

Hastings, R. B. Angus, John Mather, and John Turnbull. At a subsequent meeting of the directors, Mr. Robert Meighen was elected president and managing director; Mr. W. A. Hastings, vice-president, and general manager; Mr. G. V. Hastings, general superintendent; Mr. S. A. McGaw, manager at Winnipeg; Mr F. E. Bray, secretary, and Mr. B. S. Sharing, assistant secretary.

There is a moderate shipping demand for apricots and peachest says the San Francisco *Grocer*, and the latter are scarcely ranging so low as recently quoted. Prunes continue exceedingly flat, as in spite of the shortness in the European crops buyers appear determined to hold off. Small sizes are scarce, a condition that may appear quite desirable, but which creates a little difficulty in filling contracts for the four sizes. Shippers of raisins are busy filling their early orders, but are not troubled much with enquiries for later delivery. The extent of the pack is entirely dependent on the weather that may be experienced during the next four weeks.

HARDWARE AND METAL TRADES

Port Elgin people are discussing the establishment of a brush factory in that town.

Merchants report that the demand for sporting goods this autumn is in advance of the movement during the same period last year.

The Peterborough Board of Trade has passed resolutions favoring the exemption of the Peterborough Lock Manufacturing Co. from taxation.

Trade is brisk in autumn hardware supplies. Axes, cross-cut saws, cow ties, rope halters, coal hods and similar goods are in excellent demand.

Authority has been conferred upon the Hamilton Bridge Company by supplementary letters patent to increase its capital stock from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

The council of the Welsh tin plate workers has decided to make a formal request of the employers that they refuse to sell black plates for tinning in other countries.

During the past year the Kingston penitentiary binder twine factory made nearly five hundred tons of twine. The coming year, it is said, the output will be increased one-fifth.

Prices of metals are firm. Galvanized iron, tin plate and Canada plate are in active request. There has been a scarcity of galvanized iron for some time, and manufacturers have been unable to keep up with the demand. Dealers who had booked import orders have not been slow in expressing dissatisfaction at the slow deliveries, but, judging by this week's mail, it is only a matter of a few days before supplies again reach a normal basis. The price of galvanized iron has advanced to \$4.35 for 28 gauge, in case lots. Canada plate has also advanced and half polished is now held at \$2.35.

S. W. Royse & Co., Manchester, Eng., in their September report say: Prices of pig iron advanced strongly during the first half of this month, and then suffered a considerable fall, the reason assigned being the fear of a strike in the shipbuilding trade. A recovery is, however, now taking place, and the trade appears to be in a good position. Manufacturers are well supplied with orders for some time ahead. Shipments of pig from both Scotland and Middlesborough are satisfactory during this month, and the total shipments during 1895 show a considerable improvement upon those for the corresponding period of 1894. Prices are to-day about 2s. 6d. higher than they were two months ago. The improvement in the finished iron and steel trade is well maintained. Copper and tin have only fluctuated slightly during this month, and are at present steady, to-day's figures being within a few shillings of those current a month ago. Spelter is practically unchanged during the month, and lead is just a shade easier.

INSURANCE ITEMS.

Miss Jessie M. Henderson, of Perth, will continue the agency of the Commercial Union and Norwich Union Insurance Companies; also the Hand-in-Hand Plate Glass Insurance Company. So says the *Expositor*.

A company has been formed in England which proposes to insure owners of machinery in all kinds of workshops against its partial or complete breakdown. Mr. A. B. W. Kennedy, F.R.S., president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, is consulting engineer to the company.

An advertisement of the following tenor appears in the *Toronto Globe*: "Policyholders of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association of New York objecting to increased assessments are requested to simply forward names, etc., for purpose of mutual protection, to A. Edward Woodruff, attorney, Equitable Building, New York City."

It is probably to be expected that where ship building and ship-owning decline, there must marine insurance decline also. At any rate it is now the case that for the first time in a century Halifax is without any local marine insurance company. Twenty years ago there were five local companies in that city, viz.: The Nova Scotia Marine, the Union Marine, Merchants Marine, Atlantic Marine and Ocean Marine. Four of them succumbed during the intervening years, and a week ago the Nova Scotia Marine Ins. Co decided to wind up.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

R. & C., New Westminster.—The article we printed on the production of small clean castings by the use of ferro-sodium was from the *Colliery Guardian*. We are unable to give you the name of the maker of the compound.

SUBSCRIBER, Galt., thinks we might "give some additional information about building societies, such as the principles of their foundation, how a member may join and obtain funds for building," etc., etc. We might send our subscriber Scratchley's "Treatise on Building Societies," or some such work, by the perusal of which he could become acquainted with the principles upon which they work, but it would require more space than we can spare to describe the origin, basis and working of such societies. If he wants to secure a loan of money for building purposes, let him go to some of the well-known and established loan companies in London, Guelph, Hamilton, Stratford, and he will be told what his loan will cost him and the best way to set about it. Far better do this than give his money to new-fangled concerns that promise imposingly vague "profits."

PATENT RECORD.

The following list of United States patents, granted to Canadian inventors, September 17th-24th, and Oct 1st, 1895, is reported by James Sangster, Buffalo:

Benjamin C. Pettingell, assignor to J. Pettingell, Victoria, blasting powder.

James M. Smith, Galt, truss.

Alexander A. Vernon, assignor to himself and A. Green, Owen Sound, napkin-holder.

Elijah J. Fader, Calgary, dredging-bucket.

William Nafe, Waterloo, flower stand.

Henry M. O'Reilly, Almonte, tie-holder for collars.

James P. Martin and W. P. McFeat, Montreal, hand-device for affixing postage stamps.

James D. Lamb, and J. E. Chapman, assignors of one-twentieth to J. J. Durack, Montreal, street car fender.

Thomas Manley, Prince Albert, sawdust-feeder for furnaces.

Lemuel H. Morgan, assignor of one-half to M. C. Todd, Galt, fastening device.

William J. Still, assignor to W. B. Close, Toronto, rectifier for electrical currents.

CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday, October 10th, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Oct. 10.	Oct. 3.
Montreal	\$11,923,006	\$11,732,590
Toronto ..	6,687,751	5,737,829
Halifax	1,318,235	1,233,084
Winnipeg	1,728,624	1,170,887
Hamilton	802,819	667,178

Total

Aggregate balances this week, \$3,566,697; last week, \$3,275,457.

—Another colonial examination of the Institute of Actuaries is impending; it is announced to be held on 17th and 18th April next, simultaneously in Montreal and Toronto, Capetown, and the various capital cities of Australia. Candidates are required to hand in their notices not later than 31st January next. We observe with interest that Messrs. A. G. Ramsay, F.I.A., and William McCabe, F.I.A., are the supervisors of the examinations in Toronto. We are not yet made aware by whom the Montreal examinations are to be conducted.

—We are informed that the following changes have been made among the branch managers of the Merchants' Bank of Canada in Western Ontario: Mr. J. E. Durand, who has been manager of the Merchants' Bank in Windsor, has been transferred to Chatham, and is succeeded at Windsor by Mr. W. Greenhill, of Galt. Mr. Alexander McIntosh, of the Chatham branch, goes to London, and Mr. F. H. Jarvis, of London, takes charge of the Galt branch.