

Enquiries for machinery are more numerous of late and orders improving. We think there is appearance of a decided improvement in the future, so much so that we have arranged to make some considerable alterations in our machinery and buildings during the winter. We propose adding the manufacture of additional machines to our list in the power knitting machinery line, and to embrace the heating of factories and private houses by improved steam-heating devices."

OPINIONS ON TRADE MATTERS.

Messrs. White, Upham & White, Leather Manufacturers, at Sussex, N.B., have to say, With respect to business for the current season, that "we are well satisfied with our year's business. From some cause, hides have advanced very much in the last four months. We expect leather to advance in price as well, and for this reason we feel satisfied with the prospect."

Mr. John Kidd, of Athlone, Ont., long a merchant in that neighborhood, says: "I find yours the most interesting of editorial matter. I cannot complain as to trade, except in respect to cash payments and these, in this locality, I must say, are behind those of former years. Credit should be curtailed, for the benefit of both merchant and farmer."

The views on the subject of advertising, &c. of Messrs. Haines & Lockett, Belleville, Kingston and Trenton, are: "Your paper we value very highly, and we would say in reply to your question as to the state of trade in our locality, that twenty years experience in the boot and shoe business has taught us that it pays to advertise liberally, and to do all we promise. In "hard times" we put forth additional effort in this direction and as a result our sales for 1885 are larger than for any previous year, while many are lamenting a considerable falling off."

E. H. Phelps & Co., of Merritton, express the opinion that on the whole business is as good this year as last, "in fact some of our manufacturers appear to have more to do. The Riordan Paper Mills, also the Merritton Cotton Mills have gone to considerable expense in putting into their mills patent sprinklers for fire protection. Mr. J. B. Dolan, the manager of the latter mills, has just returned from the south, where he has purchased a large supply of raw cotton and we understand it is the intention to run the mills full time this winter with over two hundred hands. All the other mills appear to be busy."

Renters of farms—and there are a good many of them in this neighborhood, says Mr. R. J. Davison, of Newmarket "have found their burdens heavy, between the low prices of last year and the almost total failure of the spring wheat crop this year, the purchasing power of a very important class has been thereby restricted. We have a good cash market in this town for the farmer's small produce—butter, eggs, fruit, vegetables, &c., but our grain market is very much hampered by the high tariff of the Northern Railway. It is the earnest wish of many a business man and many a farmer that the Northern may soon be taken hold of by either the G. T. R. or the C. P. R. that we may be placed on an equal footing with towns on the branches of either of those lines."

—The Londonderry Iron works of Nova Scotia are engaged in rolling hundreds of tons of iron for the Lachine bridge, a fact worth noting in the history of Canadian manufactures.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

R. T. R.; Que.—Enquires whether there is any reliable Insurance Company in Ontario in which he can insure a frame grist mill, with stones, for a more reasonable rate than 3½ per cent. [We reply that as to the rate, something depends on whether it is a steam or water-power mill, also, on whether, in the latter case, the boiler-house is detached, if so, the rate may be 3 to 3½. Some mutual company may take the risk, if the applicant chooses to give a premium note and take his chances of assessment.]

G. G. G.; Strathroy.—Shall make enquiry. We find nothing on the subject in the last report of that company. It does, we believe, take some risks of the kind you describe.

INSURANCE NOTES.

It has been authoritatively announced that the present Superintendent of Insurance for the State of New York, Mr. John A. McCall, would not be a candidate for reappointment at the end of his term, January 1st, and the news has been received with regret by the insurance fraternity generally. In the opinion of the N.Y. *Bulletin*, the effect on general insurance interest cannot fail to be felt. "Mr. McCall has been an ideal Superintendent. Although of pronounced political views, and not diffident in expressing them at proper times, he has never allowed politics or partizanship to influence his opinions or action in insurance matters. He has been the most outspoken, and yet the most impartial, official of all the Insurance Superintendents New York has ever had. His appointment was received with general acclamation as one that ought to be made; his retirement will be considered a public misfortune. And now comes the misery of doubt as to who will be his successor. This is a serious question, and one which occupies the thoughts of both insurers and insured." Mr. McCall becomes one of the officers of the Equitable Insurance Society of the United States, which shows wisdom in getting the benefit of his experience and executive ability.

