

freights from the Black Sea and at a discount of tonnage for outward employment, and it looked as if fresh "record" rates would be accepted. However, the market gradually steadied and closed at about last week's figures. A comparatively large number of Eastern charters have been obtained, and to the River Plate tonnage has been in steady request; the demand, however, from the former district has subsided. Coastings, Bay and Baltic vessels have been greatly in excess of requirements, and with the wretchedly low figures offering, it is reported that several owners are laying up their vessels sooner than run them at present rates.

GLASGOW, April 14.—Outward.—The depression which has lately characterized steam chartering to the Continent still prevails, and while orders are extremely scarce, with a large supply of tonnage, rates are very low. Fixtures reported during the week include Cronstadt, 4s. 10½d.; Valencia, 8s.; Barcelona, 9s. 9d.; Burtisland to Muhlgraben, 3s. 9d.; Grangemouth to Stettin (below bridges), 7s. The sailing ship trade has shown more life, and a considerable business has been carried through. Owing to the more settled state of affairs in Brazil merchants are now open for tonnage, and to Rio a number of ships have been chartered at rates ranging from 14s. 6d. to 15s. 6d. Homeward.—No special feature has relieved the monotony. The nitrate ports have taken up tonnage at 24s. 6d. nitrate, and 30s. guano, while from San Francisco chartering both for spot and next season has been at a standstill, and rates are nominal at 23s. 9d. and 30s. respectively. South Australian has been very quiet, only one fixture having been reported, at about 41s. 3d. on the register. In other directions there was no change.

HARTLEPOOL (THE), April 14.—A very fair business is passing in the ore trade just now, but there is plenty of tonnage, and rates from Bill-o-to Middlesbrough do not rise above 5s. 3d., though in one or two cases prompt steamers have secured 5s. 4½d. Other local transactions include:—Garrucha to Tyne, 7s. 10½d., free despatch; Cartagena to Middlesbrough, 6s. 9d., freedespatch; and Ergasteria to Middlesbrough, 9s., prompt, option Rotterdam, 9s. 3d. Timber freights are quiet and rather weak, the supply of tonnage offering being fully equal to the demand, and 19s. 6d. per standard from Cronstadt to East Coast about represents current offers. The same to London has been done at 43s. 9d. d.b.b., and Memel to the same port at 5s. 10½d. for square sleepers.

HULL, April 14.—There was a considerable increase in many branches of the shipping trade, as compared with the same week in 1893, but notwithstanding the fact that the same week last year was the first complete week of the great strike, there were departments in both the import and the export trade in which there was a decrease. In the inward tonnage there was an increase of 17,518 tons and in the outward of 18,659 tons. The grain imports were much better, the supplies of wheat reaching a total of 348,599cwt., against 71,428cwt., and barley 127,897cwt., against 6,784cwt. The provision imports were better all round, being considerably over the late average, but there was a large decrease in hemp, flax, and cotton yarn. The wood imports were very much better, the total of deals and hewn timber being 5,493 loads against 1,306 loads a year ago. There was also a large increase in live stock from New York, and in leather hides and tallow. In the export trade there was a decrease in machinery, but an improvement in manufactured goods and hardware. The oil shipments were very much better, the total of linseed and cotton oil being 8,351cwt., against 4,519cwt. Some of the iron exports were decidedly better, and there was a large increase in steel and coal.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, April 14.—While there has been some improvement in the volume of business, rates have receded rather than improved. For some of the coast and Baltic ports indeed rates are at lower figures than have been reached before, London in one case being done at 3s. 1½d., Hamburg at 4s., and Swinemunde at 3s. 7½d. A feature of the week has been the attention paid to Cronstadt, for which a very considerable quantity of tonnage has been taken up at 4s. 1½d., though the rate has now fallen to 4s. Business for the Spanish and Mediterranean ports is extremely slow, but to-day the inquiry is a little better, though the prevailing rates are very unsatisfactory. The laid-up tonnage in the Tyne is increasing, and now registers over 70 vessels of 62,000 tons. Fixtures reported include the following:—Dublin, 4s. 6d.; Limerick, 5s. 6d.; Amsterdam, 3s. 9d.; Dieppe, 4s.; Oporto, 5s. 9d.; Lisbon, 4s. 10½d.; Portland, 5s. 5s., coal and coke; Genoa, 5s. 4½d.; Leghorn, 6s.; Catania, 5s. 9d.; Alexandria, 5s. 6d.; Copenhagen, from Blyth, 4s. 1½d.; Fairwater, 3s. 9d.; Carlisle, 4s.; Aalborg, 5s. 10½d.; Korsær, 4s.; Swinemunde, 3s. 7½d.; Assens, from Blyth, 4s. 4½d. Sails.—Weymouth, 5s.; Rochester, 4s. 4½d., bricks; Cherbourg, 5s. 6d.

