

Established 1873. The Weekly Monitor.

Printed and Published by JOHN H. PUDNEY, Manager.

TERMS: \$1.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26th, 1897.

—Canadian are everywhere evincing an enthusiasm in preparing for the commemoration of the Victoria Diamond Jubilee. The occasion will be an important one in the history of the world, because of the practical nature of the celebration. Everywhere throughout this Canada of ours the people of the towns and cities, and even villages, are donating their money towards the establishment of hospitals, schools of art, refuges for the poor, and innumerable other practical and philanthropic objects. As it is in Canada so it is elsewhere. Great subjects are to be found, and British and American monuments will be wrought from which the name "Victoria" will stand out so prominently that it will be read by all eyes. It is well to properly celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the coronation of the most enlightened and constitutional monarch who has ever seen, one who has ever recognized that the powers of the crown are but held in trust for the people, and are the means and not the end of government. The ship of state has passed through many tempests since 1837, but the hand at the helm has been always firm and true, and to-day it rides on the sea of material prosperity and political contentment, the envy of all other nations, and the pride of the British Empire. It may be said with considerable degree of satisfaction that the Royal family watch the extensive preparations for the coming celebration. They must know how to keep cool in the heat of state through the whole nation for the rolling flag of a monarchy, in which the interests of even the meanest subject is safeguarded by a watchful administration.

—Nova Scotia merchants, who have noted with considerable alarm the rapidly increasing influence of the upper province departmental stores will not be sorry to learn that the interests of the retail stores, to fight these great business concerns. The retail merchants' association, of Toronto, at a meeting held on the 20th, opened the campaign, and yesterday the members of the association organized the twenty-one districts, into which the Dominion has been divided, for a systematic effort to nullify the influence of departmental stores. The association that is making this aggressive move, has a membership of eight hundred, and is able to perform the work it has laid out should not be underestimated.

—Great Britain hasn't a notion of adopting protection just now, even though there has been considerable demand for such a policy by manufacturers whose business is suffering from continental competition. In the House of Commons last week, a Conservative member moved a resolution in favor of the transfer of some portion of the import duties from articles which are not produced in England, such as tea and coffee, to foreign manufactures. The motion met with strong opposition from both sides of the house, that it was withdrawn. The Imperial tariff evidently believes that so long as England possesses an enormous preponderance of trade over any other country, it is not advisable to change the fiscal system.

—And now they are counting the cost of the recent war between Greece and Turkey. Turkey's real expenses were about \$2,000,000 but she wants \$10,000,000 and the province of Thessaly. Greece is not willing to concede such an indemnity, and the powers are endeavoring to effect a more satisfactory bargain. It is improbable that Greece and Turkey will fight again, but it is by no means impossible that, before the self-appointed arbitrators have successfully concluded the necessary diplomatic negotiations, they themselves will be quarrelling. There is a prospect of much international blarney, and perhaps real trouble ahead, for the powers are by no means a unit in their Eastern policy.

—Secretary Wilson, of the United States agricultural department is making strenuous efforts to recover the British market for American dairy products. A score of years ago the United States supplied one-half of the cheese imported by the British Isles, while today she is completely supplanted by Canada in this trade. Canada now furnishes the half and the Republic less than one quarter. The falling off in other branches of dairying has been equally great. Secretary Wilson is now sending trial shipments of the best products of the experimental dairies, to England, where a series of experiments will be instituted to influence sales.

—Nearly a hundred thousand dollars have already been spent by the Nova Scotia exhibition commission in preparing for a permanent site and an exhibition for 1897 at Halifax, and now it is rumored that unless the commission manifest more singleness of purpose, the exhibition for this autumn will not take place. There has been quite a difficulty in raising a market for all the important office of secretary. It is to be hoped that the tagline will be speedily overruled, and the work vigorously prosecuted. St. John could teach Halifax something about how to successfully manage exhibitions.

