

tors in getting their displays into order, was apt to give the few visitors, a rather unfavorable impression. Friday and Saturday though finer, were cold and windy and the number of visitors was not large. Monday of the present week was wet in the morning, clearing in the afternoon. Tuesday was marked by several storms of wind and rain, the first of which prostrated every tent upon the grounds, besides blowing in window sashes and doing considerable other damage. Tuesday was the Civic holiday, on which occasion the grounds and buildings were well filled, being the first occurrence of any noticeable throng, and on Wednesday the crowding was decidedly unpleasant, so that the latter half of the show time is likely to make up for the deficiencies of the first half, as far as attendance goes. There are very few really new features in any department; the handsome exhibit of Canadian made carpets being the most noticeable among the textiles. There is not the same general display of cottons and woollens as last year, which was exceptionally fine, this being accounted for by the fact that nearly all the mills are put about to fill orders in hand. An exceedingly fine display is made of stoves, castings, saws, plumbers' supplies, leathers, &c., but in working-machinery there is a falling off, though there are interesting novelties in spool-making machinery, also in machines making barbed wire-fencing &c. The agricultural department is up to former shows in so far as cattle, horses, &c., are concerned, the number of entries being very large, and the animals themselves very fine, but in agricultural machinery there is not the fine display of last year. We defer particularizing until next week, the prize list not being complete.

—The loss of the steamer Asia, on Georgian Bay, and the drowning of an unknown number of people, probably not much less than fifty, is another of those catastrophes which there are reasons for believing are preventable. It is very doubtful whether the boat was sea-worthy. We have, however, no desire to prejudge the case, as the facts are likely to be elicited in an official enquiry. The reckless jeopardizing of life, in this direction, has reached such a pitch that it is quite time somebody was made an example of. We trust that the enquiry into the cause of the disaster will be thorough, and that justice will be meted out to the offenders, if it should prove that human lives have lightly been placed in the balance against dollars.

WATER WORKS IN WINNIPEG.

The Winnipeg *Free Press* gives a detailed history of the water works in Winnipeg. From that journal we condense the following. It appears that when the city was incorporated, power was taken to effect a loan of \$40,000 to construct water works, but the money was finally applied to other purposes, and the Act passed by the Legislature granting a charter for water works organization was allowed to lapse. Last year, Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith again took the matter in hand, associated with him were Mr. Sedley Blanchard, Mr. David Young, Mr. Duncan MacArthur, and Mr. D. Lorn MacDougall, of Montreal; and later on Mr. A. W. Ross and one or two other Winnipeg residents.

When a new Act of Incorporation was secured by a company with a capital of \$300,000, construction bonds, bearing 6 per cent, payable in ten years, to the amount of \$60,000 were sold at par in Montreal, and Messrs. R. Laidlaw & Sons, Glasgow, were awarded the contract of laying four miles of pipes in the streets for the sum of \$70,000. The Holly system was adopted, and the water supplied from the Assiniboine river by means of a brick tunnel, three feet six inches in diameter, extending from a well a distance of 140 feet to the river. The water from this passes through suction pipes into pumps each capable of throwing 600,000 cubic gallons in 24 hours.

On Main street hydrants are placed at intervals of 500 feet and at greater distances on side streets. The average depth of the pipes is seven feet, which is considered below the frost line. During the last week in August several tests were made, and it was found that a double stream could be thrown through an inch nozzle over the Bank of Montreal building. Pipes enough to extend two miles further are ordered from Gartshore's works in Hamilton, and it is expected that these will be laid before the winter sets in. Thus far the company has expended over \$105,000.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

The annual meeting of this old and prosperous company was held in Hamilton last week; not in the new building, however, for that can hardly be ready for occupancy until the New Year. The thirty fifth yearly report was then submitted, showing a premium income of \$124,758 from new business in 1881-2; while the premium income on all policies reached \$835,470. The policies of the Canada now number 15,202, insuring 12,370 lives, and their aggregate amount is twenty-seven and a half millions. The company's revenue from all sources during the year exceeded a million dollars, and considerably over a quarter million of it consisted of interest on investments and profit on debentures and other securities. The assets were increased during the year by \$504,045, and the aggregate is now \$5,064,206. Nearly half this sum consists of municipal debentures; \$400,000 of it is in Bank and Loan Co., shares, Montreal Harbour bonds, Pacific Land grant bonds; \$988,000 is in the shape of mortgages; \$274,000 in real estate. So that a good disposition has been made of the great bulk of the assets. The important statement was made by the president at the meeting that there are none of the investments "on which any loss whatever has to be feared or expected." Insurers have therefore excellent grounds for confidence.

