

VIRTUE AS A BUSINESS FACTOR.

The newspaper must have the news; the hotel a choice cuisine and all the latest conveniences; the restaurant prompt service and an inviting bill of fare. No amount of piety, personal need or lofty and noble intentions, will atone for the lack of these things. Even the most ardent total abstainer will not "put up," twice at the same "temperance hotel," where he finds flies in the butter and fleas in the bed-room; nor will he subscribe to a newspaper more than a week if the news he wants most is invariably left out. Moral excellence in newspapers, temperance in hotels, and worthy widows are proper enough, always to be desired, perhaps, and never to be despised, but the fact to be emphasized is that no one of these things in itself is a sufficient consideration on which to base a claim to public patronage or a reasonable expectation of business success.—Leslie's Weekly.

THE LATEST RAISIN SCHEME.

The raisin-growers and packers, with the bankers of the San Joaquin valley, have evolved a new scheme for the marketing of the raisin crops. The first thing that strikes us in connection with it is that a new and additional intermediary is to be introduced, in the shape of a corporation of packers, which is to deal with the growers' association on the one hand, and with the individual packers on the other, the latter otherwise to continue their separate business as hitherto. The wisest man, however, cannot tell two or three months ahead what the uniform price is, at which the crop can be marketed. We have seen that in the case of prunes during the present year, when, under apparently very favourable conditions, the fruit would not move until prices were put down to bedrock. The new arrangement is not to take effect unless approved by growers representing 90 per cent. of the acreage, and there appears already the prospect of a split over the question of Mr. Kearney's remuneration, which he desires to have fixed at \$12,000 a year. The idea of the packers and bankers appears to be to secure, upon the principle adopted in Germany with respect to beet sugar, the best possible price for the bulk of the crop in the home market, and to dump the surplus abroad. This is no doubt possible so long as the import duty remains as it is, but whether it will prove advantageous can only be ascertained by actual trial. Personally, we disbelieve altogether in the policy of these artificial arrangements.—San Francisco Grocer.

—People in the country who are annoyed by flies should remember, says the New York Tribune, that clusters of the fragrant clover, which grows abundantly by nearly every roadside, if hung in the room and left to dry and shed its faint fragrant perfume through the air, will drive away more flies than sticky saucers of molasses and other fly-traps and fly-papers can ever collect.

DAWSON MUNICIPALITY.

The question of the cost of running this town is being asked daily now by everybody, whose attention is directed to the other question of incorporation. To answer it Comptroller Lithgow, by consent of the council, has prepared a statement showing the receipts from all city sources and the expenditures from September 1st, 1898, to March 31st, 1900, a period of a year and seven months. The question, as now being asked, is

as to the cost of running the town for one year. As there has been no "fiscal year" hitherto, and as the revenues and expenditures of the city proper have not been segregated from those of the territory at large, there is no clear answer in the comptroller's books to this question. He gives in his statement the best information he has. It may serve as a basis for those who wish to figure on the matter. Following is the statement:

Revenue.	
Received for fines	\$ 73,472 60
Barristers' registration fees....	720 00
Liquor permits	101,628 14
Peddlers' licenses	1,400 00
Liquor licenses	146,655 66
Auctioneers' licenses	1,150 00
Dawson water front	4,712 75
Rev. from sundry sources....	2,405 00
	\$322,144 15
Overdrawn at Canadian Bank of Commerce	20,222 43
Total	\$352,366 58
Expenditure.	
Donations to hospitals, care of indigent, sick, etc.	\$112,305 97
Wagon roads	99,532 22
Burial of indigents	4,549 00
Printing and stationery	6,922 61
Fire department	63,413 41
Bridges	7,292 61
Board of Health	2,648 00
Drains and ditches	15,685 41
Lighting streets	2,075 30
Dawson free reading-room	1,125 00
School books lost on Stratton .	230 10
Passage paid for indigents	5,611 11
Salaries	10,298 06
Contingencies	3,241 85
Streets	17,435 93
Total	\$352,366 58

—One day recently, an elderly lady from the wilds of Cadder landed at Mitchell Lane, Glasgow, and gazed earnestly down that cart-besieged place, while she occupied the central position between the tramway lines. "Man, man," she at length cried, to a passing carter, "whaur will I get an electric car?" "Well, mistress," was the gruff reply, "vin ye dinna get oot o' that ge y quick ye'll get it in the sma' o' yer back."—Scottish-American.

