of Montreal, and Mr. H. W. Evans, of Toronto, both well known in insurance circles. The headquarters of the Nova Scotia manager will be in Halifax.

We are informed that Mr. F. W. P. Rutter has been appointed sub-manager of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co. at Liverpool. He entered the office as a junior some eighteen years ago, and has been in every position in connection with the business, including that of short-hand writer; being very proficient in that art, as well as a good musician. He is a most genial fellow in addition to being possessed of good brains for his work. His appointment will be welcomed by all the representatives of the company.

For thirty years Erastus J. Bassett had been connected with the Ætna Fire Insurance Company of Hartford, first as special agent, then as general agent. He died regretted by the whole fraternity, for he was an underwriter of integrity, fidelity and long experience.

MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances for week ending 20th August, 1891, were as under:

	Clearings.	Balances.
Aug. 14	$1,528,956	$157,914
" 15	1,832,211	243,575
" 17	1,528,617	214,619
" 18	1,932,769	386,594
" 19	1,627,357	208,673
" 20	1,598,147	164,891
Total	$10,048,057	$1,376,263
Cor. week 1890	$9,750,461	$1,194,202
Cor. week 1889	8,906,717	1,303,131

Clearings and balances for week ending 27th instant were as under:

	Clearings	Balances
Aug. 21	$1,830,551	$269,882
" 22	1,709,614	318,280
" 24	1,465,053	183,292
" 25	1,636,583	316,379
" 26	1,592,488	331,387
" 27	1,784,632	351,610
Total	$10,018,941	$1,770,830
Cor. week 1890	$10,313,509	$1,903,798
Cor. week 1889	7,217,866	1,259,874

TORONTO CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances of this clearing-house (of which the Bank of Toronto is not a member) for the week ended Aug. 27th, 1891, are as under:—

	Clearings.	Balances.
Aug. 21	$850,558	$ 90,614
" 22	882,901	106,707
" 24	799,879	161,300
" 25	929,799	120,690
" 26	990,724	149,284
" 27	1,043,522	274,848
Total	$5,497,383	$903,443

—There have been some heavy rains in the Montreal district since last Friday, which have retarded harvesting operations, and may have done some hurt to grain that it brought down. A heavy hail storm has also done some damage to standing corn in several localities in the Eastern Townships, but, despite these setbacks, the crop reports as a whole in the agricultural districts of Quebec Province are glowing. A number of the reports speak of the yield of grain as being ahead of anything for the last ten or twenty years. Roots also are plentiful, but the yield of apples will be short.

—It is intended to hold a special general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Ottawa on the 30th September, to consider a by-law proposing to increase the capital stock of the bank by authorizing the issue of new shares to the amount of $500,000, as provided for in Sections 26 and 27 of the Bank Act. This, if carried, will incrase the capital of the bank to $1,500,000.

Correspondence.

THE CIVIL SERVICE

Editor MONETARY TIMES:

SIR,—In view of a possible, not to say probable, change of Government at Ottawa at no very distant date, would it be too much in your opinion to expect that the coming Ministers, whoever they may be, will not fall into the same blunders and adopt the same crooked ways that are now charged against certain gentlemen connected with the party at present in office there, and that in effecting a change of servants, or perhaps I ought rather to say masters, would the general public be likely to reap any substantial or lasting benefit?

For my own part, I hardly look for any radical improvement until we consent to abolish entirely from every branch of the public service the system of patronage. If Members of Parliament, including Cabinet Ministers, had no voice or influence whatever in the selection of even the humblest official in the country, and if every office paid for out of the public purse was thrown open to the widest competition from any British subject in the same way that now prevails in Great Britain, I venture to say that the members themselves would be spared a vast amount of personal annoyance and trouble, and the country would receive infinitely better service than it now gets at the hands of those in the Civil Service who are the nominees of any political party. We should then hear nothing made of Ministers taking advantage of a long or short term of office to stuff their respective departments full of their relatives and friends, and the country would be spared the disgrace of the introduction into its public service of ladies of doubtful reputation merely because they happen to control the influence of some shady Minister.

So long as we remain a British colony why not follow the good example set us in this and many other ways by the Mother Country, rather than copy the worst features of a system prevalent in the United States. I am well aware that all the scandals now being ventilated at Ottawa are the result in the first instance of a low standard of political morality amongst the people all over the country, and until we make up our minds as a people to discountenance bribery and fraud of every description, and until we exact from our representatives conduct that is nothing but honest and straightforward, we may expect to see a repetition of what has already occurred as time goes on. A system of distributing public money to a constituency sending a member to support any government, is only bribery in another form, and placing patronage in the hands of such an individual only aggravates the evil. All decent people ought to spare no effort to get rid of these and many other abuses to which our public service seems to be addicted, if we would desire to be thought better of abroad.

