

tion by fire of St. Romuald, or Etchemin, near Levis, of a handsome college building erected in 1890 by the Freres Maristes. The municipality possessed no adequate means of fighting the flames, says the telegram, in a matter-of-fact way. The loss is placed at \$15,000 on which there is an insurance of \$6,000. Happily no lives are lost this time.

THE CHEESE MARKETS.

It is curious to note the difference in the amount of the offerings in the cheese markets this year as compared with a year ago. For the week ending Thursday, 29th inst., at 17 meetings 22,698 boxes of cheese were boarded, while the corresponding week in 1897 at 17 meetings 33,602 boxes of cheese were boarded. Last year the average price of cheese was 9¼c. per lb., while quotations last week ranged between 8½ and 9.5-16c. per pound. The Brockville Board passed a resolution unanimously disapproving of the proposed enforcement of the bill introduced to the House of Commons by C. H. Parmelee, M.P., and entitled, "An Act to prohibit improper speculation in the sale of butter and cheese." Speaking on the matter several prominent dairymen expressed their views strongly, showing that the Act would be exceedingly detrimental to the best interests of dairying. We append our usual table:

Boards and Date of meeting.	No. of facto- ries.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold. Boxes.	Price per lb. Cts.
Kingston, Sept. 22.....	..	1,294	500	9
Brockville, Sept. 22.....	..	3,483	1,442	9 3-16-¼
Perth, Sept. 23.....	..	1,400	1,400	9 3-16
Ottawa, Sept. 23.....	..	1,464	1,208	9 ½-¾
Brighton, Sept. 23.....	9	785	170	9
Brantford, Sept. 23.....	..	2,445	945	8¾-9
Iroquois, Sept. 23.....	..	345	345	9¼
South Finch, Sept. 23..	..	668	200	9¼
Lindsay, Sept. 24.....	..	1,495	1,495	8 15-16
London, Sept. 24.....	8	1,405	1,405	8½-9½
Belleville, Sept. 27.....	16	875	...	9
Ingersoll, Sept. 27.....	..	760	...	9
Campbellford, Sept. 27..	..	690	590	9¼-5-16
Stirling, Sept. 28.....	..	1,200	1,200	9¼
Brockville, Sept. 28.....	..	3,059	...	9¼
Picton, Sept. 28.....	9	525	...	9
Tweed, Sept. 28.....	..	805	665	9 5-16

RELATIVE PROGRESS IN CHEESE AND BUTTER.

Something like an approximation of the growth in output of dairy product by this country during the past third of a century can be made by studying the increase in the number of cheese and butter factories in the Dominion since 1871, and the enlarged capacity of them:

Cheese factories in Canada—

1871.....	353
1881.....	709
1891.....	1,565
1897.....	2,556

Besides 203 factories which produce both butter and cheese. The growth of the creamery industry is illustrated by the following figures:

Creameries in Canada—

1871.....	None
1881.....	46
1891.....	170
1898.....	559

These figures are from Mr. George Johnson, the Dominion statistician, who says that the average output of cheese in 1891 was valued at \$6,250 per factory, and in 1871 it was worth \$4,570. The average value per factory for 1897-98, Mr. Johnson estimates at \$5,570, or about \$1,000 more than in 1871, giving an output in 1897 of about \$15,800,000 against an output in 1891 of \$9,780,000; in 1881 of \$5,460,000, and in 1871, of \$1,602,000. In 1891 the output of butter per factory was \$5,400. At the same rate the output in 1897-98 would be about \$3,018,600.

—The vote of yesterday shows a majority polled in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces in favor of prohibition, and in Quebec against it. Total majority for, probably 18,000.

—A proper step in the interest of the city was taken at Vancouver last week. On Wednesday of last week a dozen merchants and firms of that city were before the Court charged with neglect to remove rubbish and inflammable material from their yards. The by-law infringed was No. 162 of the city, which provides for a monthly examination by the building inspector of all yards and premises contiguous to dwellings. The extraordinary plea was made on behalf of the merchants that this by-law only applied to yards contiguous to dwellings and that it did not affect yards contiguous to shops. A lengthened argument ensued, Magistrate Russell commenting that he was astonished to see business men who were virtually interested in fire protection trying to avoid responsibility on technical points. Two firms pleaded guilty; two cases were dismissed, and two withdrawn; the others were progressing when The Province of 21st instant was published.

It is interesting to learn, as we do from the recent compilation of figures respecting the United States cotton crop and its domestic use, that the consumption of cotton in the north, even during the last season, was 51 per cent. larger than the consumption in the south. But there are certain classes of goods, the coarser and medium makes, which the south can make cheaper than the north, and those classes compete with the product of so large a portion of the spindles in the north that the general market the past year has in good part taken its tone from that situation. "In other words, our northern markets have during 1897-98 been over supplied, and, as a result, stocks of goods have continued burdensome and values as a rule unremunerative. At the same time, with this as the position of affairs here, the mills in the south have enjoyed a fairly profitable twelve months, some of the larger mills running night and day."

—The following curiosity appears in the columns of The Insurance Record of London, September 16th: "A destructive fire occurred at New Westminster, Victoria, Australia, the damage being estimated at £500,000, of which about one-half is covered by insurance. The fire started among some straw in a vacant warehouse, and has reduced the business portion of the town to ruins, thousands of persons being rendered homeless." Manifestly this is intended to refer to the fire at New Westminster, British Columbia, which is on the Pacific shore of the Dominion of Canada, and several thousand miles from the Australian continent. Alas! for our contemporary's knowledge of the geography of "the colonies." If there were such a place as New Westminster in Victoria, Australia, containing £500,000 worth of property to burn there would be some excuse for the Record's wild guessing.

—In a paper before the British Association at Bristol, entitled "The Economical and Social Effects of Electric Traction," Professor Sylvanus Thompson, who had been out in Canada the previous year, told his audience how far Canada was ahead of the Old Country in street railways. He said: "Before its introduction the artisans lived near their places of work in dirty and dingy surroundings, now for the most part they had idyllic homes, with gardens, in the suburbs. The gain to cleanliness was immense."

—A branch of the Union Bank of Canada was on Saturday last opened in Carleton Place, Ont. It is under the charge of Mr. Ashe, formerly of the branch at Norwood.

CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, Sept. 29th, 1898, compared with those of the previous week

CLEARINGS.	Sept. 29th, 1898.	Sept. 22nd, 1898.
Montreal.....	\$14,169,376	\$14,221,482
Toronto	7,653,419	8,316,159
Winnipeg	1,596,412	1,551,151
Halifax	1,046,695	1,153,816
Hamilton	558,831	719,519
St. John	520,832	687,157
	<u>\$25,545,565</u>	<u>\$26,599,284</u>

Aggregate balances this week, \$4,288,248; last week, \$3,751,911.