

After an experience covering nearly thirty-two years of the pleasures and ills incident to a grocer's life, I feel inclined to "step out." My successors will be named in due time, and, I trust, will retain the patronage of those who have been our customers for from twenty-seven years ago down to the present. In the meantime my stock must be reduced, and as an inducement will give a discount of from 5 to 20 per cent. (sugar excepted) from regular price, on a single purchase of not less than \$5. That means Cash.

This notice is also a reminder that I have given "Liberal Credit" and quite a few people are owing me for provisions furnished the "family table." Some, of course, have passed the limitation of six years; many almost five times that, but still they are all honest and just debts for bread and butter that I had to pay for.

Many, of course, made nice promises, but have long since gone to "paradise," expecting to "renew" the promise when they meet me there. But I am going to ask the living to join in a happy satisfaction of paying 100 cents on the dollar to every creditor.

Respectfully yours,

THEO. CARTER.

Oneida, N.Y., March 22nd, 1894.

SHOE AND LEATHER NOTES.

The dissolution of the partnership of Brulot and Cicouelli, shoe manufacturers in Quebec, is announced.

The tannery of Geo. Kastner, Sebringville, Ont., with its effects, has been destroyed by fire. The loss is, we are told, partly covered by insurance.

The Quebec correspondent of the *Montreal Witness* writes to that journal: "The tanners of this city, who represent one of the largest and most important of the local industries, are stated to be very dissatisfied with Mr. Foster's new tariff. They state that, as far as they are concerned, the Government's reforms have only reformed the tariff upwards, as it has increased the duties on many of the articles which enter into the preparation of leather. Some of these, which were formerly admitted free, will now have to pay 20 per cent., while, in the case of others, the ad valorem duty has been replaced by higher specific duties. In others, again, the duties are objected to as altogether prohibitive.

R. Secord, of Edmonton, N.W.T., is shipping \$2,300 worth of fur to Lampson & Co., London, England.

Sir Charles Tupper has recently given a return of the Canadian catch of seals in the Behring Sea for the last ten years. It is as follows:

	No. of Skins.	Price.	Value.
1885.....	800	\$10	\$ 8,000
1886.....	12,423	10	124,230
1887.....	21,716	7	152,012
1888.....	16,940	10	169,400
1889.....	16,585	10	165,860
1890.....	18,165	11	199,815
1891.....	29,146	15	437,190
Total....	115,775		\$1,256,497

METAL AND HARDWARE TRADE NOTES.

The Lethbridge, N.W.T., mines are now in steady operation, but fewer men are being employed than before the labor difficulties.

Shipments of pig iron from centres in Great Britain since the beginning of year are as follows: Scotland, to March 24th, 59,359 tons; Middlesbro', to March 29th, 202,411 tons;

Cumberland, to March 24th, 87,954 tons. Shipments made during corresponding period last year are: Scotland, 69,604; Middlesbro', 172,186; Cumberland, 64,112.

James Watson & Co., Glasgow, in their weekly letter dated March 30th, say: "The Scotch iron market opened on Tuesday with a holiday feeling, but there is more disposition shown during the past few days to purchase, so that prices are a degree firmer all round. The heavy shipments of Cleveland iron have caused quotations to advance somewhat and hematite warrants are likewise a shade firmer."

The position of tin, says the *London, Eng., Iron and Steel Trades Journal*, has varied considerably during the past month, but the tendency has been very much on the downward grade, exceedingly low prices being recorded. At the end of January, Straits tin was quoted £71 per ton, while £63 15s. was touched on March 5th. It is necessary to go back to February, 1879, before finding so low a price. During the year 1893 the total shipments amounted to 40,476 tons to Europe and America, against 34,453 tons in 1892.

The *Engineering and Mining Journal* says: "The French iron trade last year, while it did not increase over the preceding year, showed only a decrease so small that it may be said to have been substantially the same in 1893 as in 1892, therein differing materially from that of England and the United States. The total production of pig iron of all descriptions last year was 2,032,567 metric tons, a decrease of only 24,691 tons, or 1.2 per cent., the falling off being chiefly in foundry iron and Bessemer pig."