Yours truly,
"OBSERVER."

Nova Scotia, Aug. 21, 1891.

IRON AND STEEL.

Editor MONETARY TIMES:

SIR,—Allow me to make a few remarks on your brief editorial of last week on iron and steel. You say truly, our iron trade with Britain is undergoing a change, but I think you go too far towards making out that we are going all at once to part company with English iron and steel and grasp at American.

You state that a large proportion of the pig iron now sold in Canada is American. This may be true of Ontario, but that is the only Province in which it can truly be said. As to bar iron, we buy it in the States to only a limited extent and for special purposes.

In writing of boiler-plate and boiler tubes, you add, "the Londonderry Works keep out the cheap steels." This must be a misprint for the Nova Scotia Steel and Forge Co., for the first named company does not make steel.

No doubt you have had experience of the American iron "drummer" when you are able to locate him so closely. We are not bothered with him here, so far as I know. Pity it is that Canadians do not make our own iron in Ontario, where we have the ore and the flux near at hand and can get the coal so readily.

Yours,
H. M. L.

Montreal, 26th Aug., 1891.

SUGAR, SYRUP, MOLASSES.

Some interesting results of the analyses of sugars and molasses at the laboratory of the Inland Revenue Department are made known. The assistant of the chief analyst has investigated a hundred samples of sugars, syrups and molasses more minutely than the official analysts in the different districts. Of white sugars there were 21 samples; yellow, 22; syrups, 26; molasses, 31. The report states that the percentages of cane sugar contained in the white or granulated class vary from 98.4 to 99.8; the average is 99.26. There is no adulteration, and, indeed, as has been remarked before now, these sugars are probably among the purest food substances in commerce. The yellow or brown sugars vary from 86 to 94.9 per cent. of cane sugar: average, 90.23. No case of adulteration has been detected.

In regard to syrups and molasses, the report states that the word "treacle" was originally used to signify the thicker product which drains from refined sugar in the moulds used in the same localities. It seems now to be almost obsolete in this country, and, possibly, even in the tropics, it is being replaced by the word "syrup." Syrup, in pharmacy, means an aqueous solution containing about 66.7 per cent. of pure cane sugar. As now used, however, the term includes products of very variable composition. The samples were simply divided into the two groups, syrups and molasses, according to the names under which they were sold, and only three cases in nineteen of adulteration of syrup were found, or 15.8 per cent., all of which were with starch glucose. The molasses, however, averaged 48 82 per cent. of cane sugar, while the syrups only averaged 37.77 per cent. The average of total sugars in the former was 66.07 per cent. It is suggested that a lowest limit of cane sugars in these syrups should be established at 35 per cent.

FALL FAIRS IN THE EAST.

The following are the dates of the leading Fall fairs in Quebec:

Provincial Agricultural and Industrial exhibition at Montreal, September 17 to 25.

Great Eastern fair and Dominion Dairy exhibition, Sherbrooke, September 1 to 4.

Central Canada fair, at Ottawa, September 24 to October 3.

Exhibition Regionale, at St. Johns, September 10 and 11.

Drummond County Agricultural show, at Drummondville, September 16.

Shefford County Agricultural society exhibition at Waterloo, September 15 and 16.

Shefford County Fruit Growers' association, at Granby, September 10 and 11.

Missisquoi County Agricultural society show, at Bedford, September 1 and 2.

Independent Agricultural association, fair and races at Coaticook, August 26 and 27.

Richmond County Agricultural society exhibition at Richmond, September 8 and 9.

Halifax, N. S., Sept. 29 to Oct 2.

A BANKER'S ABSENCE OF MIND.—The writer many years ago, came to the railroad station earlier than the train-hour, and found only a porter sweeping. By some odd idea the porter took me for the owner of a parcel and asked, "Did you lose a parcel, sir?" "No; have you found one?" "Yes." "Let me see it." The office was empty. "I found it," he said, "after the express west left, about an hour ago." I knew the seals and the address, and I knew the banker, a personal friend. Getting the porter to look up the package, I telegraphed to my friend, and got back reply almost at once. "Thanks; I will come back for it." He had never missed it. I found the station-master, explained, he took charge, and the owner got his package on his return. It contained $10,000 in bank notes. It pays to use the express. —*Rand-McNally Monthly.*