SUNDERLAND, April 14.—Rates in all directions are still wretchedly low, and despite an improving inquiry there is a superabundance of tonnage on the market. From the financial point of view steamers are doing very badly and some owners are preferring to lay up rather than work at a loss, while others who have ordered new tonnage are by no means anxious to take delivery. Sailing ship freights are not numerous and rates for the coast ports are very low. Fixtures include:—London, 3s. 4½d.; Stockholm, 3s. 9d.; Cronstadt, 4s. 1½d.; Lisbon, 5s.; Sailer, Limerick, 6s. 6d.

### HOPS.

WORCESTER, April 14.—Planters are now busy in their hop gardens, where the work of stringing and poling has been carried on rapidly during the fine weather. Trade keeps quiet on this market, but a firmer tone prevails, and holders of the remaining 1893 Worcesters are not pressing their hops for sale. During the week 109 pockets of planters' hops have been weighed at the public scales.

### CATTLE.

CARLISLE, April 14.—Supplies of Irish store cattle, consisting chiefly of heifers and stripping cows, continue to be imported in pretty large numbers, and grass being about three weeks earlier than usual there are good prospects of a satisfactory spring trade. With a large attendance inquiry was pretty active, and a fairly brisk business was done at £5 16s. to £8 10s. and £11 10s. to £15, according to quality. English store cattle were comparatively scarce, and prices showed an upward tendency.

LEICESTER, April 14.—Full consignments of home-bred bullocks in good condition were offered, buyers being better represented. Trade ruled brisker all round at an advance of fully 10s. to 15s. per head. Milch cows were in request at £17 to £18 10s. for best; secondary, £13 to £15; bullocks, £17 10s. to £19 for choice; secondary, £14 to £16; and inferior, £10 to £12 10s.; young stock, £3 to £7 per head. Calves were in better request at 15s. to 25s. per head. Sheep sold more freely, ewes and lambs making 43s. to 48s. per couple.

NORWICH, April 14.—The consignment of store cattle was still very small and no improvement was shown in the description of the animals. A few of the best lots found purchasers, but for the rest the demand was bad. A considerable falling off in the number of fat beasts was noticeable. A firm trade, however, was experienced at 7s. to 7s. 6d. per stone. There was an average supply of store sheep, which sold at a slight advance at 32s. to 45s. A fair consignment of fat sheep also sold at a trifling increase in price.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

LONDON, April 14.—AGRICULTURAL SEEDS.—Messrs. John Shaw and Sons write that an active consumptive demand for most kinds of field seeds now prevails, the effect of which is to further substantially reduce existing stocks. Indeed very little clover seed will probably this season be carried over. As regards trefoil, white, and alsike, supplies will in all likelihood be quite exhausted. For both American and English red there is now a better feeling. Perennial and Italian rye grasses find buyers on former terms. Sainfoin moves off slowly. There is an active inquiry for Lucerne. Spring tares meet an improved demand. The canary seed market is exceedingly strong. Hempseed keeps steady.

BOROUGH POTATO MARKET, April 14.—There has been little improvement in the demand, and with farmers more anxious to realize and supplies still considerable, values of the commoner sorts are lower. Old:—Main crops—Dunbars, 60s. to 65s.; English, 50s. Magnums—Dunbars, 65s. to 70s.; Scotch, gray soils, 35s.; Bedford, 2s. to 30s.; Lincoln, black land, 2s.; Buices—Scotch, 3s.; Bedford, 2s. to 30s.; Sutton's abundance, 30s. to 40s.; Reading giants 25s. New:—Guernsey kidneys, on sample, 4d. per lb.

