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official organ of Canadian bankers, and the compiler of 'Canadian Banking Practice' cheerfully admits that, if this book is favorably regarded by its readers, any praise bestowed upon it belongs in great measure to Messrs. Plummer, Henderson, Hay, and the present Journal Questions Committee." It is stated, and we can quite believe it, that the hundreds of questions received and answered during these eight or nine years deal with nearly every possible point of practical interest likely to present itself during the daily routine of a bank. The book may therefore be expected to be one of interest and value.

—The customs collections at Toronto for last month amounted to \$742,988, an increase of \$175,005 over the month of May last year.

—Speaking on Wednesday evening to a Montreal reporter about the strike of the employees of the Dominion Iron & Steel Company at Sydney, which we mention elsewhere, Senator Forget, one of the directors said: "This strike is the best possible thing for the company. We have been running along, not making a dollar, the plant being operated clearly in the interests of the men, and with the hope that the Dominion Government would see fit to give us the benefit of a protective tariff. As it now stands, we simply close down the manufacturing plant indefinitely, and proceed with the work of building up the different mills now under construction."

—A report from Belfast, Ireland, says that the linen trade keeps fairly satisfactory. The volume of business is fully maintained, and values continue firm and steady. Business in the yarn market is very fair. Buying is somewhat of a hand-to-mouth character, orders being given for what is actually required, and these in the aggregate total up equal to production. The deliveries of some yarns are inconveniently in arrear. Prices are maintained. In the brown cloth market trade has an improving tendency. Unions are in growing request, and the warmer weather is having a good influence on the sale of dress goods. Damasks and household linens generally are the turn better. The handkerchief trade is moderate, and the making-up factories are doing a little more. The shipping trade shows signs of improvement. There is further increase from the United States, and the demand from Cuba is steadily growing. The South American markets are also doing better. Canadian trade is fair.

—A Bradford (Yorks) correspondent of the Drapers' Record says there seems to be every reason to expect that the present prices of merino will be fully sustained for some time to come, although to-day's prices are actually higher than they have been at any time since the high period immediately preceding the opening of the present cen-

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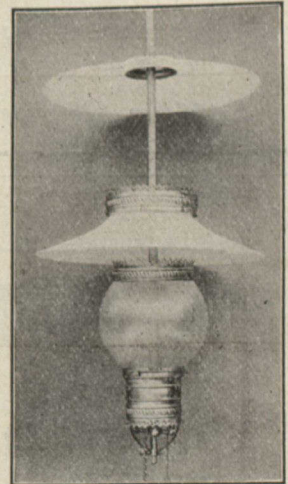
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tury. Cheaper kinds of crossbred colonial wools are actually over 100 per cent. higher than during the lowest point of 1902. These coarser grades are, however, without doubt, relatively dear and only the shortage in the supply and the high price of cotton can account for such values.

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