they are seen to amount in the aggregate to a considerable value, the attention of the customs authorities is being drawn to the matter. Indeed, we understand that in more than one transaction the full duty has been exacted, and other cases are under consideration. And very properly so. Canadian farmers are not over-well protected, as it is; wool producers to a very small extent. It is only fair in these days when they are having to meet such keen competition from all parts of the world, that what protection they can legally claim should be strictly enforced. Canadian wool growers are having a sufficiently hard experience in any case without having added to their present competition that which comes from the undue admission of untaxed wool from other countries.

The trade continues quiet, but the aggregate of sales lately has been better than might have been imagined from their slowness. A good deal of the surplus of the wool carried over from last year and the year previous is quietly and gradually finding its way to the other side. An estimate of the quantity which has already moved thus places it at about a million pounds. The unfortunate point in the matter, however, is that this wool has been sold at prices which leave absolutely no margin, or else mean a heavy loss, 13½ to 14c. for selected having been the outside figure obtained.

"TRADE OPPORTUNITIES."

We have been furnished, in confidence, but not for appearance in print, with the names of the firms or persons who make application in London for trade information of the kind we have so long been publishing under this heading, or under the heading of "Trade Openings." And with the object of facilitating the interchange of views on subjects of interest to residents of both countries, The Monetary Times will take pleasure in furnishing the addresses of such firms to any one who may ask for them and will enclose postage stamp for written reply.

FIRE HAZARDS.

We are informed that a statement in our article of last week, "Where will the next fire be?" does injustice to the interior economy of the Union Loan buildings on Toronto street. Mr. Gillespie, manager of the company which owns the building, writes us as under: "The bottom of the elevator shaft, instead of having six months' accumulation of 'dirt of various kinds,' was regularly cleaned out at least once a week. It is true that the fire originated at the bottom of this shaft, but the appraiser tells me that he is satisfied it was caused by a spark from the electric wires which enter the building at or about that point." We make the correction with pleasure; and should be very glad to be able to make the same announcement with respect to scores of other elevator shafts in Toronto, which we are quite sure are *not* cleaned out once a week. What we are told about the origin of this fire, however, confirms what we have already stated, when writing about the Guardian building fire in Montreal, about the reality of the electrical hazard in buildings.

MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA.

One of the chief resources of this country consists in its subterranean wealth, so it is gratifying to note from the summary compiled for 1901 by the Geological Survey of Canada, that, notwithstanding a considerable falling off in the output of gold the total value of the mineral production is still increasing. It is true that the increase for last year was proportionately less than had been shown for the years immediately preceding, but still the growth was equal to something like 8 per cent. and it should not be forgotten that this was due primarily to the expansion in the more permanent mineral industries, such as iron and coal. Leaving the Yukon district out of consideration, the permanent metal mining industries show an increase of nearly 37 per cent. notwithstanding a falling away of over 20 per cent. in the value of the lead production. The above, taken in connection with the enlarged value of the output of coal and coke of over 14 per cent., gives an average increase of over 27 per cent. for the more important industries of the country. The total value of the non-metallic products shows an increase of over 10 per cent. over last year, that of the whole metallic group nearly 6 per cent., while the structural materials remain about the same. Since 1886, when official statistics first began to be compiled, the mineral production has increased seven-fold, while the population has only increased 17 per cent. The per capita value is now $12.92 as compared with $2.23 in 1886.

In the Yukon there was a considerable falling off in gold, the yield being $4,275,000, or 12 per cent. less than in the previous year. Partially offsetting this, however, was an increase of nearly $1,000,000 in the product of British Columbia. Of silver there was a fair increase in the quality produced, but prices continued very low. Lead, practically all of which was produced in British Columbia, showed a great decrease owing, not only to low prices, but to the great difficulties encountered in marketing the ores at United States smelters. The production of copper was very much larger than in 1900, due to an increase of some 25 per cent. in the output at Sudbury and a three-fold increase in the Boundary Creek district. The era of low prices for this metal did not begin early enough in the year to have much effect on the production. The higher prices for nickel caused an increase in the production of that metal of about 30 per cent., the output for last year being about 4,595 tons. The total output of iron ore amounted to about 462,812 tons, a considerable increase, which only begins to show the capabilities of the country in this direction. This applies also to steel, the manufacture of which in Canada is just opening up. Last year it amounted to 41,948 tons.

According to the annual report of the Bureau of Mines for Ontario, the output of minerals and mineral products in that province for 1901, shows an increase of 27 per cent., almost the whole of it being in the products of the metalliferous mines and works, the value of which is about 100 per cent. more than in the previous year. The principal increases are given as follows:

	Increase in amount	in Value
Copper	2,346,000 lbs.	$ 269,399
Nickel	1,802.000 lbs.	1,103,344
Iron Ore	182,236 tons.	62,623
Steel	11,652 tons.	332,809
Pig Iron	53,984 tons.	765,637

There was a considerable falling off in the yield of petroleum and a still greater decline in its value. Among products which are just beginning to become of importance are arsenic, which is mined nowhere on the American