WHITECHAPEL HAY AND STRAW, April 14.—Supplies were

London-cured mackerels, 3s. 6d. to 12s.; blotters, 6d. to 1s. 4d. per dozen; kippers, 1s. to 1s. 9d. per dozen pairs; jobsters, 1s. to 2s. 6d.; crabs, 6d. to 1s. 9d. each; oysters—natives, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d.; French, 1s.; Portuguese, 8d. to 1s.; blue points, 6d. to 8d.; scallops, 7d. to 9d. per dozen; shrimps, 6d. per quart.

## MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

The festival dinner of the Middlesex Hospital was held on Friday evening at the Hôtel Métropole, and the Prince of Wales was in the chair. There were present the Lord Chancellor, Lord Sandhurst (chairman of the weekly board), Cardinal Vaughan, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, Lord Onslow, Lord Lathom, Lord Breadalbane, Lord Carrington, Lord Gosford, Lord Methuen, Lord Amherst of Hackney, the Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir E. Ommanney, Mr. Hulke, F.R.S., Mr. Woodall, M.P., Mr. Macdonald, M.P., Mr. Boulnois, M.P., Mr. Wootton Isaacson, M.P., Sir E. Lechmere, M.P., Sir F. Seager-Hunt, M.P., Lord Waldegrave, and about 200 other gentlemen.

The PRINCE OF WALES, in proposing the health of the Queen, said her Majesty had been a subscriber of 100 guineas to the hospital ever since her accession to the Throne.

The LORD CHANCELLOR proposed "The Prince of Wales and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family."

The PRINCE OF WALES, in response, said,—"I am most grateful to my noble and learned friend for the way in which he has proposed this toast and for the kind reception you have accorded to it. I have to put before you a toast which I know you will receive with acclamation—"The Navy, the Army, and the Reserve Forces." I rejoice to think that her Majesty's Government have resolved to increase the Navy. (Cheers.) It is not that we wish to threaten other countries; but if we wish to preserve peace we must be strong. (Cheers.) Our motto must be that of the Volunteers—"Defence, not defiance." (Cheers.) Neither the Army nor the Navy has been employed in any great war, but in the smaller hostilities in which they have been engaged they have done their duty. (Cheers.)

ADMIRAL SIR E. COMBERELL and MAJOR-GENERAL LORD METHUEN responded.

