene of another revolution. Eschenique and Castillo, who for a year past have been preparing matters have got up a pronunciamento in the south, and the church seems disposed to side with them.—Echenique was in a Chilean port with his armament, which was shipped from here a year ago. The revenue from the Guano islands is the true cause of all these revolutionary movements in Peru. It pays well to revolutionize the Government.

Chile is pursuing the even tenor of her way in commercial and political matters. Her domestic quarrel with the church is not likely to come to blows at present. Being at peace at home, she proposes to send a thousand men against Walker, and an exploring expedition to the Straits of Magellan.

On the whole our South American neighbors are getting along pretty much as usual.—Always striving to attain some theoretical improvement, but continually neglecting the practical measures to secure it, their fate seems to be that of Sisyphus—an eternal and sterile task.—*New York Herald.*

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Provincial Appointments.—George Kerr, Geo. L. Hatheway, Charles Perley, Hugh M'Monagle, Esquires, and Professor James Robb, M. D., to be Commissioners, in pursuance of an Address of the House of Assembly, to report as to any improvements that may be deemed advisable in the application of the present Grants to Agricultural Societies to objects likely to produce more permanent and advantageous results than heretofore to the Agricultural Interests of the Province.

Fire at Hillsboro'.—Four persons burned to death.—By a Telegraph Despatch from Hillsboro', we learn that a house was destroyed by fire at that place on Wednesday evening, and that two men by the name of Glen, a woman named Mrs. Allan and a child, were burned to death. No further particulars known.—*News.*

UNITED STATES.

A Severe Gale.—Buffalo, Dec. 15.—A severe gale commenced here yesterday forenoon and continued until a late hour last night. It was accompanied with frequent squalls of rain, hail and snow. Great damage was done to buildings and docks. The Canada dock, with Walker & Co's. warehouse, was entirely destroyed.—Several buildings, were unroofed and otherwise damaged. The water rose this afternoon and flooded the docks, entering the cellars in the lower part of the city. Two of the turrets of the Lafayette St. Church were blown over during the service yesterday morning and a portion of the roof broken in and the building sustained other damage. Fortunately no one was hurt. The track of the Niagara Falls Lake Shore R. R., is torn up for a distance of half a mile, and the embankment is washed away.—Communication will be interrupted for several days. The gale was the most severe that we have experienced for years.

New York, December 15. The gale of yesterday afternoon and evening did much damage in Brooklyn to buildings, awnings, shutters &c. A row of five brick buildings, in progress of erection in Hamilton Street was blown down. A row of three brick houses on the corner of 5th Avenue and 14 Streets, were unroofed.—These houses were nearly completed, but were unoccupied.

Albany, Dec. 16.—The Central Railroad bridge, extending over the canal, at Troy, was destroyed by fire yesterday. The loss is estimated \$8,000. A train of cars passed over the bridge a few moments previous, and it is supposed that the fire originated from the locomotive. About 200 feet of bridging was also destroyed.

Boston, Dec. 16.—The schooner W. S. Brown, from Port au Prince for New York, was totally lost on Conception Island. No date. Part of the cargo was saved.

FREDERICTON MAIL.

We take the following notice from the Gazette received by the Fredericton Mail this morning.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.—When any letters are dropped into the Letter Boxes, marked Registered, instead of being handed in at the window and a Receipt taken for them, they will be Registered, and the Registration, in addition to the Postage, charged to the person addressed.

General Post Office,
Fredericton, December 23.

BY TELEGRAPH.

TO THE CHATHAM READING ROOM.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

We give below the Telegraph Despatch of the news received at the News Room in Chatham.

Halifax, December 23.

Canada arrived at noon from Liverpool, left 13th, at 9 o'clock, a. m. The America put back—Canada brings mails and passengers.

America sailed 6th December, and met with heavy weather, and when lying too 56 miles off Cape Clear, was struck by a heavy sea, which swept decks and carried away bulwarks, and three boats, and completely gutted fore saloon, and badly injured one man. America therefore put back to Liverpool, where she arrived at 2 o'clock, a. m. on Thursday, 11th.

Britain.—A Deputation from Liverpool, Manchester, and London, waited upon Lord Clarendon, to ascertain what is meant by demonstration against New Granada.

Corporation and citizens of Portsmouth have subscribed £1000 to give banquet to American officers in command of the British ship Resolute. Naval service at Portsmouth contemplate similar compliment.

The Government is about to lay a telegraph line across the Persian Gulf.

France.—Many Shipping casualties are reported from Mediterranean, corn is falling although slowly in all the Markets of France.

Havre Journal has Cayenne letter of November 5, stating that Gold was discovered in several parts of the colony.

Spain.—Municipal Elections are appointed for the 15th February.

Madrid.—Commercial letters say opinion was strangely against the new loan, and that the Finance Minister will probably resign.

Accounts from Malaga and Sarragossa represent those cities as still agitated, although not in open rebellion.

Austria.—Emperor has consented to convocation of Protestant Synod in Hungary—the Baltic has formal announcement from Moniteur that congress will again reassemble this month. It is now reported that the Allies Plenipotentiaries will be as before, for France, Walewski, England, Clarendon, Sardinia, Cavour, and Turkey, Ali Pasha. Papers are full of accounts of Emperor's visit to Venice. Vienna.—Bourse generally inanimate.

Father Mathew died at Cork on the 9th. London Times has an editorial, backing out of the Arrowsmith Georgia Railroad and revolver hoax. It is reported that Arrowsmith has returned to the United States.

Naples.—Soldiers of Neapolitan army made unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the King of Naples on the 8th instant.

From Messina every thing is reported quiet, and the Police have seized a quantity of muskets landed for the insurgents.

Count Lovatelli, eminent liberal of Roman States, has been assassinated at Ravenna.

Turkey.—Constantinople dates to the 1st. The Ministry of Redschide Pacha was well established.

Russia.—The text of the note addressed by Russia in end of October last to the powers that signed the treaty of Paris is published; it is accompanied by a circular, demanding the re-assembling of the Congress of Paris. This Circular contains an exposure of the steps taken by the Russian Cabinet, with view to the fulfillment of articles 20 and 21 of the treaty of Paris. As regards the Isle of Serpents, the Russian Government says the Island was incontestably a possession of Russia before the rupture. With respect to the Bessarabian frontier Question, the Memo mentions two instances of concession. Russia with regard to the course of the Upper Yalspuk and Bolgrad. The Memo defends the views of Russia, and states that the Map from which the frontier line was defined at the Paris conference, was supplied by the French Government. The Memo also states, that Count Walewski asked Baron Brunow whether the Court of Russia would abide by the majority of votes at the coming conference, and the Russian Cabinet telegraphed an immediate reply in the affirmative, and hence Russia is blameless for the present difficulty. The statement that Russia had demanded from the Shah of Persia permission to occupy the territories of Mogan, is confirmed. There is also by way of St. Petersburg a report, but doubtful, that Russian troops under General Bernhoff are ready to march to frontiers of Persia on first invitation of the Shah.

Latest.—Paris, Thursday, The Debats says, we believe we are able to state with some certainty, that England in entering the conference, distinctly declares she will conform to the decision of the majority, whatever that decision may be. The relative position of the disputants is no secret. On the one side France, Russia and Prussia, on the other England, Austria, and Turkey. In the middle, Sardinia, which coincided originally with the opinions expressed by France.

London Thursday night.—The funds, stock, and share market transactions in the English market, unimportant. Consols opened a shade lower and remained all day without change.

The Baltic.—The Elbe, Dec. 8th, was free from ice; weather rainy and warm. David Lippart, the well known merchant of Hamburg, is dead.