

Mortimer, Toronto, and devoted to the interests which its name imports. It professes to be a journal of modern constructive methods, and usually contains illustrations of architects' or decorators' designs, and also of matters connected with building, manufactures or sanitary engineering. We quote from an editorial on the subject of technical instruction to artisans, which has been before the City Council of Toronto for two or three years, and on which action has at last been taken, an appropriation of \$6,000 having been made for founding a school. "A Board of Management is appointed, comprising representatives of the City Council, the Architectural Guild, the Trades and Labor Council, the Association of Stationary Engineers and the Manufacturing interest. The Toronto Architectural Guild will be represented on the board by Messrs. S. G. Curry and Mr. E. Burke. It has wisely been decided to establish at present but one school, to be located in the centre of the city. The course of instruction has not yet been outlined. The selection of subjects to be taught is a matter requiring the most careful consideration, and will, we trust, be approached with due deliberation and a proper knowledge of the requirements of the various classes of students. In view of the decadence of the apprenticeship system, it is from technical schools the coming generation must receive instruction of an elementary character pertaining to the various trades, a fact which should give additional interest to the present movement. Gratifying success has attended the classes for technical instruction conducted for several years past in the city of Montreal, under the direction of the Council of Arts and Manufactures of the Province of Quebec, and if equal interest is manifested, the success of the Toronto school will be assured."

By an inadvertence the stanza which appeared in our issue of 18th ult., and which runs as follows:—

The plough breeds a hay-seed - the city a cad,
 'Tis the same from Beersheba to Dan;
 The town boy's a man when he should be a lad,
 And a child when he should be a man—

was not credited. We had intended to say that it was written by Mr. H. K. Cockin, of this city, whose poems are deservedly familiar to many. Mr. Cockin is now editor of the *English Canadian*, a weekly journal of literature, art, science and music, published in Toronto by Messrs. Barker & Harvard, in the Arcade. The editorials have an agreeable sparkle and the selections are entertaining. The current number contains a portrait of Mr. Barlow Cumberland, president of the National Club.

—Congressman Chipman's suggestion of what was called a deep-water convention, resulted in a considerable gathering at Detroit, some days ago, of forwarders and vessel proprietors. The meeting adopted a memorial to Congress urging that body to authorize the immediate commencement and speedy completion of an unobstructed channel not less than twenty feet in depth and of sufficient width through the lakes and their connecting waters, between Chicago, Duluth, and Superior and Buffalo, at an estimated cost of \$3,400,000, and to authorize the Secretary of War to make contracts for the entire work and appropriate a sufficient sum of money therefor. Another resolution favored the improvement of the Hudson river to a navigable depth of twenty feet from Coxsackie to Troy. The wording of one of the resolutions shows that its framer had forgotten that the navigable channel in the connecting straits is sometimes in Canadian waters.

MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances for week ending 31st Dec., 1891, were as under:

	Clearings.	Balances.
Dec. 26.....	\$1,871,849	\$225,623
" 28.....	1,549,621	294,072
" 29.....	1,705,753	380,671
" 30.....	1,557,161	141,649
" 31.....	1,673,257	221,960
Total	\$8,357,641	\$1,263,975

Cor. week 1890	\$6,841,719	\$760,414
Cor. week 1889	7,450,397	1,043,708

TORONTO CLEARING-HOUSE

Clearings and Balances of this clearing-house (of which the Bank of Toronto is not a member) for the week ended 31st Dec., 1891, are as under:—

	Clearings	Balances.
Dec. 26.....	\$1,872,185	\$146,468
" 28.....	829,519	124,214
" 29.....	1,102,808	134,217
" 30.....	1,198,854	130,957
" 31.....	1,136,570	122,539
Total	\$5,639,936	\$658,395

HALIFAX CLEARING HOUSE.