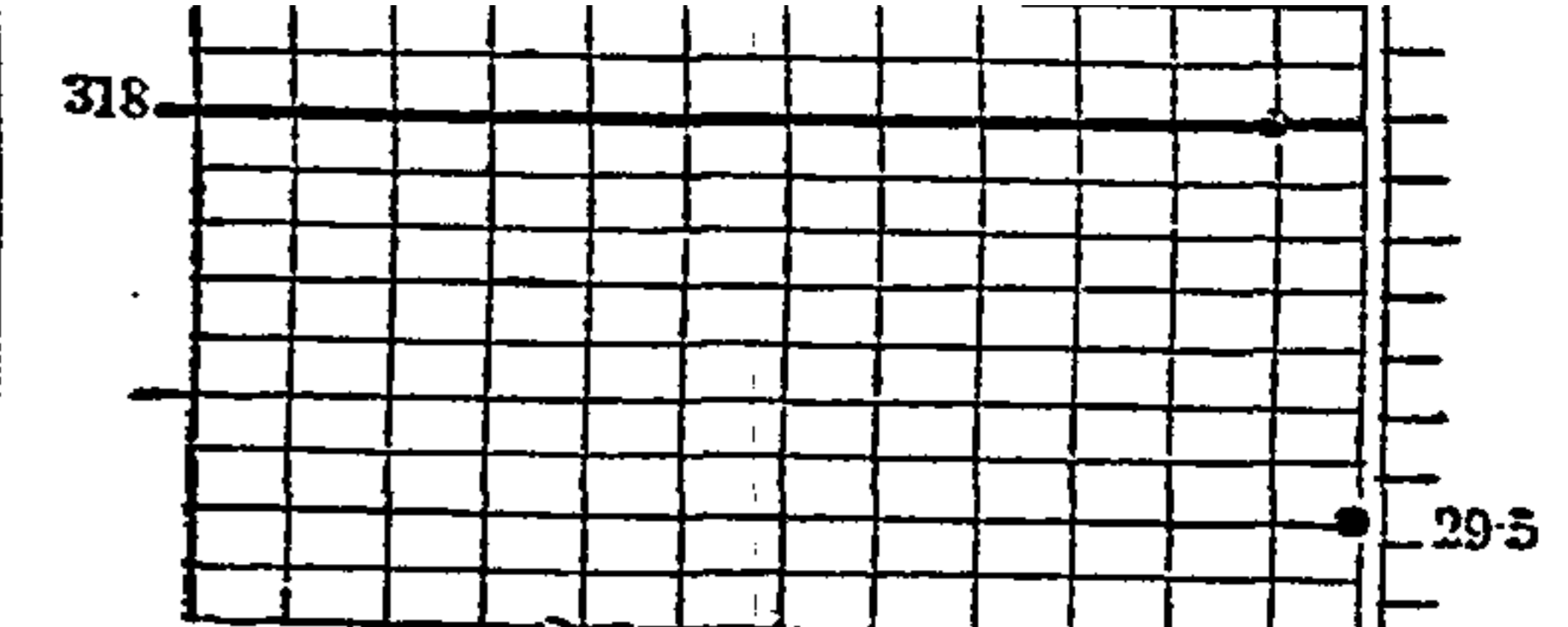
The PRINCE OF WALES proposed the "Middlesex Hospital." He said,—"I have to make an announcement which, I am sure, you will all be glad to hear. A telegram has been received from Sir H. Ponsonby which says, "The Queen hopes Middlesex Hospital may continue to prosper." I know, gentlemen, how gratified you will be at the reception of this telegram. You are aware that the hospital was founded in 1745 and next year will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Two years ago the income amounted to £20,000, but the outgoings were upwards of £37,000. You will therefore understand how necessary it is to support this excellent charity. The governors have made special arrangements for the treatment of cancer in a satisfactory manner until relief or release by death comes from that terrible disease. They hope to erect another building, for which they have found a suitable site. We all know there are many women in the metropolis who have arduous duties to perform—women in domestic service and in shops. For their treatment, too, in cases of illness special facilities are provided. But additional wards for women are urgently needed, for, whereas in the London Hospital and in St. Thomas's there are 28 beds for women in each and in Guy's 22, there are in the Middlesex Hospital only 8. I earnestly hope, therefore, that the deficiencies of the hospital in this and other respects may be made up. (Cheers.)

LOED SANDHURST, in response, said he hoped that a liberal response would be made to the appeal for further funds which it was his duty to make.

The appeal was responded to by the promise of between £5,500 and £6,000.

A WHITE RHINOCEROS.—Mr. Rowland Ward is at present showing at his establishment in Piccadilly a specimen of the white rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros simus*) which was shot last year by Mr. R. T. Coryndon. Though called white, it is really only a shade or two lighter than other kinds, and is distinguished from the other African species by its large size and the peculiar shape of its mouth. Mr. Coryndon shot two at the same time, one of which has been acquired for the Natural History Museum, while the present one belongs to the Hon. Walter Rothschild. Besides these two there is thought to be only one other complete specimen in Europe, and that is a poor one in Leyden. The animal is now so rare as to be practically extinct, which is not to be wondered at if every one who sees a couple insists on shooting them both.

THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL COMPANY.—On Saturday a meeting of the directors of the Manchester Ship Canal Company was held, under the chairmanship of Lord Egerton of Tatton, to consider certain rumours as to the financial position of the company. The chairman of the finance committee, Sir Edward Jenkinson, submitted a report which confirmed a statement made at the recent half-yearly meeting of shareholders, to the effect that the company had still £800,000 of unappropriated money, in addition to an immense quantity of plant available for sale, which would gradually be turned into money.



TEMPERATURE AND HYGROMETRIC CONDITION OF THE AIR IN LONDON. APRIL 14.

