

imported from Eastern Canadian and foreign markets, indicating the extent of a market for the products of an extensive tanning establishment if located in Winnipeg.

THE CITY OF BRANTFORD.

Brantford, as we have long known, is a live community. It used to be said that its "liveness" arose in no small degree from its being on the line of the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway, which gave its residents easy opportunity to go across the line and learn smartness from the citizens of Buffalo and other American citizens. But however that may have once been, the Brantford people of to-day require no pointers from Buffalo to make them up-to-date. We have received from the treasurer of the city the financial statement of the corporation for 1894, a pamphlet of 95 pages of sensible-sized print. It contains full particulars of the income and spending of the council, the public library, the Stratford Hospital, the schools and collegiate institute, the boards of health and police, the water works. There are 22½ miles of mains in the city, and 1,674 water-takers; a fire pressure of 90 to 120 pounds. The estimated receipts for 1895 are \$143,700, of which \$108,000 is from taxes (\$6,051,000 at 17 mills, \$318,000 at 12 mills, \$544,000 at 4 mills). Sinking fund and interest on debt will absorb \$41,000. The growth of the place in eighteen years is seen by comparisons. Thus: total value real property was \$2,796,000 in 1877, and is \$5,558,000 now; personal property and taxable income, \$562,000 in 1877, and \$855,000 now (it was \$960,000 in 1890). The population was 10,631 in 1877; it is 15,677 to-day. Brantford is a representative Canadian city.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.

This great corporation held its annual meeting in Liverpool on 28th May, and it is of interest to observe the results of the year to a concern that does business on so large a scale. The report shows that the fire premium income for the year, after deducting reinsurance, amounts to £1,618,128. The losses, inclusive of full provision for all claims that had arisen up to the close of the year, amount to £902,241, or less than 56 per cent. The fire account, after providing for expenses, shows, without the addition of interest, a surplus of £211,456, which has been carried to profit and loss account. The life and annuity funds were, besides, increased by £151,904 during the year, and now amount to £4,608,477, or something more than twenty-three millions of dollars. With so satisfactory a result as these figures indicate, it was decided to pay shareholders a dividend of 32 shillings per share.

It is agreeable to find the leading insurance offices in the British Islands adding year by year to the strength which makes them trusted the world over, and the Old Country press is very complimentary of the company under review. Says that journal: "The Liverpool and London and Globe has consistently maintained throughout the recent cycle of lean years its reputation for a magnificent business and a semi-inspired administration, but it has not of course maintained its percentage of profit at quite the figure at which it used to stand, and which it has now regained. For the three years 1891-3 the loss ratios have run 67, 65 and 66 per cent., respectively. . . . It may be observed that the policy of the Liverpool and London and Globe, as of other great offices, has of late been distinctly conservative in tendency. The fire premiums—which up to 1893 were steadily expanding—were even run off to the extent of about £10,000 in 1894. The other feature of the account is its successful restriction of commission and management charges to the moderate ratio of 31 per cent."

There are one or two items of the fire account expenditure which serve to give an idea of the extent and wide-spread character of this company's operations. One is that the foreign state taxes which it pays exceed \$110,000, and the other that its contributions to fire brigades at home and abroad amounted to \$74,000.

"KEEP ON TRYING."

In commenting on a paper on the subject of Danish butter in England, published in an English review, the *New York Journal of Commerce* gives some hints to the farmers of the United States that merchants and farmers in Canada may do well to heed. For instance, our contemporary says, the American farmer in the past has been too prosperous: "It was too easy to make a living to make it worth while to take much pains about anything." He ought, the *Journal* thinks, to make as good butter as any Dane, but he doesn't; he ought to pack fleeces as well as any Australian, but he doesn't; he ought to cure bacon to suit the English taste, just as people in Europe do, but he thinks he knows better than the Englishman. "As a whole," the conclusion of the writer is, "we are not half trying to find a market for our productions." There is a good deal in this argument. It pays to take pains in producing a good thing. We reproduce the article elsewhere, and

commend it to our readers. Canadians are making progress towards a higher standard of butter making, but we must keep on trying.

