

Continental producers of beet sugar, which is bounty-fed, have seriously injured the cane sugar trade, the great reliance of the British West Indies. Now at last the British Government comes forward with a grant of £250,000 in aid of the sugar planters of the islands. It is included in the supplementary estimates submitted to Parliament. This step may shock hide-bound free traders, but there is some "saving common sense" about it.

The United States census bureau gives these statistics, which will prove cheering to the man with a 40-acre farm covered with drowned crops, water and a fat mortgage: Number of farms in United States, 5,739,657; aggregate value, \$16,674,694; average size of farms, 146 acres; value of farm implements in the country, \$761,261,550.—Detroit News.

That must have been an unusual scene when the Trappist monastery at Oka, Que., was burned last week. There were eighty or ninety monks, we are told, trying to save the place, but from the lack of fire appliances could do practically nothing to that end. "The mitred abbot was absent from his post," say the telegrams. How like a novel of Italy or Spain does this sound! Nearly the entire stock of wine and cider in the vaults and cellars was destroyed, and a rough estimate places that loss at about 6,000 gallons of wine and 12,000 gallons of cider. The heaviest loss is that of the library, which contained some 5,000 volumes, many of them most valuable relics from ancient monasteries. Besides the wine and cider, a large quantity of cheese and butter, for which the monastery was famous, was destroyed. But the St. Eustache fire engine, reaching there at midnight, saved the barns with the season's crop of hay.

From a report by the United States Secretary of Agriculture on the experiments in tea-growing in the south, it appears that a good grade of tea can be grown in the Southern States of the Union, and that experiments are being made with a view to reducing the cost of the preparation of tea, especially green tea. The secretary adds that in the future special attention will be given to the manufacturing of a pure green tea, the hopelessness of bringing Americans to drink black tea now being realized by all importers.

To establish and to hold a large cash grocery trade in a proverbially credit town is one of the best tests of business ability and thorough management, says The San Francisco Grocer. This is what the Olson Co. has done in Alameda and the accomplishment speaks volumes for the company's buying facilities as well as the ability of "the man behind the gun."

An instance of the scale upon which some English concerns do business is afforded by the recent report of an English corporation, Holbrooks, limited. It has paid total dividends of fifteen per cent. for the past year, after providing for a special outlay of \$100,000 for the advertisement of Holbrook's sauce, placing \$5,000 to reserve, and carrying forward \$6,500 to the next account.

The census returns show the total amount of fruits and vegetables packed in the United States during the year 1900, thus: Peaches, 107,609,194 pounds; pears, 49,906,216 pounds; apples, 48,104,074 pounds; apricots, 38,525,300 pounds.

FIRE INSURANCE MATTERS.

The fund being raised at Toronto for the families of the five firemen recently killed there, now amounts to over \$52,000. The case is one of the generosity being equal to the need.—Montreal Gazette.

The Economical Fire Insurance Company held its semi-annual business meeting at Berlin on Friday afternoon last, the out-of-town directors present being sent are, Messrs. Frank Turner, Toronto; Geo. Pattinson, Preston, and Chr. Pabst, Hespeler. The half-yearly report was presented, and showed a gratifying state of affairs. There has been a substantial increase in the operations of the past six months and there is a balance of over \$10,000 on the right side of the ledger. No formal appointment was made of a successor to the late Hugo Krantz as manager, but Mr. W. H. Schumalz

will perform the duties, and have charge of the office staff. An executive committee was appointed composed of the president and two other directors which will meet every Monday and pass applications for insurance.

The offices of the Wellington Mutual Insurance Company, on the Market square, Guelph, are in process of reconstruction. A new front is one of the features, which is to give more light within and an improved appearance without. Quartered oak fittings will be furnished for the new offices by the Canadian Office and School Furniture Co., while the Metal Shingle and Siding Co., also of Preston, will place the ceiling, and the Canada Furniture Co., the office furniture.

—The "Industrial Advocate," which under the able management of Mr. Fred. P. Ronnan has in the past drawn so much attention to the mining, milling, manufacturing and mechanical interests of the Maritime provinces, is in future to be published under the auspices of a joint stock company known as the Industrial Publishing Company, limited, in which that gentleman is largely interested. In future it is hoped that that journal will give even a larger and more complete review of the industrial progress of that important portion of our Dominion, the Eastern provinces by the sea. The July number, just to hand, is an earnest of this attempt, and is a thoroughly creditable undertaking.

—The Ontario Government has this week passed an Order-in-Council forbidding the export of hemlock logs from the province, just as two or three years ago the export of pine logs was interdicted, and last year the export of wood-pulp. The movement meets general approval as being in harmony with the policy of confining the manufacture of the products of the forests of Ontario within the boundaries of the province. The trade in hemlock logs had been increasing of late years, that wood having discovered an increased utility and market value.

—Mr. M. G. DeWolfe, of Kentville, past president of the Maritime Board of Trade, has issued a circular appeal to boards of trade in the Maritime Provinces to join or keep in touch with the body mentioned, so as to co-operate in matters of especial benefit to the three easternmost provinces. The next annual meeting of the Maritime Board is to be held during the present summer at Sydney, C.B., and he calls upon New Brunswick boards in particular to make an effort to be represented on that occasion.

—It is announced that the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition will be held at Halifax from the 10th to the 18th of September. An unusually interesting display of manufactured goods is promised, the Manufacturers' Association having been interested to the point of adding a number of industrial features. Then there will be the Horse Show, under the auspices of the Halifax Riding Club. And there will be races, for various purses, aggregating \$3,000.

—The Sherbrooke annual fair is announced to be held from Saturday to Saturday, 30th August to 6th September.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures for Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, July 31, 1902, compared with those of the previous week.

CITIES	July 31, 1902.	July 24, 1902.
Montreal.....	\$20,588,754	\$19,459,292
Toronto	13,453,009	13,905,364
Winnipeg	3,560,290	3,229,942
Halifax	1,360,943	1,644,053
Hamilton	982,981	888,789
St. John.....	787,522	854,211
Vancouver	1,060,259	1,019,122
Victoria	554,089	594,546
Quebec	1,277,277	1,443,868
Ottawa	1,637,568	1,835,960
London	742,251	643,610

Aggregate balances, this week \$7,025,565; last week \$8,753,503