—Spain owes her soldiers eight millions of dollars, and if the words of former premier, Don Sagasta, are to be relied on, her whole campaign in Cuba up to the present time has been useless, as the 200,000 Spanish soldiers in the island are not even members of the territory on which they are camped. It is now believed that the late news of Spanish success in Cuba is not at all reliable. The probability is that the Spanish ministry is responsible for its general tone which would be made to do service in bolstering the national credit, so that a substantial loan might be raised.

A Better Packing and a Better Package.

DEAR SIR,—Perhaps the enclosed extracts from the London Fruit Grower will be of interest to your readers. It would seem from them that my assumption that the improved system is required for the packing of Nova Scotia apples is correct. I claim further, that the Atlantic shipments of this season have been under the control of a strong commission not interested in the mere numbers sent (this, of course, is a mere theory of perfection to illustrate the point I would bring out) and had the commission prohibited the export of a third (the inferior third) of the apples actually sent, we and our thrifty buyers would have received about the same amount of money that we have received; that we would have saved \$150,000 of barrel money, and would have had for use at home between two and three million bushels of useful apples.

Dr. DeWitt's suggestion will be of great value when followed up by some plan for insuring that all packers shall have the same ideas as to the limits of the two grades he recommends. Yours faithfully, G. W. SHIRTON, Bridgetown, May 15th, 1897.

(From the London "Fruit Grower," April 28th) DEAR SIR,—We are organizing here in the Annapolis Valley (and when you are on apples that is all of Nova Scotia) to improve the means of packing and shipping apples on the market. Now a live organization will make many things practical which are now very much not so. In the event of a number of growers combining to sort, grade, pack and brand their apples uniformly, it will suit the brokers, dealers, retailers and consumers in England to have the apples sorted, graded, mechanically, for blemishes by hand. A machine that would do it with less bruising than is caused by sorting by hand is not outside the range of practical mechanics.

(London Fruit Grower, April 28th.) In our last issue a correspondent wrote respecting the uniform sorting, grading and packing of Nova Scotia apples, and especially with regard to the sorting of apples by the medium of a mechanical sifter, as a matter of fact, such contrivances have been used for some years by American and Canadian apple-growing centers. We agree with the system, for it is only what we have urged should be adopted by English growers also. On the other hand, it would be a great mistake to put these apples up in barrels in any other way than in layers, as has been done by the best packers. Where this is omitted, the contents of the barrels are so packed that it is impossible to get the apples out without bruising them.

(London Fruit Grower, May 8th.) Sir,—Regarding Nova Scotia apples, we should like to be permitted to make a few remarks upon this subject. A friend of mine in London sent us a quantity of these apples down by boat as a trial consignment, and we regret to say we never handled such rubbish before. We feel confident that our friend did not know they were so bad. There were four rows on the top, very fair, slightly spotted; but underneath we came to nothing but rubbish. In fact, after being sold, the purchasers returned them on our hands. What with railway carriage and other expenses, we were a fair amount out of pocket, and through this transaction we have lost our London friend's confidence, which was worth more than a few paltry barrels of apples.

While in this country recently we received a visit from Dr. DeWitt, of Nova Scotia, and we talked over this grievance; and if Nova Scotia growers will only follow out his suggestion, they will make money and obtain the confidence of the British purchasers, who have become disgusted with the low packing of Nova Scotia fruit. Of course there are several good packers, and they receive fair returns; but their neighbors, who pack indifferently, cannot understand why the good packers receive, in some instances, as much as \$4. to \$5. per barrel more than they do.

We would call the Nova Scotia growers' attention to the fact that they have Australia and Tasmania to compete with now. Twenty years ago there was not an apple imported from either of these colonies. The writer, who a youth in London learning his business, had sold Nova Scotia in the middle of June at from 27s. 6d. to 30s. per barrel, and our firm think that if the above suggestion is carried out it will result in benefit to all concerned. Yours, etc., RUSSELL, FAIRBANK & CO., Glasgow, May 1st.

Local and Special News.

—Bridgetown enjoyed a quiet holiday on the 24th.

—The New Glasgow Milling Co. manufactured and sold during the past year, 48,720 barrels of flour.

—The store in Moravia's block on Queen street, formerly occupied by Mrs. W. White, is being fitted up as an office for Dr. Grant.