We have to thank the Citizens and other Insurance Companies for copies of their calendars for 1886. The device of that of the company named is a circular band containing the signs of the Zodiac, and in the centre a winter view of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa. An unique design is that adopted by the Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co. of Canada: a view of a furnace front, the flues uncovered; in the flue spaces appear numbers indicating the days of the months. The motto of the company, "Safety and Economy," adorns the top, near the steam drum, and scattered over the face of the furnace are the names of its officers. As neat a calendar as we have seen is that of the Confederation Life Assurance Co. Its principal feature is an excellent lithographed portrait of the late Sir Francis Hincks, the first president of that company. The colors of the calendar are harmonious and its execution good. That of the Western, though small, is a beauty.

An interesting statement is made to the *Boston Globe* by the President of the Union Mutual Life Insurance Company. "The effect of the increased business of the country has been to give us," says Mr. DeWitt; "a smaller proportion of mortality for the last three months than for the same length of time for ten years. This clearly demonstrates that a depressed condition of business not only increases fire waste but mortality also. In a recent visit to New York I was in-

formed by a reliable authority that the fire insurance interest during September, as a whole, had the smallest loss experienced during any September for five years. I understand that for November the Galveston fire changed this a little, but not materially."

The directors of the Guardian Fire and Life Assurance Company of London have resolved to pay an interim dividend of 25s. per share (being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum) on the 1st of January. The Guardian has a paid-up capital of £1,000,000 or \$5,000,000.

The Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York makes a sensible present to its patrons in the shape of a portfolio, which contains a calendar for 1886. This is so arranged that the reader's eye shall rest on the printed statements concerning the company's policies, which are proudly boasted to be "the simplest, most liberal and most comprehensive ever issued."

COUNTERFEIT BANK NOTES.

Some of our subscribers have asked for a brief memorandum of what counterfeit Canadian bills they should be on the lookout for. One of them has been victimized by a \$4 bill on the Dominion Bank. We note the following plates or photographs from *Dye's Detector*: TEN; Maritime Bank. Dated St. John, N. B. Letter A. Numbered 00737.

TEN; Merchants Bank of Halifax. Photograph and Lithograph combined.

TEN; Ontario Bank. New issue. Letter A. Dated Bowmanville, Nov. 1, 1870.

TEN; Bank of British North America. Ottawa branch. Photograph.

TEN; People's Bank of N. B. Photograph.

TEN; La Banque Nationale.

FIVE; Bank of Nova Scotia. Dated 5 July, 1877. Letter B. 126304.

FIVE; Bank of B. N. A. Old issue. Kingston branch. Dated 1 May, 1875.

FIVE; Canadian Bank of Commerce. Old issue. Letter C. Dated 1 May, 1871.

FIVE; Bank of Toronto. Photograph. Port Hope issue of notes. Letter E; date 1 July, 1880. Number 45831.

FIVE; Union Bank of P. E. I. Photograph. Plate A.

FIVE; Bank B. N. A. New issue. Letter D.

FIVE; Bank B. N. A. Quebec branch. Old issue. Photograph.

FIVE; raised to TEN. Canadian Bank Commerce. New issue.

FIVE; raised to TEN. Imperial Bank.

ONE; Dominion of Canada. Old government issue. Letter D. Dated Ottawa July 1st, 1870.

ONE; Union Bank of P. E. I. Dated Jan. 1, 1872. No. 30252.

ONE; raised to 4. New government issue with portrait of Lady Dufferin in centre.

Two; Dominion of Canada. New government issue. Letter C. Dated June 1st, 1878.

Two; Union Bank of P. E. I. Photograph. Old issue.

Two; Union Bank of P. E. I. New issue of notes. Letter A. Dated March 1st, 1875.

Four; Bank of B. N. A. St. John branch, N. B. Old issue. Photograph.

Four; Dominion Bank. Old issue. Letter B. Dated Feby. 1st, 1871.

Four; raised to 10. Canadian Bank of Commerce. Altered with pen and ink. Very clever.

—It is said that the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy road had just ordered 10,000 tons of steel rails in England.