

city or to its multifarious applications." How comprehensive the work is may be judged when we say that while the International edition of Webster's has 125,000 words and the Century Dictionary 225,000 words, the Standard boasts no less than 280,000 words. The compilers quote the racy paragraph of James Russell Lowell as to what a dictionary should not be, thus: "A dictionary that should embrace every unusual word, every new compound, every metaphorical turn of meaning to be found in our great writers, would be a compendium of the genius of our authors rather than of our language; and a lexicographer who rakes the second and third rate men for out-of-the-way phrases is doing us no favor. A dictionary is not a drag-net to bring up for us the broken pots and dead kittens, the sewerage of speech as well as its living fishes. Nor do we think it a fair test of such a work that one should seek in it for every odd word that may have tickled his fancy in a favorite author." If, in the present work, Mr. Lowell's suggestions in these respects have been followed, and yet 280,000 words have been brought together, one is tempted to ask anew how many words there are in the language. Of course every new lexicographer is entitled to profit by those who have gone before him, and then, in these modern inventive days, new words as well as things are being brought into existence. Thus, probably, we must expect the latest to be the largest, especially if scientific terms are included. "If a word has two or more meanings," the preface tells us, "the most common meaning has been given first; that is, preference is given to the order of usage over the historical order." Utilitarian this, to be sure. Are history, derivation, association, nowhere in what may be called the valuation of words? If, instead of "A Standard Dictionary of the English Language," this work had been entitled "A Cyclopaedia of Words and Latest Terms for a Busy American," it would have well fulfilled its title. Its compilers have chosen for themselves a wide field, and have labored in it with marked ability and no little success. Every page bears witness of methodical research, and the illustrations are no small help to the understanding of the text. The volumes are a marvel at the price, and deserve to find a good market. Still, the publishers must be prepared to hear objections to any attempts to Americanize the English language.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

Referring to the fire at Huntingdon, Que., last week, whereby some buildings owned by Moody & Sons, of Terrebone, were destroyed, a correspondent of the *St. John's News* says: "Something must be done, and that quickly, in procuring more suitable fire apparatus, either in the way of procuring a more suitable engine or the erection of water-works with the necessary hydrants."

Black and White has a cartoon representing the gods and goddesses up to date, all in the insurance business. The central figure is Jupiter, president of the Ætna, armed with Jove's lightnings; Apollo, with lyre in hand and boys on head, is the manager of the New York Life; Mars, with the sword of war, is represented by the Equitable Life, and to the Mutual Life is given the role of Hercules.

The Ontario Court of Appeal has held, and is sustained by the Supreme Court in its finding, that even where there is no clause in a life policy making it void in case of non-payment of premiums or note given therefor, the fact that a policy-holder died before he paid the whole of a premium, consisting of promissory notes at different dates for the two halves thereof, the policy was void. The deceased had paid one note, but not the other.

On Tuesday evening last the Commodore of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, Mr. W. H. Beatty, entertained on board the yacht "Oriole" a select party of twenty. The entertainment was given in honor of Sir John Gorst and Mr. Ryan, respectively Chairman of the Board of the British Empire Life, and Manager of that company. The dinner on deck in the harbor was a delightful idea, and the subsequent moonlight sail on Lake Ontario was an experience to be remembered.

DRY GOODS JOTTINGS.

Chenille spots and borders prevail in new veilings.

Actresses are called stars probably because they look best at night.

Messrs. Dupont & Wilson intend enlarging their oil cloth factory in Kingston.

Summer costumes will soon be relegated to the closet if these cool breezes keep on.

A glove one size larger than the hand is economical, comfortable, rational and fashionable.

Prices of American Axminsters have been advanced 3d. a yard by Manchester manufacturers.

Next Monday Toronto millinery openings will be held, while a week later on, September 3rd, the Montreal openings begin. It is our intention to give a full report of the styles displayed in Toronto and Montreal during these weeks.

Straw hats will soon be ruled out. Trade in this line has been only moderately good during the season.

Messrs. W. H. Storey & Son, of the Canada Glove Works, are busy making fall shipments just now. Their output at present is about \$30,000 per month.—*Acton Free Press*.

The finance committee of the Quebec city council has recommended that a bonus be granted Mr. Falkenberg, a Manchester manufacturer of waterproof clothing, in the event of his establishing a factory there. The bonus consists of an annual subsidy of \$2,500, payable for five years.

The August issue of the *Dry Goods Review* is a special fall trade number and contains some very interesting matter. Articles upon the coming season's millinery, fall dress goods and the fur trade, with a sketch of the travellers of John Macdonald & Co., are the more prominent features of the issue.

Styles of gloves brought out for fall, the *Economist* remarks, are extremely pretty and in modest shades, principally in soft tones of standard colorings. Many of them show four branch heavy embroiderings that are about equally divided between self and black, while buttons and trimmings match the stitchings. In connection with these standard shades, white and pearl-colored gloves figure prominently in a four-button or seven-hook length.

The *Hat Review* says: "Light and dark browns will be in favor for the fall season; these colors are very generally shown. We are quite confident that a derby with distinct taper crown will find marked favor during the fall and winter: such a shape will prove especially attractive to young men—and, as we have previously remarked, young men determine the styles. Make a note of this pointer. There is a tendency toward fuller crowns, and somewhat wider brims in derbys for the fall season."

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The London cheese market, at its meeting on Saturday, adjourned for two weeks.

The potato bug has been doing a great deal of damage to the crop in Cape Breton.

Messrs. Shields and McShae, grocers, of Weidman, Ont., have moved their stock to St. Thomas.

A shipment of fresh Bosnia prunes, sphinx brand, will be received in this market about September 1st.

Messrs. Fader & Co., of Vancouver, B.C., have arranged to make monthly shipments of fish to the Hawaiian Islands.

Toronto merchants are expecting a large movement in sugars during September, in consequence of reports of a large peach crop in the Niagara district.

During the past week Messrs. Titterington & Pay have shipped from the city over 5,000 baskets of various kinds of choice fruits and vegetables.—*St. Catharines Journal*.

One hundred and thirty-five carloads of green fruit from California were disposed of in New York last week. Receipts were the heaviest on record.—*Shipping and Commercial List*.

The wheat crop of Illinois is estimated at 41,315,000 bushels, the largest since 1882. The acreage is 2,071,000, the largest since 1888. The average yield is 20 bushels per acre, the largest ever known.

There is a big blueberry crop this year, and the shipments from Welsford, Gaspereaux and Hoyt Station have been big. From Welsford so far this year 2,200 bushels have been shipped.—*St. John, N.B., Record*, Aug. 18th.

Notwithstanding the dullness in Montreal shipping circles, there were nearly twice the number of sheep shipped last week as there were in all the previous year's shipments. The figures for the week ending August 18th are 6,680; those of last year, 3,700.

The hop crop at the Mission promises to be an extremely large one this season. Hop culture has now passed beyond the experimental stage in this district, and an extensive addition to the acreage of this crop will be put in next spring.—*Vernon, B.C., News*.

The first steamer with new raisins from Denia will sail late this week. Some transactions have been put through at 6c. for layer Valencia and 5½c. for off-stalk, new duty clause. The fact is deserving of the attention of the California combine.—*New York Bulletin and Journal of Commerce*.

Messrs. Hovey Bros., pork packers and curers, who were recently burned out at North Hatley, Que., have been induced to settle at Sherbrooke and have commenced building operations. They expect to have their building ready for occupation about November 1. Operations will be carried on as an incorporated company, with a capital stock of \$25,000.