—The Valley Telephone line has been extended from Bridgetown to Tupperville on the south side of the river and the management are considering the advisability of continuing the line to Annapolis.

—The D. A. R. bridge carpenters have been at work for several days at the railway bridge making ready for the filling up of the wooden pier with concrete.

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

H. S. Sannott arrived home on Friday last from Liverpool.

Mr. W. C. Bath purchased another fine liver-horse last week.

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New Advertisements.

FARM FOR SALE! TO BE SOLD AT Public Auction Monday, 31st day of May, 1897, AT ONE O'CLOCK, the well-known property called the RAND FARM,

Allow me to sell you CROQUET SETS! I have them at very low prices. RICHARD SHIPLEY. CHEAP Cash Store!

NOTICE Water, Sewer, and Electric Light Taxes must be paid by the 15th June. JOHN L. COX, Clerk and Treasurer.

EXECUTORS' NOTICE! ALL persons having legal demands against the late Mr. W. H. Crocker, died Thursday at Granville Ferry of heart disease. He had been in Bridgetown, N.S., on his way home when he died.

COURT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 2nd, 1871. 26th Session! '96-'97. THE ORIGINAL COMPANY Fisk Jubilee Songs ORGANIZED 1871.

HICKS & SANCTON MANUFACTURING CO., BRIDGETOWN, N.S., WOOD-WORKERS! To be brief, we cover the entire line of building finish and fittings, and furniture for houses, stores, halls, etc.

Buy Your Fresh and Salted Meats Dry, Salt and Pickled Fish FOSTER'S MARKET I AM SELLING Boots and Shoes, Ready-made Clothing, Gents' Furnishings, Staple Groceries, SEEDS, Etc.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

The - Bridgetown - Importing - House NEW DRY GOODS Of every Description. There is an air of crisp freshness in the goods we offer. From January to December the shopper in our store is confronted with New Goods and New Styles, such as are to be had nowhere else, because there is no such outlet for immense quantities as our big store possesses.

New Dress Goods & New Clothing, Trimmings, New Floor Oil Cloths from 1 to 4 yards wide, New Blouse Waists, New Whitewear, New Corsets, New Hats and Caps, New Window Shades. Designs of which are different from all others. New York Wall Papers, New Carpets and Curtains. EVERYTHING THE NEWEST NOW OPENED FOR INSPECTION.

Get our prices for CARPETS AND CURTAINS. See our Boy's \$1.00 Suits. See our Men's \$5.00, \$5.67 and \$6.25 Tweed Suits. J. W. BECKWITH. Our Spring Stock is now complete, and we cordially invite your inspection of same, as we have one of the best selected stocks to be found in the County.

'97! SPRING! '97 New Dress Goods in the latest effects, NEW DRESS TRIMMINGS TO MATCH. Ladies' Shirt Waists, Straw Sailor Hats and Cotton Wrappers. READY MADE CLOTHING. A fine stock of the above in Men's, Youth's and Boys' Perfect fitting goods. Prices to suit the times.

Glaves! Glaves! Formosa Silk, Milanese Silk, Silk Plated Taffeta and Lace Thread. Ladies' Hose! We are handling the celebrated Oxy-Fast-Bleach again this season. Goods that always give the best satisfaction.

STRONG & WHITMAN. New Spring Goods! NOW OPENED. Dress Goods, Capes, Lace Curtains, Prints, Hosiery, Gloves, Belts, Belt Buckles, Waist Sets, Ladies' Collars and Cuffs. LADIES' SHIRT WAISTS. Over 400 to select from. Prices from 65c. Upward. Elegant styles.

JOHN LOCKETT & SON. Our stock of CLOTHING, HATS and MEN'S FURNISHINGS is very large. See our Gents' Regatta Shirts with two Collars and one pair Cuffs, separate, at 85c. BRIDGETOWN Meat Market MASONIC BUILDING. Thanking my many friends for their patronage in the past, I would inform them that I am again in a position to cater to their wants, and am ready to supply them with any variety of meats or fish usually found in a well appointed market.