Hours of Observation.	Temperature.		Tension of Vapour.	Weight of Vapour in 10 cubic feet of Air.	Drying Power of Air (per cubic feet).	Humidity (Saturation=100).
	Air.	Dew Point.				
Noon ...	53	46	-311	35	10	78
6 p.m. ...	54	49	-348	40	7	85
Midnight	51	44	-288	33	9	79
Min. temperature, 45deg.		Max. temperature, 58deg.				

APRIL 15.

Noon ...	56	46	-311	35	15	70
7 p.m. ...	54	43	-277	31	16	66
Midnight	52	45	-299	34	10	77
Min. temperature, 51deg.		Max. temperature, 60deg.				

### RAINFALL VALUES.

Table showing for the stations named the amounts of rainfall collected during the week ended at 8 a.m. on April 15 and the total amounts collected since the beginning of the year, together with the differences between the last-named values and the means for the corresponding period in a long series of years (compiled from the daily reports of the Meteorological Office):—

Limits of Dates, &c.	PARIS.		LONDON.		LEITH.		PARSONSTOWN.	
	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.	1894.	1893.
April 9 to April 15	In. 0.05	In. None	In. 0.12	In. None	In. 0.02	In. 0.02	In. 0.96	In. None
Jan. 1 to April 15	3.95	5.00	6.00	4.65	8.87	3.04	10.46	5.89
Diff. from mean	-1.08	-0.03	-0.15	-1.50	+4.39	-1.44	+1.25	-2.74

Notes.—During the past week rain has fallen in considerable quantities over Ireland and the western parts of the kingdom generally, and in most other districts there have been passing showers of a thundery character, varying greatly in amount very locally (as is usual with such showers), and lasting for brief intervals. Even over the metropolis the falls were larger over the northern than over the southern suburbs—in which district the "London" gauge is placed. The result is that both in Paris and London the total fall since January 1 is now short of the mean; at Parsonstown, however, it is considerably in excess, and at Leith it is more than double the mean quantity. At the corresponding period of last year the fall was everywhere short of the mean, and in London the deficiency was much greater than it is this year. The daily weather chart, found above, leads to the conclusion that further falls of rain are approaching all parts of the kingdom, so that in this respect the outlook is (except for holiday-makers) much better than it was 12 months ago.

The total amounts of bright sunshine recorded during the week were:—London, 39 hours; Aberdeen, 28½ hours; and Parsonstown, 17½ hours.

PARIS, APRIL 15.—Barometer, 29.98in. Thermometer—maximum, 56deg.; minimum, 47deg. Wind west, rain.

BERLIN, APRIL 15.—Thermometer—maximum, 52deg.; minimum, 48deg. Weather showery.

VIENNA, APRIL 15.—Barometer, 30.11in. Thermometer—maximum, 64.9deg.; minimum, 48.4deg. Slight south wind. Fine.

ROME, APRIL 15.—Barometer, 30.15in. Thermometer—maximum, 70.16deg.; minimum, 46.04deg.; midday, 67.64deg. Wind south, very weak, variable.

ST. PETERSBURG, APRIL 15.—Barometer, 772mm. Thermometer—minimum, 33.08deg.; maximum, 55.04deg.; Moscow, 35.24deg. Wind west-north-west, no strength. Weather very fine. Local navigation on the Neva is open to-day. Navigation into the port of Cronstadt is expected to be opened to-morrow.

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting and prize distribution of the juvenile section of the London Diocesan Branch of the above took place in the Queen's-hall of the People's Palace on Saturday evening. Mr. J. R. Diggle, Chairman of the London School Board, presided, and, in the course of his address, observed that the gathering in its after effects would prove to be of a most useful character. No fewer than 130 bands of hope were represented on the occasion, and the prize-giving had been of such a heavy character that it had been found advisable to divide it into two sections. Although 20,000 children in the diocese of London had received a temperance education, it only represented a fraction of the number connected with the Church of England. The direct influence of the teaching was great, but the indirect influence would prove to be still greater. While 800 children entered for the examination last year, 2,000 entered this time, and about one in three would receive prizes, at a cost of £70. He congratulated the managers on the interest they had taken in a work that so deeply affected the social and moral welfare of the English people. The Rev. C. H. Grundy, vicar of Brockley, also spoke, and the prizes were presented by the Countess of Arran.