MUNICIPAL MEMORANDA.

The taxable property and incomes of the city of Moncton, New Brunswick, amount to \$2,316,375, divided as follows: real estate of residents, \$272,800; real estate of non-residents, \$272,900. Income, \$40,900.

New waterworks are being introduced into the municipality of Hedleyville, near Quebec city, the municipality corporation having borrowed \$55,000 for the purpose. Some fifty men are now at work upon them.

It is stated by the *Winnipeg Free Press* that in order to keep the rate of taxation of that city within two per cent., the finance committee of the city council will have to cut down the estimates as submitted by the various committees fully \$30,000.

For street improvement the council of New Westminster, B.C., recently issued \$20,000 of five per cent. bonds. They were offered on the London market, and the *Vancouver World* correspondent says an offer of 11.02 per cent. premium was obtained, making the issue yield \$22,022. The correspondent, in his glee at so good a price, neglects to state whether the offer was accepted, but we infer that it will be.

We have already given particulars of the negotiations between the city of Moncton, N.B., and the Moncton Gas Light & Water Co., in connection with the taking over of that company's property by the city. On Saturday last the city clerk drew a check on the Bank of Montreal for the sum of \$283,708, and another for \$15,000. The first mentioned sum represents the amount of the award less the \$60,000 bonds, and the latter covers the company's costs in the arbitration proceedings.

Municipal reform is growing to be a live subject in the United States. Its advocates have long planned, and at last arranged a convention from widely distant parts to hold a discussion in Cleveland, O., some days ago. Among the delegates present were Rev. Washington Gladden, D.D., Columbus, O.; Dr. John S. Billings, surgeon-general of the United States army; Mrs. C. A. Runkle, New York; Rev. Donald P. McLaurin, president of the Detroit civic federation; Mayor Wm. M. Kennedy, of Allegheny, Pa.; Prof. Small, of the University of Chicago; Hon. Melville Dewey, of the University of the State of New York; Charles B. Wilky, of Cincinnati; Mayor George W. Ochs, of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Lucius Swift, Indianapolis; Hon. Charles D. Bonaparte, Baltimore, and Hon. Charles Shurtz, of New York. A preliminary meeting of the board of delegates for the transaction of routine business was held on Wednesday afternoon, and the first public session in the room of the Chamber of Commerce in the evening, addressed by several noted municipal reformers.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Hamilton grocers will picnic in Niagara Falls July 17th.

St. Catharines' new fruit cannery will be located opposite the Welland station.

The *Leamington Post* reports that the frost has not hurt the Essex peach crop.

Shipments of Canadian cheese to Manchester via the new canal were a success.

Frozen sturgeon is being sent in car lots from New Westminster, B.C., to Chicago.

It is said that there are twenty-five new cheese factories at work in Western Ontario this season.

Minnie: "I want to introduce you to a young lady—a very nice girl—and she's worth her weight in gold." Bob: "Stout girl, I hope."

Seven British Columbia canneries are packing spring salmon, including the Phoenix, Canoe Pass, Wadham's at Ladner's Landing, R. V. Winch's, and Alex. Ewen's.

A cheese board will be formed in Guelph, and a meeting has been called for the 21st inst., to accomplish this end. The erection of a cold storage building is under discussion.

From June 30th, 1894, to March 31st, 1895, we imported from Australia bananas and pineapples valued at \$1,346; oranges and lemons, \$2,874; butter, \$5,925; canned meats, \$7,418.

The Eastport, N.S., correspondent of the *Digby Courier* says: "The lobster fishery will soon be extinct around these parts unless the Government makes more stringent laws as to the size of the lobster. The lobster fishery is fast going to destruction year after year, caused by the saving of small lobsters for canning."

The Toronto Retail Grocers' Association met in St. George's Hall last Monday evening, Mr. F. S. Roberts presiding. A committee was