

sensible policy of promoting trustworthy officials. Both these gentlemen are well qualified, and have had long experience in its affairs, the former as superintendent of the Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Company, and since the amalgamation as assistant general manager, while Mr. Massey was assistant manager of the Western Canada Loan and Savings Company, and since amalgamation has occupied the position of manager of the Ontario branch of the Canada Permanent.

Mr. Mason will doubtless receive many congratulations on the release from onerous obligations, which is implied in his change of position. He has had a long innings, to use a cricket phrase, and carries his bat out with infinite credit to himself and his side. To a man with his resources of mind, relief from the responsibilities which he has so long borne can hardly but be welcome, since it will enable him the better to enjoy the declining years of an unusually energetic life.



OUR HALIFAX LETTER.

Halifax has been busily engaged in antiquarian research during the past two or three weeks, in which occupation nearly all classes have been interested. For many years there has been conflict of opinion concerning the date on which the anniversary of the founding of the city should be celebrated, and sometime about the middle of last century the 21st of June was decided upon as the date of Lord Cornwallis' arrival. When another holiday, Dominion Day, was added to the calendar, this, with the 24th of May, made three holidays within a very short period. The 21st of June and the 1st of July have for some time dulled the edge of each other to such an extent that neither was properly celebrated, and Dominion Day in particular has never received the recognition here its national importance warranted. Recent investigations have shown that, taking into consideration the change in the calendar (which was not taken into consideration when June 21st was decided upon as Natal Day), the date would more nearly coincide with July 2nd. Thus Dominion Day and Natal Day might much more appropriately be celebrated together on July 1st than as at present. The retail merchants' branch of the Halifax Board of Trade recently met and discussed the matter thoroughly, the burden of sentiment being to celebrate on July 1st. This year, however, June 21st will be the great day, inasmuch as the city council has already made arrangements to that effect, but it will probably be for the last time.

A rather serious strike has been in progress at the Windsor Cotton Mills for the past week or two, by which about 250 hands were affected. The mill was started here in 1881, and this is the third time there has been trouble, but on the former occasions the difficulties were only slight, and were soon settled. The trouble now is over wages, and was precipitated by the weavers, who claimed that on a new quality of cloth upon which they were working their pay would amount to ninety cents less in a fortnight. The company claim they have been paying higher wages than any other mill in Canada, and that the order over which the trouble arose was taken at a very low rate simply to keep the mills running. Some of the strikers have gone to St. John to the mill there.

At a recent meeting of creditors of the Bank of Yarmouth held recently W. E. Stavert was recommended as liquidator. Ten days after this selection is approved of notices will be sent out to shareholders calling for twenty per cent. of the double liability. Another call of a like amount is to be made thirty days after, and so on as required.

The Dominion Exhibition is to be held in Halifax in 1906, and active steps will be taken to provide accommodation worthy of the occasion. The Exhibition Commission will look after the Fair and its belongings, but an effort will be made to do a little refurbishing and renovating of the city itself in order to present a good appearance to the visitors from other parts of the Dominion. It is unfortunate in this connection that a great part of the tram line runs through about the worst part of Halifax, a district through

which visitors have to pass to or from the Exhibition grounds. Nothing less than fire would purify the sections referred to.

The Halifax retail grocers have organized again for the second or third time. Past efforts in this direction did not result in success, but they are now more hopeful, and have engaged a paid secretary. The officers of the body are as follows: President, Ald. W. H. Cawsey; first vice-president, E. W. Crease; second vice-president, Forsyth Junior. The above and the following comprise the board of control, which meets monthly: E. Hubley, Captain Allen, W. E. Crowe, W. J. Hopgood, R. N. McDonald, C. E. Choate.

Reports from the lobster fishing are not very optimistic. The past winter, as I have mentioned before, was all against the fishermen, and they lost a good deal, not only in lack of catch, but in gear destroyed. Since the spring opened it has not been much better, and all the factories report their receipts much smaller than usual. This, together with the fact that lower prices are ruling in the market abroad makes the outlook rather dismal. The spring pack this year will probably not be more than one-third of last year's pack.

The Scotch fish curers are again at work in this Province, and, with some adaptations in their methods which conditions here require, will undoubtedly be even more successful than last year. Nova Scotia herring, cured and packed by the Scotch method, brought such high prices in 1904 that everyone was much encouraged by the experiment.

A new steamship line is to run between Boston and Halifax in competition with the Plant Line, and the promoters have two waterfront premises in view here. These are Black's wharf and the West India wharf.

It is reported from the Pictou county coal mines that the famous Ford Pit seam of the Acadia Coal Company has been found. The Ford seam was the largest seam of coal in America, being in places thirty-eight feet thick, and the coal of the best quality. Twenty-five years ago or so there was a terrible explosion there, and the pit has been closed. If it is really the Ford seam that has been found, the fact will be of much importance to the business people of that county.

Halifax, 29th May, 1905.



MONTREAL LETTER.

The annual meeting of the Montreal Business Men's League was held on Monday, the 29th ult., in the council chamber of the Board of Trade, and was largely attended. The president, Mr. Henry Miles, occupied the chair, and in his annual address congratulated the members on the success of the league during the past year. He referred to the finances of the league, and said the revenue for this year would be increased, and, all things considered, the outlook was most encouraging. They had recently applied to the Provincial Government and to the city council for aid in meeting the disbursements of the association, and he was pleased to say that the council had voted the sum of \$250, while a favorable reply was expected from the Quebec authorities. Mr. Miles spoke at length on the question of the proposed Montreal Industrial Exhibition Association, and said it was now in the hands of the Provincial Government to say whether or not this exhibition was to be held in Montreal. The city council had voted \$10,000, and the civic authorities had guaranteed the interest on the bonds, so that the project was now at that stage where the Quebec authorities must decide. Mr. Robert Bickerdike, M.P., in moving the re-election of the Executive, remarked that he had come to the meeting to hear for himself what the league had done during the past year, and it gave him great satisfaction to know that much had been accomplished. He was ready to do what he could to promote the interests of the league, and he was hopeful that some day the business men of Montreal would be able to boast of one of the strongest Business Men's Leagues on the continent. The retiring officers were re-elected by acclamation. The Montreal Business Men's League, from the date of its organization in 1901, has grown in membership and importance,