

advice, and the Dominion authorities should send a special commissioner to Labrador to ascertain the exact position of affairs so as to put an end to the wretchedness and destitution of the people of that inhospitable shore.

MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances, week ending 29th Aug., 1889:

	Clearings.	Balances.
August 23.....	\$1,298,782	\$ 182,123
" 24.....	1,257,078	268,617
" 45.....	1,025,220	206,076
" 27.....	1,195,651	150,448
" 28.....	1,323,380	297,618
" 29.....	1,117,755	154,992
Total	\$7,217,866	\$1,259,874
Last week.....	\$8,906,717	\$1,303,131

THE BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

The above organization is the outcome of the convention held in Hamilton last week. Its objects are:

(1) To encourage well-directed enterprises with a view to encourage a greater degree of prosperity, and further increasing the general trade of the Province.

(2) To increase acquaintance and further the highest commercial integrity among those in the several lines represented.

(3) To take concerted action in matters pertaining to the general good of business men where individual effort is powerless, such as concessions in freight, insurance or express rates, unjust values, or discrimination by any class or corporation.

(4) To take concerted action regarding the sales of bankrupt stocks, with a view of minimizing the evils to the general trade arising therefrom.

(5) To compel the pedlar to assume a portion of the burdens borne by the merchant.

A committee was formed to draft a constitution. Each representative who attended the convention is asked to contribute \$1 towards the expenses of drawing up said constitution, and to pledge themselves to promote and further the objects of the proposed Association.

The following are some of the motions submitted to the Convention during the week:—Moved by Adam Ballentine, seconded by W. H. McLaren:—

That the merchants of the Convention deeply deplore the many inferior qualities of soft sugar placed upon the market by our Canadian refiners. That we are strongly of the opinion that far too much water forms its composition, thereby causing a great deal of shrinkage in the weight of it when dealt out by the retail merchants, and therefore is the cause of many troubles arising between the consumer and the retail merchant. We sincerely hope the refiners will give this matter their earliest consideration, and thereby abate a great deal of dissatisfaction that now exists.

That the retail merchants hereby appeal to the wholesale merchants for their assistance in this matter, through whom a great deal of pressure can be brought to bear upon the refiner.

It was decided to hand over this resolution to the Wholesale Grocers' Guild without any expression of opinion by the convention. Mr. Good, Seaforth, submitted the following:

That this Convention, realizing the injury that results to all classes of the community by the rapidly growing and pernicious system of peddling, injuring the towns, the farmers, and the pedlars themselves; and knowing the difficulty of dealing with the matter by the present available means, the County Council, we consider that some organized plan should be adopted to secure suitable legislation on the matter.

It was thought best to leave this matter to be dealt with by the central association. The following was also relegated to a committee:

Moved by Mr. O'Strosser, Cultus, and seconded by Mr. Moyer, Mildmay, That in the opinion of this Convention the credit system now prevalent in rural Ontario is at the root of most of the evils and irritations of legitimate

trade to-day; and that the proposed business men's association should carefully consider and suggest a change restricting the terms for credit.

The committee appointed to consider the question of bankrupt stocks submitted the following report which was unanimously adopted:

That this committee appointed to report on the best mode for the disposal of bankrupt stocks, so as to cause the least irritation, report that in their opinion the most satisfactory way to stay the evil of bankrupt stocks is by the formation of business men's associations in every county of Ontario, by which the said association could buy in those bankrupt stocks and dispose of them to the best advantage.

The following was also enthusiastically carried:

That the thanks of this association are hereby tendered in the most cordial manner to Mr. Knox, Mr. Bristol and Mr. Smith, President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Association, respectively, for their indefatigable exertions in thus bringing together the first general meeting of the merchants of this Province with a view to forming an Association, such as has just been organized, having for its object the stimulating and advancing of the general trade of this country on a sound financial basis, and for the able manner in which they have discharged the duties devolving upon them during this, the first, session of the Association now satisfactorily brought to a close.

SOME JAPANESE ITEMS.

Coming to farm products, says a Japanese writer, Mr. Takahashi, sweet potatoes are abundant as a product of Japan, and they retail at half a cent a pound. And the seeds of the Japanese carrot as well as the daikon, a kind of turnip, and a delicious root, are recommended as worthy of trying in Canadian soil. A feature of the garden nursery over there is the growing of dwarf plants, "or rather the process of bringing up almost any kind of fruit and ornamental trees in such a way that they will grow up to only a very small size and some fantastic form, and yet will bear fruits and flowers in all their luxuriance. The effect of a queen-cherry tree, about a foot or two in height, its branches twisted into funny shapes, blooming lustily on mantelpieces, is decidedly charming." It is said that these dwarfed plants are being largely imported into Australian colonies. A single plant of chrysanthemum bears two to four hundred flowers of three to four inches in diameter.

Finally, with the eloquence of true feeling and the directness of simple faith, Mr. Takahashi dwells upon the works of art of his country. "Our lacquer works, china and porcelain wares, metal works, shippo or cloisonne ornaments, carvings, embroideries, and paintings, are all world-wide known and admired. Our goods are often complained of their being easily broken and otherwise inferior in finish, but such an objection is a mere matter of how much you have to pay for them. When our manufacturers are wanted to make goods at such a price that the final dealer may clear two to three hundred per cent. after deducting fat percentages pocketed by four or five intermediate parties, and other charges, they cannot always afford to give the best finish and skill to their productions."

