

they elected one of the vice-presidents. Moreover, when the secretary presented his annual report, the principal suggestion was found to be that the name of the association should be changed from National to International. No greater compliment, however, was possible to Canadians and to Montreal than to choose Mr. Benoit, chief of the Montreal Brigade, as president of the body for the ensuing year, which was done by a unanimous standing vote. Mr. Hill was re-elected secretary, and Mr. D. C. Larkins treasurer. After applications for the honor of being the place for the next convention had been received from Augusta, Georgia; Little Rock, Arkansas; Kansas City; Portland, Me.; Toronto; and a very eloquent address by the chief from Salt Lake City, the vote was called, and Atlanta won.

MONTREAL TRADE FIGURES.

We present herewith a tabulated statement of the principal items of import at the port of Montreal for last month and July, 1893. The aggregate of dutiable goods brought in shows a shrinkage of some 14 per cent., and the free goods still a greater decline, but the exports were well maintained. The following table compares the classes of imports:—

	1894.	1893.
Total dutiable goods.....	\$1,841,822	\$2,135,656
Total free goods.....	1,332,157	2,233,800
Coin and bullion.....	665,950	104,810
Grand total.....	\$3,839,929	\$4,474,266

Among the free goods the largest item was sugar, \$468,123, and next anthracite coal, \$164,222. Tea totalled \$76,326 and tobacco leaf \$74,331. Dyes and chemicals, such as come in free, amounted to \$59,752, and crude India rubber or gutta-percha, \$75,886. Raw cotton, jute and yarn, broom corn, undressed hemp, raw silk, are among items in this list imported for manufacturing purposes. Steel rails appear at something over \$89,000.

Turning to the list of dutiable goods imported, as sent us by our correspondent, we find a reduction in almost every item, as compared with the same month of 1893. Dry goods are \$130,000 less; metals, \$136,000 less; fruits, oils, paints, spirits and wines, drugs, glass—all less. There is an exception in leather and leather goods, however, which show an increase.

DUTIABLE IMPORTS.

	July, 1894.	July, 1893.
Cotton, and manufactures of.....	\$108,324	\$125,141
Hats and bonnets.....	26,624	19,425
Fur, manufactures of.....	15,079	25,050
Fancy goods.....	50,107	50,765
Silk, and manufactures of.....	131,747	131,000
Woolen manufactures.....	424,634	531,209
Total dry goods.....	\$756,515	\$882,619
Brass and manufactures of.....	7,446	14,776
Copper.....	2,960	11,069
Iron and steel.....	244,092	362,135
Lead.....	11,808	11,695
Metal and composition.....	4,534	7,030
Total metal goods.....	\$270,860	\$406,705
Books and pamphlets.....	11,674	23,074
Coal, soft.....	3,772	16,759
Drugs and medicines.....	30,230	40,634
Earthen and stoneware.....	15,516	17,388
Fruits and nuts.....	28,406	46,009
Glass, window and other.....	40,407	42,885
Jewellery and watches.....	17,223	19,147
Leather and m'frs of.....	58,269	46,591
Oils of all kinds.....	32,082	44,639
Paints and colors.....	21,143	53,420
Paper and envelopes.....	24,203	22,990
Spirits and wines.....	36,062	50,283
Molasses.....	50,072	12,955
Tobacco and cigars.....	9,950	11,141
Wood manufactures.....	10,951	17,418

Exports for the month totalled \$5,218,375 in value, all of which were produced in Canada, save the \$858,000 worth of American goods brought through Canada for export by the St. Lawrence. This was almost all corn, wheat, flour and cheese. Among the "mining" items are \$20,000 worth of Canadian coal, and \$12,500 worth of phosphate of lime; the sawn lumber shipments were valued at \$561,000, and the square timber at only \$13,000. Horned cattle shipped reached the large total of \$817,425—pleuro or no pleuro-pneumonia; sheep and horses added another \$166,000. Meats made a considerable figure, \$198,000; but the big item was cheese, \$1,705,645. Wheat, beans, peas and hay made up \$400,000. Among manufactures exported the notice-

able things were \$132,000 worth of leather for Britain, \$37,000 worth of metal goods, and \$55,000 worth of manufactures of wood. The gold coin shipped (\$168,417) was all American.