—In Quebec, last week, members of the City Council presented Mayor Parent, at the City Hall, with \$5,000, for the services he rendered to the city since he had been at the head of the municipal administration. The money was voted at a meeting of the finance committee followed by a special meeting of the council during the Mayor's absence at Ottawa.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.
MONTREAL, May 23rd, 1900.

Stocks.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Closing Prices.		Average, same date 1899.
				Sellers.	Buyers.	
Montreal	262	262	61	.....	254 1/2	.....
Ontario .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	190	.....
Molson .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	175	.....
Toronto .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	103	.....
J. Cartier .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	168	.....
Merchants	160	100	64	.....	.....	.....
Commerce .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	160	.....
Union	109	109	10	.....	.....	.....
M. Telegraph	164	164	4	.....	162 1/2	.....
R. & O. Nav.	110	108	85	.....	107	.....
Street Ry.	250 1/2	254 1/2	968	.....	253	.....
Gas	184	183	215	.....	182 1/2	.....
C.P.R.	96 1/2	95	1556	.....	94	.....
Land Grant bds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
N. W. Land. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bell Tele Co.	179	178	16	.....	185	.....
Mont. 4 1/2 stock	.....	.....	.....	.....	177	.....
Hochelaga .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	140	.....
Nationale	90	90	13	.....	.....	.....

—A colored pastor in Texas, when demanding his salary, gave as his reason. "Brudern, I can't preach heah and boad' in heb'n."

Commercial
TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, 23rd May, 1900.
By reason of the Queen's Birthday holiday, to-morrow, we have to make up our market report a day earlier. It has been to the advantage of trade that we have had more May-like weather of late. Dry goods merchants say they are selling more warm-weather goods, and grocers find the change to have an effect on certain classes of groceries.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—Not much movement can be chronicled in this department of trade. There is some enquiry for straight roller flour, and well-known brands have changed hands at our quotations. Manitoba patent brings \$3.90 to \$4. and strong bakers, \$3.60 to \$3.65, in car lots. Oatmeal is quiet at \$3.40 to \$3.50.
GRAIN.—There is but little activity in any department. Prices of wheat fluctuate somewhat, holders asking 65 to 66c. for winter, some buyers offering 64c. with occasional transactions between the two figures; for spring, 65c. is asked, with holders firm. Manitoba is steady at about former quotations. Very little doing in barley; peas are a shade easier, while rye and oats are unchanged.

GROCERIES.—There is not much that is new to be said of this department. The sugar market is fairly steady; nothing remarkable is passing in teas; canned goods are as before. We note a firmness in Rio coffee in New York yesterday, caused by reports of bubonic plague. The London market for beet sugar, the cable says, is unchanged. A reinforcement of the Canadian stocks of foreign liquors and wines is found in the arrival at Montreal on Monday of the "Mont Blanc," the first steamer of the new line from Bordeaux and Havre. She had 18,975 cases of wines and liquors; and brought, besides, 207 immigrants.

HIDES AND SKINS.—The decline in Chicago, which we mentioned last week, has left a weak feeling both there and here. There is a very moderate local demand, which is fully met by the receipts; green cows are now quoted 8 1/2c. and steers 9c. per lb.; cured, 9 to 10c. as before. Calfskins, unchanged, at 9 and 10c. per lb. for Nos. 1 and 2, respectively; sheepskins, dull; tallow, steady.

PROVISIONS.—Butter is in good request, with the same range of prices prevailing as last week; 12 to 13 1/2c. for dairy tubs, and 13 to 14 1/2c. for dairy rolls; creamery is also in demand at 17 to 18c. for boxes, and 18 to 19c. for prints; cheese is comparatively neglected. Hog products are active and firm, live hogs being higher in price. Mess pork is quoted \$16 to \$16.50; long clear bacon, 9c.; rolls, 9 1/2 to 10c.; hams, 12 to 13c.; lard, 8 1/2 to 9c.; eggs, unchanged; hops, steady and quiet.

WOOL.—The new clip has made its appearance sooner than anticipated, the first lot being sold on the market to-day at 15c. per lb. for washed; unwashed, bringing 10 to 11c. For pulled wools there is but little demand. A London cable of yesterday says: The offerings at the wool auction sales to-day numbered 12,664 bales, of which 8,200 were New Zealand stock. Values were much firmer all round, and competition was active, especially for Queensland. The home trade bought freely, and the Continent was active, and American representatives took moderate quantities of suitable grades.