

gear; the "Handy Favorite" gear; the "Boss side-spring" gear; and the "Boss Elliptic-spring" gear have furnished the top buggies and democrats shown.

Matthew Guy, of Toronto, occupies a large portion of the carriage building with his quiet, cosy-looking vehicles, not a few of which are already sold. In his collection are both open and topped "Vis a Vis," a Gladstone Top, an open double carriage, and a very roomy and inviting vehicle called, by the card, an Extension Top carriage. Next to these is a Prince Albert buggy, and a vehicle, the name of which we cannot spell out; it is just as neat as all the rest, however.

Besides being a handsome piece of office furniture, the Tucker File, as shown by Messrs. Grand & Toy, of this city, presents the greater virtue of usefulness. By an ingenious system of files contained in lettered receptacles, all the correspondence, invoices, account-sales, etc., appertaining to the most extensive business can be quickly referred to. As they are made in all sizes and at various prices the excuse for retaining the old-fashioned pointed file or more modern clip, cannot be said to possess much weight.

#### INSURANCE NOTES.

A San Francisco grocer has been sued for refusing to hand over the fire-alarm box-key which was in his possession, in order that an alarm might be given. The delay thus caused resulted in increased loss to plaintiff's house, so it is claimed.

An American Steam Boiler Inspection and Ins. Co., the Hartford, has outstanding policies on 23,000 steam boilers, on only one of which has it met with a loss since the beginning of the present year. The management has become so expert in the matter of prevention that the insurance part of the title is almost a misnomer.

The Fire Association of New York has run a year and sunk half its capital. The department, says the *Monitor*, takes more words than this to say so, but this is about the size of it, and no one is particularly surprised at the result, and no one, so far as heard from, is shedding any tears—no one outside the F. A. O. N. Y. "If men wholly without experience in the business should start a mill, or a mine, or a store, and run it on the heroic broad-gauge plan and snap their fingers at the old fogies who have learned to go slow, the old millers or miners or storekeepers would quietly smile and look forward to the sanctifying effects of time on the vigorous competitor. Sometimes it takes a year, sometimes more or less, but harvest almost always resembles the seed sown, and the Association people are simply reaping their own. Let them repair damages, learn wisdom and try it again, it will do them good. Lots of wise men have come out of just such troubles as they are now in."

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Insured;" Trent.—It is evident you have not read your *MONETARY TIMES* of 19th ult. You will find the cause of the rumors there explained. Further light was given as to the condition and prospects of the company in our issue of Sept. 2nd. It is not easy to say what will be the outcome of the blanket-policy line of procedure.

H. M. L.; Quebec.—Communication received and held over. Congratulate you on the outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual improvement. It would be unwise

to accept hastily any such proposals as those made if they tie you down; better visit Toronto and talk it over with the parties. The time is opportune, there are many visitors here.

S. L.—The largest Canadian life office is the Canada Life. Both the companies you mention are respectable ones.

#### WEST INDIA TRADE.

A correspondent in Eastern Quebec writes as if questioning the possibility that the aggregate yearly exchange of merchandise between the West Indies and the United States can reach a hundred millions. And he asks us to specify the American imports and exports for any recent twelve months, preferably those of 1884-5. We have not the figures for that year, but are told that they were at least as much as the average yearly trade of the United States with the West Indies, which is as we stated it last week. We append the import and export trade of that country with the different West India Islands, &c., in 1881, in round thousands. The aggregate is nearly \$104,000,000.

##### EXPORTS FROM U. S. TO WEST INDIES.

To Danish West Indies.....	\$ 733,000
" French " .....	1,555,000
" French Guiana.....	65,000
" British West Indies and Guiana	10,500,000
" Hayti.....	4,500,000
" Dutch West Indies..	940,000
" Dutch Guiana.....	249,000
" San Domingo.....	802,000
" Cuba.....	12,153,000
" Porto Rico.....	1,800,000
	\$33,297,000

##### U. S. IMPORTS FROM WEST INDIES.

From Danish West Indies.....	\$ 359,900
" French " .....	2,464,000
" French Guiana.....	3,000
" San Domingo.....	924,000
" Cuba.....	63,003,000
" Porto Rico.....	3,860,000
	\$70,613,900