The claims by death were again light, having been about 36 per cent. less than the estimated mortality; which circumstance, taken in connection with the refusal of 226 applications for \$386,000 insurance, because the lives were not good enough risks, are a very satisfactory indication to proprietors as well as policy-holders, that their interests are protected by a careful management. It is announced that the three months grace usually allowed to elapse before the payment of a death claim, will not, hereafter, be taken by the Canada, but that payment shall be immediate upon proof and a valid discharge; a still further concession in a liberal spirit. The report is a satisfactory one and the company is a credit to Canada.

We observe that the agency of the company for the Province of Quebec has been placed in the hands of Mr J. W. Marling, who has represented the company well in different capacities in various provinces, and who has of late years been Superintendent of Agencies.

IMPORTS AT MONTREAL.

The imports of merchandise at the port of Montreal for August last, as we find them tabulated by the *Gazette*, show a decided increase over those of the same month in 1881 in a number of articles. We append the value of various classes of goods. The total is \$4,505,431 against \$4,044,794 in August, 1881. Free goods constitute \$1,221,000 of the whole, against \$894,000.

	Aug. 1882.	Aug. 1881.
Fancy Goods	\$126,358	\$ 86,434
Hats, Caps, and Bonnets ..	43,028	37,503
Iron and Hardware	446,737	440,548
Jewellery	76,457	69,224
Leather of all kinds.....	45,139	44,613
Leather manufactured.....	53,602	36,270
Paints and colors	66,507	37,882
Paper	43,179	32,380
Silk and manuf'rs of	186,259	157,885
Sugar	288,896	167,582
Glass and glassware.....	53,894	43,636
Spirits and wines.....	68,496	61,183
Cotton goods.....	340,144	368,907
Woollen do.....	612,369	625,704

A large portion of the \$1,221,000 worth of free goods is doubtless represented by tea. That a more expensive class of tweed and wool cloths is being brought out this year is shown by an analysis of the item "woollen manufactures" in the return; for where last year 452,000 lbs of the goods specified were imported at a cost of \$278,000, the 379,000 lbs imported this year cost \$254,000, being an average cost of 67 cents per pound as against 61½ cents in 1881. The like is true of cottons. In the item of jeans and drills, the average cost per yard imported was 12 cents, this year it is 14 cents.

THE MONEY MARKET.

The recent large payments made by colonization companies operating in the North-West has caused some temporary pressure for money to be experienced. The calls paid on the stock of one Company, which purchased from the Canadian Pacific Syndicate, caused the heaviest drafts of any of these companies. The second instalment amounting to over a million was paid on the fourth of this month. In June, the first deposit, amounting to nearly \$400,000, had been paid on this stock. It is not surprising under the circumstances, that a loan of \$100,000 on first class collateral, for which seven and eight per cent. were successively offered, was more than once refused, though offered both in Montreal and Toronto. The effect of making any heavy payments is almost invariably felt for a few days, even in England. We must not conclude from a temporary advance in the rate of interest, arising out of the payments in question, that the whole fiscal aspect of the world is going to be changed. The most natural thing in the world is fluctuation in the rate of interest. In England that fluctuation is much more frequent than here; it is much more frequent also in New York. It is besides more sudden in both London and New York than in Montreal and Toronto; but the tendency to remain stationary or nearly so for long periods is much more marked here than there. As the time for moving the crop comes round, a disposition is shown by the banks to ease off on loans on collaterals. This process is now going on, and it causes some pressure among people who hold stocks on margins. Some margins may not probably disappear, under this pressure. Though the rate of interest may be higher, money for all legitimate purposes will probably be found.

COOPER, the man who engraved the plates from which the counterfeit \$10 Banque Nationale bills were printed, was yesterday, committed for trial at Ottawa. A number of letters from Rajotte and the Sparrows, read in court, it is stated, make a clear case against the prisoners.