

poets are among the men who are coming rapidly to the front, and this volume of their best verses in collected form will win widespread popularity."

"Tan Pile Jim; or, a Yankee Waif among the Bluenoses." Such is the name of a pretty 8vo. story, of which the *Literary News* says: "A little waif was found one morning in a little seaport town of Nova Scotia, by James Payzant, the tanner of the town, and one of nature's noblemen. The little boy had escaped from a Yankee fishing sloop, where he had been brutally treated, and had lain down despairing in the woods, after being refused shelter on account of his rags and generally trampish appearance. Old Mr. Payzant and his dear old wife took the boy in and put him in the place of the drowned lad at sea."

An invention has been patented by a Dundee gentleman which is causing some stir in paper-making circles. The purpose of the invention is to make up by machinery paper of the quality and with all the characteristics of hand-made paper. At the present time hand-made paper is much in demand, but it is necessarily much more expensive than machine-made. This invention, however, reduces the cost approximately to that of paper made by machines. The inventor is Mr. R. W. Moncrieff, a native of Dundee. He is now at the Rush paper mills, near Northampton, where his invention is in regular use.—*Effective Advertiser*.

#### LUMBER AND TIMBER PIECES.

Messrs. Maitland, Rixon & Co., of Owen Sound, are shipping an order of 400,000 feet of cedar construction timber for the Grand Trunk Railway.

The British ship "Alexander" is under charter to carry a cargo of British Columbia lumber to Calais, France. This is, if we do not mistake, the first shipment from that province to Calais.

Gilmour & Hughson will have 17 more shanties on the Gatineau River than last season. If the winter prove a good one for taking out logs, the cut is likely to be the largest ever made by this company.

It is stated that 104,555,000 feet of logs have been taken out of the Spanish River this summer to American mills. It is estimated that not less than 60,000,000 feet will yet be brought down this season for the same market.

The British Columbia Logging Co. has been organized with a capital stock of \$50,000 divided into one thousand shares. The head offices are at Vancouver, B.C., and the trustees, Messrs. J. H. Taylor, Jonathan Crook and Elmer Evans.

In New Brunswick nearly all the mills on the Miramichi closed last week for want of logs. One or two will run for a short time to finish cargoes for vessels consigned to them. The mills on the Restigouche have enough logs to keep them busy till snow flies.

The Assiniboine Lumber Company is applying for incorporation. The chief base of operations of the company will be at Brandon, Man. The capital stock is to be \$100,000, in 1,000 shares of \$100 each. The first directors of the company are to be J. A. Christie, W. M. Alexander, G. Aske, J. Hanbury and R. M. Matheson, all of Brandon.

North Shore lumbermen are making preparations for the woods. Several cars of horses have been imported from Prince Edward Island for the winter's work. The Albert county lumber operators are also preparing extensively for the winter's work, and generally the outlook is that the winter's operations will be on a larger scale than for several years.—*Moncton, N.B., Times*.

#### FIRE INSURANCE MATTERS.

A contract has been given to Stanley Winslow of sinking five tanks or wells for the purpose of supplying the town of Shediac, N.B., with water in cases of fire. The town purchased a hand fire engine last summer, and now they are sinking tanks to complete the proposed method of fire protection.

Although the gathering of the Canadian Fire Underwriters last week lasted during most of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the proceedings were, to a great extent, of a technical nature. The reports of the Montreal and Toronto secretaries were read and referred to the proper committees. Much of the business upon the agenda was delegated to committees A, B and C, who devoted most of Thursday to their consideration, with the result that their recommendations were for the most part adopted.

Mr. Thomas R. Wood, of the *Ætna*, was re-elected president of the association. The resignation of Mr. Thomas Davidson, of the North British and Mercantile office, Montreal, by reason of ill health, was accepted with regret, and in his room Mr. W. W. Evans, of the London and Lancashire office in Montreal, was chosen to the office. The second vice-president, Mr. P. H. Sims, of the British America, was re-elected. The two secretaries, Robt. McLean, Toronto, and A. W.

Hadrill, Montreal, were re-elected. A lunch was given by the western members of the board to their eastern brethren.

The number for October 5th of the *Chicago Argus*, containing 68 pages, is a worthy tribute to that important body, the Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest, a condensed history of which is given in its pages. No fewer than forty-seven portraits are supplied of former and present presidents and members of boards since the organization, twenty odd years. And they are first-class portraits, too, of cabinet size. The whole proceedings of last month's convention are given, too, with admirable fulness. Ten pages are also devoted to the proceedings of the Mutual Life & Accident folks in Boston, and a dozen portraits illustrate that portion. Beautiful paper and clear type make the number one which people like to read and to keep for reference.

#### CANADIAN HOPS.

The market for new hops may scarcely be considered as fully opened yet, although the hop harvest has been finished in most sections of the country some weeks ago. Brewers appear to have a supply of old hops on hand, and evidently think that the views of growers will not grow stronger with time. At present there is quite a difference between the ideas of buyers and sellers. The few transactions passing are made upon a very low basis. We hear of sales in Toronto at 9c. per pound. During the last few years hop growers have made money; this has served to encourage them to add to their yards, and given others an impetus to go into the industry, and as a result the acreage in Canada has been largely increased.

Regarding the extent and quality of this year's crop, sensational reports have come from Prince Edward county, an important centre of the Canadian industry. A dispatch to a Montreal paper from Kingston says: "There is not more than half a hop crop in this district this season. About the middle of September a blight attacked the hops, turning them black and brown, so much so that not half of the crop has been picked, the other half not being worth the labor." Although this may be true of some localities, it certainly will not apply to the whole county.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Exhibition Number of the *Maritime Grocer* is a credit to its publishers, and we thank Messrs. A. M. Bauld, the president, and I. C. Stewart, the secretary, of the publishing company which issues it, for sending us a specimen. It consists of 70 pages, with tinted cover, and advertisements cover 32 of these pages, which is an earnest of the way in which the business people down by the salt water support a trade journal; and the advertisers are not all grocers, either. The printers have shown, in the *Maritime Grocer*, unusually good taste in displaying cards and in varying them. Seeton & Co.'s advertisement, in particular, is a specimen of this, while Mott's two half pages and the Confederation Life advertisement are very neat. As to the contents, Mr. J. A. Chipman contributes an article on the West India trade. "Forty Years in Business" would have made his paper more interesting if he had put some persons and incidents into it. People are led to expect something of the sort from its title. It was an excellent notion to give portraits of some of the former presidents of the Halifax Board of Trade. The venerable head of Mr. Silver, the rugged, strong face of Mr. Stairs, the less stern, and, to Western readers, more familiar countenances of Messrs. Doull and Pickford—these, as well as the pictures of present officers and of St. John dignitaries, will be welcomed by many. It is a pity, however, that the photographic views are for the most part unworthy illustrations of the beautiful landscapes they represent.

#### CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday, Oct. 11th, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Oct. 11.	Oct. 4.
Montreal .....	\$11,958,157	\$13,321,508
Toronto .....	6,343,364	5,863,376
Halifax .....	1,253,087	1,405,056
Winnipeg .....	1,558,452	1,489,922
Hamilton .....	744,726	658,189
Total .....	\$21,857,786	\$22,738,051

Aggregate balances this week, \$2,938,128; last week, \$3,643,818.

—Barley from Russia to America is one of the latest features to be announced. A steamer has been chartered to carry barley from the Black Sea to New York, where it would cost, duty paid, about 50 cents per bushel. It has been offered in Montreal at 37½ cents, freight and insurance paid.