

chagrin, recording secretary; A. Thibaudeau, E. Sanschagrin and J. Cornellier, executive.

Enquiries have reached the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa through the Imperial Institute in London. They wish to know whether there are any exporters of Canadian cream suitable for butter making; Danish importers ask the names of Canadian manufacturers anxious to extend trade connections in Denmark; there are also enquiries for the names of Canadian shippers of tallow.

Advices have been received from Trinidad by the Ottawa Government of the imposition by that colony of export duties for this year upon certain products with the object of aiding immigration. The duties affect sugar, rum, cocoa, coffee, molasses and coconut. On sugar the rate is \$1.20 per ton; on cocoa, 18 cents per hundred pounds; on molasses 60 cents per hundred gallons.

The commercial agent of Canada at Antigua, West Indies, writes that the sugar crop of that island has been a disappointing one. Of that product very little was sent to Canada, but there has been a good demand from this country for molasses. He reports that the increased preference on sugar offered by Canada will not affect this season's crop as it was nearly all shipped before the preference took effect. He looks forward to some increase of trade between Canada and the West Indies consequent upon the improved steamship service.

Here is a new method of obtaining publicity for merchandise. A firm in San José, California, has a force of Scotch pipers and boys in uniform sent out specially by a Chicago company to advertise their Scotch oats. The party consists of three pipers, two salesmen and eight boys, the salesmen calling on the trade and soliciting their orders, and the others making the round of the private houses delivering imitation telegrams worded as follows: "Mrs. Housewife, Every street. Scotch Oats pipers and lads in kilts have arrived. Be sure and see them. Scotch Oats are fine and very reasonable in price.—Your Grocer," and likewise doing some talking.

#### IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

An American silk merchant just returned from Europe said that demand in Paris for silks was almost as dull as in the States. A demand for plain goods, laces and chiffons will characterize the coming season.

Huddersfield woolen factories are dull, apparently waiting until a true basis for the price of wool can be established. Up to 15th inst. the general demand for all classes of worsted yarns, both on home and shipping account, was quieter.

A London contemporary says that the demand for mohairs and bright lustre yarns is certainly the best part of the continental yarn trade, in which market lining twills are being made from these yarns, which are to a great extent supplanting the Italian linings made from merino wool.

The Liverpool cotton market was dull and weak on Wednesday last. In New York on the same day there was an unsettled feeling, the close being in favor of the bears by reason of private favorable crop accounts from practically all sections of the cotton belt, indicating that the condition of the crop has materially improved and that with average weather for the remainder of the season a large crop will be grown.

Scotch advices, according to the Glasgow and Dundee correspondence of The Draper's Record, do not show much activity this month. There has been little or no improvement in the South of Scotland tweed district. Orders are still scarce, and prospects are anything but bright. Demand is dull for any sort of goods in the Dundee market. No change can be reported in flax, tow and cordilla. Jute is very quiet, exceptionally low offers having failed to bring about business. In linens no change can be reported. Flax and tow yarns continue very slack, and bleachers are getting into stocks of small sizes.

Another point worth noting in connection with the position in the East relates to silk. Up to the present, fortunately, the supplies from China have not been interrupted. At Shanghai, the principal silk exporting centre in China, it is only the import, and not the export trade that has been affected. But if the savages at present ravaging the valley of the Pei-ho from

Pekin to Tien-tsin extend their operations southwards to Shanghai and on to Canton, the production and exports of silk in a district which of late years has shipped on the average about 12,000,000 lbs. of the costly fibre per annum to Europe and America, will be seriously reduced, as the quantity mentioned is one-third of the European and American consumption.

#### INSURANCE MATTERS.

The fool says, "I won't insure." The timid man, "I can't insure." The practical man, "I will insure."—Anon. Later on the fool and the timid man both say, "I can't insure." And right they are.—Insurance Age.

Among the visitors to Winnipeg at Exhibition time were Messrs. Robt. Melvin, president, and George Wegenast, manager of the Mutual Life of Canada, better known as the Ontario Mutual Assurance Company. These gentlemen purpose remaining some weeks in Manitoba, their trip being one of observation and inspection.

The vice-president of the Equitable Life Society of the United States, Mr. Henry B. Hyde, has been appointed a chevalier of the Legation of Honor in recognition of his work for the advancement of French literature in the United States through the French circle of Harvard University.

—While our efforts towards getting immigrants have for years been mainly devoted to sending them to the far West when we got them, it has not escaped the attention of some officials of local Governments that it might be well to get some more people to fill up the East. In order that their light might not be hid, the New Brunswick Government sent Mr. W. A. Hickman to England recently to acquaint the people there with the characteristics of that province. It was a shrewd and sensible thing to do. There is a class of people in the British Islands who are very poorly suited for the life of an isolated farmer on the distant prairie, and would curse the loneliness of their lot there; and yet these, if put down in surroundings something like what they have been accustomed to, may make good and contented citizens in our Eastern provinces. Mr. Hickman says that his work so far has been most successful, as the people who had been taught to think only of the Northwest now know something of the advantages of Eastern Canada.

—We learn with interest that Mr. Archibald Blue, of Toronto, has been appointed Census Commissioner for the Dominion, and will in August remove to Ottawa to prepare for the taking of the census of 1901. The appointment is a good one. Mr. Blue has served the Province of Ontario faithfully and well in various capacities for some eighteen years, in none with more credit to himself, we consider, than as chief of the Bureau of Mines. He is one of those men who believe in taking pains; he has also a habit of sticking to his work till his work is done—not being one of your strictly 10 to 4 o'clock officials. Never having spared himself, we do not suppose Mr. Blue will spare the Ottawa departmental clerks. But it may be predicted that his service in this important post will be that of an intelligent and conscientious man, who—*rara avis* that he is—will do his work as well for a Government as he would for an individual employer.

#### CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, July 26th, 1900, compared with those of the previous week :

CLEARINGS.	July 26, 1900.	July 19, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$14,084,439	\$14,629,051
Toronto.....	9,377,453	9,419,020
Winnipeg .....	2,145,359	2,358,231
Halifax .....	1,507,763	1,564,969
Hamilton .....	680,218	790,333
St. John .....	920,728	620,300
Vancouver .....	955,197	1,049,741
Victoria .....	526,882	2,558,231
	\$30,148,039	32,989,876

Aggregate balances, this week, \$4,810,306; last week, \$4,883,420