A VISITOR to Parry Sound during the present Week found extraordinary activity and progress there, as a consequence of the opening of Booth's road. The elevator at that point, which holds 1,200,000 bushels, was found to be two-thirds full, while the shed, 600 feet long by 80 feet wide, was crowded with freight awaiting shipment east and west. On Thursday last, 1,500 cars were required at Parry Sound to move the grain eastward.

To the 1,500 employees of his Philadelphia store, Mr. Wanamaker gave notice that in the event of war with Spain, the salaries of all men who enter the military service of the government, will be paid to their families during the period of their absence, and that their places will be held Open until they return. In addition to this, the firm will place an insurance of \$1,000 on each employee who gives his service to his country, payable to his family if his life is lost while engaged in military duty.

WE are much pleased to hear of the progress being made by Rhodes, Curry & Co., the well known contracters, of Amherst, N.S., who suffered so severely by fire in March last. The new buildings of the firm are almost completed, and are even better than the ones they replace. The wood-working shop is 175 feet long by 77 wide, two stories high, the bottom flat will be used for heavy car work machinery, and the upper part for the carpentry work of cars. They expect to employ 175 to 200 hands in their car works alone.

Some good orders have been secured by the Londonderry Iron and Steel Company, limited, for cast iron pipes, and its pipe shop is expected to start this week on full time. The works are turning out quantities of iron culvert pipes, which are coming into use not only for railroads, but for ordinary road purposes. They are durable, and hold their position better than Carthenware pipes. The Londonderry company has a contract with J. H. Townshend & Co., contractors for the Coast Railway Co., for two Car loads of 12 and 20-inch pipe, and is negotiating with the Midland Railway for a considerable lot.

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Ir was something very unexpected by the business community of Montreal to learn on Wednesday last that Mr. Thomas Harling, the Canadian representative of the Elder-Dempster line, had resigned his position. That gentleman, since he came to Canada, has taken a Prominent part in shipping matters. Especially has he given time and trouble to the improvement of the harbor of Montreal, partly no doubt, in order to secure facilities for the steamers of his line. Mr. Harling is a member of the council of the Board of Trade. What his future movements or arrangements are we have not learned.

## A STAMP TAX IN THE STATES.

The United States Bill to provide ways and means for carrying on war with Spain contains on bank cheques, drafts or deposit certificates (not drawing interest) over \$20, two cents each; devery bill of exchange, inland draft or deposit certificate (drawing interest), or any promissory note for over \$100, five cents;

Over \$100 and not over \$200, ten cents.

Over \$200 and not over \$350, fifteen cents.

Over \$350 and not over \$500, twenty cents.

Over \$500 and not over \$750, thirty cents.

Over \$350 and not over \$500, twenty cents.
Over \$750 and not over \$750, thirty cents.
Over \$750 and not over \$1,000, forty cents.
Over \$1,000 and not over \$2,500, one dollar.
Over \$2,500 and not over \$5,000, one dollar. and fifty cents.

And for every \$2,500 in excess of \$5,000, one  $d_{ollar}$ 

Foreign bills of exchange or letters of credit, If drawn singly, including express money orders, navy.

(and we presume telegraph money orders), to

pay the same rate of tax as promissory notes. Bills of exchange drawn in sets of three or more; for every bill of each set, for not exceeding \$150, three cents.

Above \$150 and not above \$250, five cents. From \$250 to \$500, ten cents.

- \$500 to \$1,000, fifteen cents. \$1,000 to \$1,500, twenty cents. \$1,500 to \$2,250, thirty "

- \$2 250 to \$3,500, fifty "\$3,500 to \$5,000, seventy "\$5,000 to \$7,500, one dollar.

And for every two thousand five hundred dollars, or part thereof, in excess of seven thousand five hundred dollars, thirty cents.

An authority of the New York clearing house has declared that the banks will make no protest against this tax on checks, not only from patriotic motives, but also as a result of economic considerations. Such a tax would, it is nomic considerations. Such a tax would, it is believed, exercise a material influence in the direction of decreasing the current tendency toward the indiscriminate drawing of small checks. It is said that the number of checks passing through the New York clearing house daily is not far from 300,000. This does not include the checks paid over the counter at the parks and it is estimated that the number of banks, and it is estimated that the number of checks issued daily, including all large centres of the country, is not less in number than 500,-000. This number, at two cents per check, would yield the United States Government a daily revenue of \$10,000, or at the rate of \$3,000,000 a year.

#### A BOOKKEEPER'S TRIALS.

A bookkeeper in a local wholesale house had been spending sleepless nights for three weeks in fruitless efforts to make his books balance. There was an apparent shortage of \$900 that could not be accounted for. He added up columns and struck balances until he was almost insane. He finally worked himself into that frame of mind that usually lands a man in Canada, the insane asylum, or a suicide's grave, when the manager of the house invited his confidence. Then they went over the books together, but the \$900 shortage was still

The head of the house was called in and the work of overhauling accounts commenced again. They had not gone far till they came to an entry of \$1,900.

"Why, that should be \$1,000," declared the employer. "How did it happen to be entered

A careful examination showed that a fly had been smashed between the pages of the cash book, and one leg of the dead fly made a tail of the first cipher of the \$1,000 entry, converting it into a 9.—San Francisco Post.

—Disgruntled Cyclist (trundling his machine over country highway)—This is what you call roadmaking here, is it? Scraping loose dirt up over the centre and leaving it there for the heavy waggons to cut up into ruts!

Sturdy Farmer—Young feller, I've been Highway Commissioner fur this township twenty-seven year, and I learned roadmakin' from my father. He had the office 'fore I did. Do you reckon you kin teach me anything about it, mister?—Chicago Tribune. Tribune.

—The Yarmouth News makes the following not very comforting suggestion, as the result of a conversation with a gentleman familiar with the New England fishing business: This gentleman said the report of the presence of a Spanish cruiser off Newfoundland would cause very great uneasiness. While it is true many of the vessels are held at home in consequence of the war, there must be from Maine and Massachusetts fully a hundred sail of fishermen on the banks. These vessels will average \$10,000 a piece in value and would be all together, so they might easily be seized and destroyed. Thus at one swoop Spain might deprive the United States of a million dollars' worth of property and make prisoners of 1,600 to 1,800 men, who would make the best of recruits for the United States navy. -The Yarmouth News makes the fol-

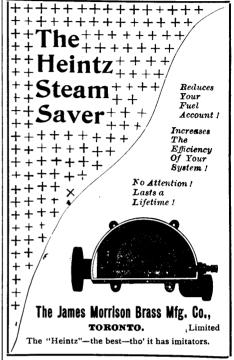
## Debentures.

Municipal Debentures bought and sold, also Government and Railway Bonds. Securities suitable for Investment by Trustees and Insurance Companies and for Deposit with the Government, always on hand.

### GEO. A. STIMSON & CO..

24-26 King St. West,

Toronto, Ont.





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