EXCURSIONS AND DINNERS.

It is undeniable that business in the United States is slack, that many artisans are out of employment, and that merchants, as well as manufacturers, are meanwhile "feeling poor." This, however, would hardly be suspected by any one looking at numbers of guests on the excursion steamers on the great lakes. The Mackinaw route boats are crowded, the steamers from Cleveland or Detroit to the Lake Erie islands get their usual quota, Lake Huron and Lake Superior excursion boats do not lack for passengers. In fact it looks as if it were true, as an American captain phrased it last week. "Those city fellows," said he, "will have their summer holiday trip even if they can't pay their house rent." As if to confirm this we find the new and fast screw steamer "North-West" leaving Buffalo last week for Duluth with passengers whose fares for the up trip alone amounted to \$6,000. Then staterooms and meals have to be paid for on board of her, besides. She is a beauty, to be sure, inside and out, resembling in appearance the ocean flyers of the North German Lloyds, but she is very far from cheap. In fact her prices of food on board her have been the subject of complaint, and one can hardly wonder. Here is a specimen of her bill of fare: Soup, 20 to 50c. per plate; fish, 30 to 60c. per portion; entrees, 30c. to \$1.10; roast, 30c. to \$1; game, 60 to 75c.; vegetables, 15 to 40c.; salads, 15 to 40c.; mayonnaise, 25 to 75c.; cold meat, 25 to 50c.; relishes, 10 to 30c.; cheese, 10 to 25c.; pastry, 15 to 25c.; dessert, 15 to 30c. Thus one could not get a full meal for less than \$1.25, and if he went the whole bill his dinner would cost from \$3 to \$7; wine added, say \$5 to \$10. This may do for a millionaire at Delmonico's, but it does not do for a summer lake excursionist of the middle class. However, the average American persists in being extravagant, and even hard times cannot cure him of free spending.

THE STANDARD DICTIONARY.

We have too long delayed our intended notice of this work, which will be a welcome one to many.* What strikes one about it, next to the novelty and neatness of the typography, is the distinctly American scheme of spelling adopted in certain words; for example, bromin and bromid for bromine and bromide, among chemical terms; and the no less American sort of pronunciation. The special explanatory note on page xx. tells us that "the scientific alphabet employed to indicate the pronunciation of words was prepared by the American Philological Association," and "an approved phonetic spelling is the result." The pronunciation of the words around and account would in an English dictionary be declared to be as *around* and *account*, but the Standard gives them as "*araround*, as in *thou* or *bound*." But how to pronounce thou or around? We do not accuse the editors of adopting the Yankeeism of theou, beound or areound exactly, but this "au" business is only a modification of it.

If these were to be considered alternative spellings or pronunciations it would not matter so much, but this, as its name imports, is a "Standard" Dictionary, by which we understand that it aims to set up or at least to represent a standard method of spelling and pronouncing English words. It would be just as correct to take the pronunciation of a Devonshire rustic, of a Yorkshireman, or of an Aberdonian farmer or fisherman, and call that pure English, as to call certain American pronunciations standard English. Noah Webster has much to answer for; his vagaries in lexicography began long since, but they have been added to by others. He wanted, apparently, to found an "American language," the language in which the Emperor of Russia conversed with Cassius M. Clay, a bitter Anglophobe, when the latter was, years ago, American minister to the Russian court, and sent home a bombastic account of his interview.

However, while we cannot agree in such attempts to improve—that is, to Americanize—the English language out of its normal shape and sound, which would be as absurd as to prefer the high-pitched, drawling, nasal speech of a Westerner to the low tone and perfect utterance of an educated Dublin lady, we recognize the great value of the Standard Dictionary as a comprehensive and admirable collection of words, ancient and modern. In the domain of geology, in botany, in zoology, the book is almost as good as a special dictionary; terms used in handicrafts, in commerce, in contracts, are copiously provided, while electrical science, the great special field of development of both European and American in this age, receives so much attention in its pages that, as we are told by the editor, they contain "4,000 terms referable to electri-

*A Standard Dictionary of the English Language, upon original plans; prepared by more than 200 specialists and other scholars. Isaac K. Funk, D.D., editor-in-chief. Vol. I, letters A to L. Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York, London and Toronto.