

letters," he says. "from country merchants in different parts of the above sections of country which teem with such expressions as 'we are literally closed in and blockaded by muddy roads'—'farmers will not come into town on account of the almost impassable roads,' and many other such. City retail trade, which has kept up well so far, is beginning to show some falling off. Fair days are the exception, and shoppers are loth to face the horrid weather and muddy streets. One town traveller with a wide *clientele* states that he notes a growing feeling in the trade that we are likely to have mild open winter, based largely on the fact that the last two seasons were unusually severe ones, both as regards the degree of cold, and the amount of snow that fell, and this naturally makes his customers more conservative in their purchases. Remittances are said to be even poorer than a week ago, when they were the subject of considerable complaint, and are hardly expected to improve until country roads solidify."

With regard to prices, we learn from recent trans-Atlantic letters, that while there is no advance in Yorkshire or West of England cloths and stuffs, there is a very distinct advance in cashmeres, woolen goods of French make, and in fine dress fabrics of all kinds. The market for such products is firm, and there are indications that goods of this nature will all be higher. The announcement made by a city daily last week of a fall in grey domestics was much exaggerated, as we have said, but now we hear of an advance equal to nearly 20 per cent. on the raw material, and the opinion is expressed that cottons generally will be higher before many weeks.

A WORTHY WORK.

Charles Dudley Warner said some good things in his Mimico address the other day, some things that will bear thinking about. Among them was this—we quote from memory: "The very life of such a place as this Industrial School is the love that pervades it; the kindly personal interest, the individual care. This is what will draw like a lode-stone, these young hearts to better things. The moment you begin to institutionalize these lads, that moment you lessen your hold on them. A prison taint, a reformatory taint, is not only bad for the boys outwardly, it is bad for them inwardly. They need a home life, a pure home training, and this it is they have mostly been bereft of; this, I can see, you strive here to restore. It will bear fruit in the coming years."

Mr. Howland put the case strongly when he said to the visitors who gathered round after the lads had drilled, and sung, and marched to the music of their juvenile band and then dispersed shouting, to play: "If we in this community do our duty these lads will not become criminals, sadly though they were drifting towards it before we got hold of them. These children whose happy voices you hear are not criminals; no boys of such tender years are criminal. Idleness, lack of parental control, evil associations, might lead them or let them drift into becoming law-breakers. But here we strive to lead them, by kind restraint, by loving inducement, to better things. They will become, they have already become producers; by-and-bye they will be farmers or tradesmen."

The report of the retiring superintendent, Mr. Hendry, told in few words the means employed: "We teach the boys punctuality and cleanliness. They have regular hours of

alternate work and play, with not too much study; plenty of food and sleep; we try to show them the value of self-restraint, truth, duty. Already we see fruit in improved manners—no swearing—a spirit of loyalty, contentment, affectionateness, and their home life is very harmonious." The record showed 62 boys from six to fourteen years of age from Bruce, Peterboro, Ontario, York counties and the city of Toronto treated during the year. Some had been returned to their parents on probation. There are now 55 in the school as against 42 a year ago. The lads are employed in farm and garden, do tailoring, baking, carpentering, besides the housework of the premises, and their work has produced, in the shape of wood, milk, vegetables, grain, and hay, a value of \$2,248.

These are encouraging results; so many rescued from the class that costs the community money and gives trouble to our magistrates and police; so many put in the way of doing well for themselves and others. It was shown by Mr. Beverley Jones that two Toronto lads, whom he had watched for ten years and had tried to help, had served term after term in prison and penitentiary, and would have cost the country \$4,900, when their present terms were ended. These lads might have been saved from crime and made good members of society by such a school as this. Of the large number of professional and business people who assembled at Mimico on Saturday last, none, we are satisfied, could have been other than pleased with the evidence there given of the beneficent work of the Victoria Industrial School. So much impressed, indeed, were some gentlemen who saw it for the first time on that day, that a number of voluntary subscriptions towards its building fund were a result of the visit.

THE STOCK MARKET.