"Distinction must be made between our ordinary fancy goods and our works of higher art. Japanese painting should not be judged by the daubings or common screens and panels; nor should our carvings, bronze works, etc., be sought after in auction sales, for their specimens. I believe there is a good demand in Canada, as much as in any other country, for works of high art. Why should not ours have their places in her galleries and in her rich men's halls? There is a good deal of money yet in our ordinary fancy works, if only they were bought direct from our manufacturers at moderate prices. There should be a great deal more in our higher works of art if only the public were made aware of their real worth and merit." "True ours are not the relics of a thousand years past, consecrated by the halo of ages; but they are the productions of the art cultivated, moulded, and made perfect under the Augustan age of the Tokugawa dynasty—cultivated, not for the sake of money, but for the love of art, in the calm and patronising seclusion of the last three centuries."

WITH THE BOWLING CLUB AT DISLEY.

Through the instrumentality of Mr. Evans, that excellent and indefatigable secretary, and by the courtesy of the management of the Manchester Grocers' Bowling Club, the editor of the *Review* had, on Wednesday last, the pleasure of attending one of those delightful picnics which have for a considerable period now been the happiness of the members of the club and the envy of other associations. There can be no question that the Bowling Club is becoming a powerful and important factor in the life of our local trade. The large gathering of last week, comprising somewhere about fifty gentlemen, was a thoroughly representative and influential one, and an onlooker could not but be struck by the thought that, if the club ever chose to turn its attention to serious business, it might take a very masterful grasp of the situation. Not that we would counsel any step in that direction. Let the club by all means continue to occupy its present position in the trade, calling its members away, at seasonable times, from their every day occupations, inviting their co-operation in pleasant sport and friendly rivalry, and promoting that good fellowship which is the surest guarantee of happy and agreeable relations in business life.—*Manchester Grocers' Review*.

—The practice of ticketing goods with prices is by no means general in the retail grocery trade, but many dealers find it of great efficacy, particularly in the case of bargains or drives, when unusually good value is offered for the money. When quality is the chief merit of the article, placards laying stress upon this point may be used to advantage, but care should be taken that the ticket or placard is neat and attractive. Coarse, ugly placards of wrapping paper, which are to be seen in some stores, do more harm than good.—*Merchants' Review*.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, August 28th, 1889.

ASHES.—There is no increase of activity in business in this line, receipts continue very meagre and sales correspondingly small. There are in store about 480 barrels of pots. We quote \$3.65 to 3.70 for first pots; seconds about \$3.30; pearls about \$4.90.

BOOTS, SHOES, AND LEATHER.—Boot and shoe manufacturers here are still chary about buying stock, though apparently generally well employed; some considerable sales of sole have been made to Quebec. Calfskins show depreciation; green calfskins have been very cheap, and besides dongola has displaced calf to a considerable extent. Best makes of buff are still scarce, also oiled pebble. Splits and common buff are going forward to England pretty freely from Quebec, the last Allan steamer taking 120 cases. We quote:—Spanish sole, B. A., No. 1, 20 to 22c.; do., No. 2, B.A., 17 to 19c.; No. 1, ordinary Spanish, 19 to 20c.; No. 2 ditto, 16 to 17c.; No. 1, China, 18 to 19c.; No. 1 slaughter, 23 to 24c.; No. 2 do. 21 to 22c.; American oak sole, 39 to 43c.; British oak sole, 40 to 45c.; waxed upper, light and medium, 30 to 34c.; ditto, heavy, 24 to 30c.; grained, 30 to 34c.; Scotch grained, 33 to 37c.; splits, large, 16 to 22c.; do. small, 12 to 18c.; calf-splits, 32 to 33c.; calfskins (35 to 46 lbs.), 35 to 55c.; imitation French calfskins, 65 to 75c.; russet sheepskin linings, 30 to 40c.; harness, 21 to 27c.; buffed cow, 11 to 13c.; pebbled cow, 10 to 14c.; rough, 21 to 23c.; russet and bridle, 45 to 55c.

CEMENTS, FIREBRICKS, &c.—The demand continues good for cement, and prices are steady. We quote \$2.40 to 2.75 for Portland as to lot; firebricks still \$20 to 25 per M.

DRY GOODS.—It may be said that there is a very satisfactory degree of activity in this line at the moment. The cheap excursions over the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific railways arranged for by the Board of Trade have apparently been well patronized. The wholesale millinery stores, whose openings were fixed for this week, are almost filled to overflowing, and the dry goods men are also feeling the benefit. The fine settled weather of the last week or ten days has also had its

effect, and good Central Ontario, Eastern Townships, especially the latter, before of rather trade for August ing in at all free ago, but this is general harvesting. All fabrics of do fully firm, with vance; raw cotton there is the noted, and aside in price, the tra peats for dress ed except for de ary, a date at w able.

GROCERIES.— is of very fair v ments are repo lines. Granula factory, and the stronger than a tions of some, bought from o bright yellows more firmly th yellows is from cery raws offer covery; Barba comparatively tiful, but the The demand f good supply of ans ranging at lots of new tea and greens sho doing in dried raisins are co in very fair su crop of new Ve per cent. short will be good range any hig both black and at 16 to 17c., firmer and 11 cloves, which baccos still a canned goods

METALS AND deal doing, w week's mark showing furth stock seems a received a cal spondent to " the great la very disturbin are cabled at thing than a dealers askin plates advan zinc and spe fore; the di reduced by Coltness, \$2 \$22.50; Su Dalmelling, \$2 Carnbroe, \$2 \$22 00; Mic \$20.00; cast to 19.00; m common dit to 2.40; be of the Lond follows: Sic Acadia bar, figures for r \$2.75 to 2.90 to 7.25. Bl plates—Bra \$4.15 to 4.5 to 3.70; s sheets, No. wood, 6 1/2 to No 26, 6c.; t and bands, p shire boiler \$2.90 to 3.00 Russian sh pig, \$3.75 t 6.50; best \$2.50; tire to 3.00; ingot tin, copper, 12 spelter, \$5 wire, Nos. do., \$2.25.