Bank clearings for week ending Dec. 26th, 1891, were as follows:

Monday, Dec. 21	\$196,327 64
Tuesday, " 22	252,698 60
Wednesday " 23	185,851 83
Thursday " 24	231,576 51
Friday, " 25	No clearings.
Saturday, " 26	219,806 69
Total	\$1,086,261 27

—Every one may not know that circulars printed so as to appear as if done on a type-writer are not allowed the postal rates for printed matter only. They must be prepaid at the regular letter rate. It is contended by the guardians of her Majesty's mail service at Ottawa that the resemblance to the original is so close as to sadly befuddle the inexperienced eye of postmasters in remote rural districts such as Hogg's Hollow or the Devil's Gulch. Therefore, say the oracles, "We really cannot, you know, be expected to make any distinction." Why, certainly not! The ingenuity of the type-founder must not be allowed to overtake the ordinary official intellect; if it does, a premium must be paid on enterprise or red-tapeism—which?

—Mr. William Little writes a three-column letter to the *Montreal Gazette* to show how the abolition of the export duty on lumber worked injury, and pleading for its renewal. He says the Canadian lumberman is handicapped in the East to the extent of \$2 per thousand feet on spruce lumber, and in the West \$2 per thousand on his pine lumber. He goes in for "protection of our timber property, so that our own people may have every benefit of every possible nature to be derived from it."

—The day before Christmas is not usually notable for activity of business on the Exchanges; but Thursday of last week was a notable exception in New York. On the Stock Exchange on that day, says the *Commercial Bulletin*, the brokers were altogether too busy for merry making. Over 430,000 shares changed hands at advancing prices; an unusual, if not the largest, day's transactions immediately preceding Christmas. There was a remarkable and unexpected cotton market on the 24th also.

—An illuminated address and a handsome silver service were presented this week to Mr. D. B. Dewar, on the occasion of his retirement from the management of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Berlin, to accept a similar position with the same bank in London. The address was signed by Jas. Livingstone M.P.; H. J. Hall, Wm. Ross, W. A. Green, jr., John King, J. Forster, Adolph Mueller, Peter Shirck and John C. Hoffman, on behalf of the donors.

—Desiring to secure larger and more suitable quarters for their Lindsay branch, the authorities of the Dominion Bank have purchased Mr. Dobson's white brick block on the corner of Kent and William sts., in that town, two large stores. Possession will be obtained on the first of March, when the work of remodelling the interior for bank purposes will at once be commenced. The new premises will probably be ready by 1st May.

Correspondence.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Editor MONETARY TIMES:

SIR,—The MONETARY TIMES article on the Civil Service pleases, I am sure, and encourages as well, every civil servant who tries to do his duty and is capable of filling a position of any importance.

Continue to drive out the drones and advocate good pay for good men. No man should be permitted to live upon the country on the pretence of doing honest work, while he is not capable of earning his salt were he placed outside the Government Buildings.

I have had some experience myself and I have observed others. Now I know a man who has been obliged to do the important work of his office in Ottawa for years, while men in the same room, and to whom he was capable of giving and did give instructions about their work, were drawing a much higher salary than himself. It seems they couldn't be entrusted with doing this civil servant's work even while he took his several holidays. The rule should be good pay for capable and honest labor. All good men will advocate this. Yours faithfully,

A FAIR DAY'S WORK FOR A FAIR DAY'S WAGE.
 Brockville, Dec. 20th, 1891.

CREDIT AND CHECK.

Editor MONETARY TIMES:

SIR,—I was not surprised to read of the unpleasant experience of the Toronto firm with that "Ill-natured Correspondent." It takes all sorts and conditions of men to make a business world, and your specimen is a pretty good one of its type. But don't you think that the sublime cheek of the western writer is not a little owing to the present loose system of granting credit? To me it is little wonder that the business like precaution of the wholesaler in question should meet with the ignorantly contemptuous reply it did.

There are all too many houses who are so anxious to sell goods on any kind of terms, without duly considering the standing of the purchaser, that when some prudent firm asks for such a thing as references he is laughed at for his extreme simplicity. Isn't there something in this?

Yours, &c.,
 Bruce County. ONLOOKER.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

The company's land sales for the seven months ending the 31st October last show a falling off, more especially in town lots, when compared with the corresponding period of last year, the figures being:—

10 310 acres farm land.....	\$67,241
14 lots in Winnipeg.....	14,800
74 lots in minor towns.....	10,784