—A paragraph concerning financial affairs in London appeared in the *Toronto World* of Saturday last, alleging that in consequence of difficulties in connection with the Ontario Investment Association and the Bank of London, deposits were being rapidly withdrawn from the various loan companies in that city. And further, that two manufacturing concerns, named, were "in financial embarrassment." We have had two letters, both from well-informed and prominent business men, in London, alluding to this paragraph. Both insist that it is exaggerated in tone and erroneous as to specific facts. They say that instead of deposits leaving the loan companies, to their knowledge they are increasing in two of them; and that the other reports are untrue. We have since made independent enquiry and find that the story of financial embarrassment is unfounded in the case of, at least, one of the firms. It is a pity that wholesale statements of so injurious a kind should be made, with imperfect knowledge of the facts.

—The Toronto Stock Exchange has shown considerable vitality, considering the all-absorbing interest of the Industrial Exhibition, to attend which two sessions of the Board were dropped. The course of prices has been irregular but mostly in the direction of better values. The tone of bank shares was again firm with the exception of Central and Federal, which seem rather heavy. Montreal rose  $\frac{1}{4}$  in bid, to 233, and Ontario and Toronto were each 1%

higher. British America Assurance was easier, being offered at 114, but Western gained  $\frac{1}{4}$  in bids, 146 $\frac{1}{4}$  being now offered, without sellers. In Canada North-West Land a drop of 3/- occurred, to 50/-. A scattering demand continues for Loan Societies' shares, and alterations are generally toward higher prices. The rates for money are unchanged.

—On a recent visit to this country, Mr. G. W. Hooper, president of the Carriage Builders' Guild, of London, Eng., made some practical suggestions as to the disposal of sawdust refuse which, in the Ottawa river, threatens to prove a serious impediment to navigation. Many years ago French merchants discovered that immense quantities of coal dust could be had at the English collieries for next to nothing, and this, with the wood refuse, they secured and by adding some simple compound compressed the product into blocks which are now largely used for heating the furnaces of their steam engine boilers. Mr. Hooper urges that the waste dust and chips of the Ottawa mills should be converted in a similar manner into charcoal and exported to England where such fuel is valuable for many trades, especially metal working.

—Our Montreal correspondent emphasises the importance of observing the law with respect to the killing of muskrats. The earliest date in most of the provinces is said to be 15th October and by killing too early, before the fur has a chance to thicken, the dealer will likely have his labor for nothing. This was strikingly illustrated in the case of a consignment of skins sent recently to Montreal from the North-West. It did not realize sufficient to meet freight charges. Reports from the new districts opening up north of Lake Superior state that the creeks and swamps are swarming with the rat and prices are likely to be lower.

—Messrs. R. I. Hart, of Halifax, John McDougald, and Robert McNeil, of Pictou, have been appointed liquidators of the Pictou Bank, under the provisions of the special Act obtained, last winter, from the Dominion Parliament. The assets of the bank are pretty well squeezed out, but, including the Logan life policy, it is supposed some \$50,000 will be repaid shareholders or about 20 per cent. of the paid up capital. Thus another small bank disappears from the governmental returns.

—Mayor O'Mullin and Mr. A. R. Mackinlay have been elected directors of the Peoples' Bank of Halifax. Hon. R. Boak has resigned the presidency of the Halifax Gas Co. and A. R. Mackinlay has succeeded him, while Mr. George Mitchell, of the firm of G. P. Mitchell & Sons, replaces Mr. Boak as president of the Merchants' Marine Insurance Co. Hon. Mr. Boak, who has been a leading merchant and banker for half a century, has retired through impaired health.

#### Correspondence.

##### COMMERCIAL UNION.

To the Editor of the *Monetary Times*.

SIR,—I have read with unqualified pleasure your article of Sept. 2nd upon the question of Commercial Union, and am glad to find the voice of the great mercantile interests of the country has found in your utterances so emphatic and able a protest against the new cry. Such a scheme as that proposed is incapable