ALLIANCE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Some seventy years ago the company named above started with an authorized capital of five millions sterling, of which £550,000 is now paid up, and the market price of the shares is more than four times their paid-up price. It has accumulated fire-insurance funds of £717,000 or say \$3,585,000, and life accumulations of £2,271,000; but we understand that the company does not attempt any life business in Canada. The fire premium income for 1893 was £532,769, and the fire losses £348,814, equal to about 65.4 per cent. This is an unusually heavy proportion of fire loss to premium, and every one knows last year was a bad fire year; but the company managed to earn and put away net profits of £32,965 in the fire branch, bad as the year was. The Alliance is a prudent company, but it is also a progressive one, and has absorbed a number of more or less prosperous provincial fire offices until its premium income of 1893 is double that of 1881. Its management in Canada is in good hands, and its high reputation at home is shown in the following sentence which we take from the *London Review* of 28th ult.: "The Alliance Assurance Company of to-day, with its nearly four millions sterling of assets, its enormous latent power in a financial sense, its prudent administration, and the exceedingly liberal terms of its recent prospectus, is entitled to a full continuance of that ample confidence which the public has always placed in it."

—At a recent meeting of members of the Oil Exchange at Oil Springs the following officers were elected: Chairman of committee of management, J. D. Noble; treasurer of the association, R. Morris; secretary, O. Simmons; committee of arbitration, Jas. Kerr, W. F. Cooper and Wm. English.

INSURANCE NOTES.

It is an encouraging sign to find the fire losses in the States and Canada for March only 9 millions, as compared with 16½ millions of dollars in March, 1893.

Mr. J. H. Brock, managing director of the Great West Life Company, has left Winnipeg for the eastern provinces. He will establish agencies for his company at points in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

The people of Woodstock, New Brunswick, it seems, are dissatisfied with the Woodstock ratings of the St. John board of fire insurance underwriters. Last week a meeting was held to organize a local fire insurance company. Property holders, the telegram says, have resolutely decided not to pay the rates they consider "extortionate." We shall see what sort of rates are levied by the mutual company they organize.

A circumstance which in any less solemn line of business than life assurance would be regarded as amusing, was related by Hon. A. W. Ogilvie, while presiding at the meeting of the Sun Life Company of Canada last week. It is the practice of that company, properly enough, to include under outstanding claims all deaths that have been heard of up to the time the accounts are prepared. But this year the practice resulted in an odd complication, for it has since been learned that one gentleman, whose policy for \$5,831 is included in the company's liabilities, is still living! He had been reported dead, Mr. Ogilvie said, by an eminent firm of lawyers, who obtained from the company the usual blanks to prove death. When too late to correct the error before the publication of the accounts, the lawyers explain that they were misinformed; it is the wife of the assured who is dead, not himself.

The management of the Confederation Life has always been severe upon the practice of rebating, and has often declared it would lose business rather than compete with the companies that indulged in it. Last week the vice-president of the company, Mr. Hooper, in his address seconding the report for 1893, said: "We have reason to be proud of the business of the year [the largest ever done by the company in any year since its organization], for it has, to my own knowledge, been done on business principles and not forced by resorting to the too common practice of allowing exorbitant commissions, varying from 75 per cent. to 100 per cent. of the first premiums on new business."

We learn with interest from the address of Mr. Ramsay to his shareholders and policyholders on Monday last, that we may soon expect to see published a tabulation of the mortality experience of the Canada Life Assurance Company. Founded in 1847, the company's experience of nearly fifty years is extensive enough to be of decided value to actuaries and underwriters. The publication will possess the interest of novelty also, being, so far as we know, the first effort of the kind made by a Canadian company. The task of its preparation has been a lengthy one, special assistants, besides the regular staff, having been engaged upon it for a long period. But the facts and figures will be available at the next annual meeting, if not before.

No greater tribute could be paid to the character of an underwriting body for integrity, than that paid by Mr. J. W. Marling, of Montreal, to the Canada Life at its recent meeting. "I have been an agent of the Canada Life for 30 years," he said, "and