It is generally believed that the "corner" in Bank of Montreal stock has been broken owing to the fact that one large operator on the "Bull" side took advantage of the recent strength in that stock to unload a large block of his holdings. Another bold effort was made to raise the price but, too much stock coming out, there was a sudden drop to about the closing rates of last week. Other bank shares have been irregular and unsettled, Ontario gaining 1½, while Dominion declined from 217½ to 216 in bids. Imperial and Standard are firm, the former selling at 140, the highest price for a long time. Upwards of 800 shares of Commerce changed hands with but a trifling variation in price, not exceeding ½ of 1%.

Western Assurance sold at 138½ and 139, and closed at ½ advance in bids. Some large buyer has been picking up Consumers' Gas, which rose from 181 to 182½. Dominion Telegraph weakened off to 80 at which 100 shares were sold. In Canada North-West Land the transactions amounted to 506 shares, closing at a decline of ¾. Canada Permanent Loan stiffened up to 199, a gain of 2%, with sales of 284 shares at that figure. London and Canadian Loan was easier at 143, while British Canadian rose 2½. In the week 2,368 shares were dealt in as against 2,246 last week and 3,329 in the corresponding week of 1887.

—The improvements in freights has started up some of the idle Nova Scotia shipyards, and quite a number of men go into the woods the coming winter to get out timbers for ships to be built next spring and summer.

LIFE BUSINESS OF ENGLISH COMPANIES.

From a table containing a list of a hundred British life insurance companies, proprietary and mutual, published by the London Review, we take the names of those doing business, either fire or life, in Canada, and the figures relating to them. There are twenty-four mutual companies in the list, the remainder being proprietary. Twenty-one life companies appear in the table as being younger than the London and Lancashire. The names in our table appear in order of age. It may be mentioned, as showing the resources and extent of business done by these 100 companies, that their new assurances aggregated £12,510,000 sterling in 1887, and that their life and annuity funds reached £43,500,000, or over two hundred and seventeen millions of dollars:

Name of Company.	Estab-lished in year.	New As-surances, gross.	Life & An-nuity funds, capital ex-cluded.
London Assurance	1721	£214,693	£1,835,268
Atlas	1808	309,054	1,391,470
Norwich Union	1808	386,125	1,853,355
North British and Mercantile	1809	740,429	4,455,015
Imperial	1820	298,620	1,065,585
Guardian	1821	383,440	2,245,158
National of Ireland	1822	108,662
Standard	1825	1,302,913	6,448,595
Caledonian	1833	356,758	843,655
Liverpool and London and Globe	1836	458,738	3,857,456
Northern	1836	371,285	2,103,125
Reliance	1840	270,458	681,595
Scottish Union & National	1841	537,960	2,779,412
Star	1843	763,675	2,601,574
Royal	1845	558,158	3,322,153
British Empire Mutual	1847	905,110	1,212,102
Lancashire	1852	147,568	759,271
Queen	1857	254,790	618,122
Commercial Union	1861	442,241	1,070,064
London & Lancashire	1862	578,890	518,484

INSURANCE NOTES.

During the first six months of the present year, 1,047 death claims were paid by the Mutual Life Company of New York. The causes of death were arranged under 82 heads. The most fatal diseases were: Apoplexy, 11.46 per cent.; pneumonia, 11.17 per cent.; Bright's disease, 10.51 per cent.; consumption, 8.50 per cent.; heart disease, 7.93 per cent.; cancer, 3.25 per cent.; casualties, 3.15 per cent.; paralysis, 2.48 per cent.; diabetes, 2.39 per cent.; peritonitis, 2.20 per cent.

The following item has a very direct interest for benevolent societies and those interested in them:—At the Elgin Chancery Sittings in May last Mrs. Peter Horton sued the Provincial Provident Institution, of St. Thomas, to recover \$2,443 insurance on the life of her husband. The deceased was a member of the institution, and while employed at Mobile, Alabama, contracted a fever, from which he died at London in October, 1886. In the June previous an assessment was due on his policy, which was not met until August following, because, as plaintiff alleged, notice of the payment being due was only received a day or two previous. The P. P. I. defended the suit, on the ground that the payment made in August was only accepted conditionally on deceased being in good health at the time the money was sent, as his failure to pay in June, when due, removed him from good standing. Judge Robertson, who tried the case, has just rendered his decision, finding for the plaintiff for the full amount claimed, \$2,243, and 22 months' interest, \$263, a total of \$2,706, with full costs of the suit.