

in all \$66,037, while claims to the extent of \$6,692 were rejected. The assets, after deducting all claims and dues, are given at \$245,130, of which \$209,000 consist of premium notes. The expenses of management were \$14,955, by no means an extravagant sum. We observe that the directors are called upon to provide the deposit required by the recent provincial statute from those mutual companies doing a cash business.

LEPROHON vs. CITY OF OTTAWA.—The suit involved in this case is the right of the municipality to assess officials of the Dominion Government, a point in which so much interest has been taken that we need not enter into any details of the case. Judgment has just been delivered, by the full Court of Queen's Bench, in favor of the city, affirming the right to tax such officials. From this decision the Chief Justice of the court dissents, agreeing with the view taken by Mr. Justice Moss at the trial. As the case is a test one, it is likely that the matter will not be allowed to rest here. In the interest of fair play it is to be hoped that the view taken by the majority of the court will ultimately prevail, for we do not see reason or justice in exempting these officers from taxation for benefits which they enjoy in common with other citizens.

HALIFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—At the annual meeting of this Chamber held last week, an interesting report, touching on the trade of the port and especially the question of Sugar duties, was presented. Referring to the Sugar question the President, Mr. Stairs, says "If the Government of the day is right, the Chamber and the Halifax community have been sadly wrong. Arguments have been exhausted on the one side, no answer to the appeal has come from the other; there is a measure of disappointment about this question which is hard to bear." Interesting epitomes of the year's business of the Chamber were made by the sub-committees on arbitration, fish inspection, pilotage and internal trade, and the report of the Ottawa delegates was received and adopted. Energetic action was taken on the withdrawal of the mail subsidy, and the proposed petitions were at once telegraphed to the Halifax representatives in Parliament.

MARITIME RAILWAY ITEMS.—Work has begun on the Eastern Extension of Nova Scotia, connecting the Intercolonial with Cape Breton via Antigonish. The first sod was turned a few days ago, and a gang of men and horses are at work. The Louisburg, C.B., railway is being sub-let, and is to be completed, together with a shipping pier, this season, so as to be ready for coal shipments during the coming summer. It is expected that work on the Western Counties railway will recommence shortly. Steel rails are about being laid on the track of the Windsor and Annapolis railway, and two or three iron bridges are to replace wooden structures on the same road. Iron bridges for the Intercolonial are now made by a Canadian Company, the

Starr Manufacturing Company, of Halifax. Profitable freight is brought to the Intercolonial by the frozen fish trade, which has assumed considerable dimensions in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Snow drifts have impeded travel on the E. & N. A. Railway, from St. John to Bangor.

—Amongst our correspondence in to-day's issue will be found a letter from Mr. George Mason of Jamaica upon Canadian trade with the West Indies, which we commend to the attention of our readers. The letter contains an extensive list of articles which, in the judgment of the writer, might form part of an experimental shipment from Ontario. We regret to learn that Mr. Mason has been seriously ill of yellow fever, and that a Canadian gentleman who accompanied him died of that disease. This illness has delayed the display of the Canadian samples Mr. Mason had taken with him.

—The Merchants Bank of Pr. Edward Island doing business in Charlottetown, with a branch at Georgetown has issued its sixth annual report. Two dividends of five per cent each have been paid during the year 1876, a sum of \$15,000 added to the rest, which now reaches \$30,000, and \$12,507, 58 carried forward to the credit of profit and loss. We observe that the total earnings for the year have reached \$46,522 18, about five thousand dollars more than last year's. This is a very successful showing for an institution whose paid up capital is \$146,000 and circulation \$237,000, and serves to explain why sales of its shares have been made at from 50 to 60 per cent premium.

—The Royal Agricultural Society of England, which holds its annual meeting in Liverpool next July, offers prizes to the amount of £6,000 stg., for live stock, and to £300 on cheese, butter, bacon and ham. Canada is expected to compete, as we trust she will, the circular stating that prizes are open to British, Colonial, American and Foreign exhibitors. Particulars are obtainable from the agents in the Dominion of the L. & L. & Globe Insurance Co., who will furnish circulars to applicants.

—An agitation is taking place in the Lower Ports to find new markets for their fish, as the limited West India market is very unreliable. It is proposed to enter more largely into the Brazilian and European trade, which are more promising and steady. There has thus far been a want of enterprise among our fishing traders in seeking out new fields to work in, and the effort now being made can hardly fail to result in good.

—Trade returns of St. John for the month of February, shew the value of goods entered at the Custom House to be \$277,549 against \$182,490 in 1876. Value of goods withdrawn were \$103,826 against \$194,000 last year, and the duty paid was \$61,675 against \$115,794.

The exports for the month were \$150,317 which is double that of last year, and the stocks remaining in warehouse amount to \$327,600 against \$312,597 last year.

Correspondence.

TRADE WITH THE WEST INDIES.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, 27th Feb. 1877.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times.

SIR.—"Are the Canadians in earnest in opening up a trade with the West India Islands, and will they assist the pioneering of such an enterprise?" Such was the question that was put to me by a few of the leading merchants of this city; and I should be glad if, through the medium of your Journal, the merchants and manufacturers of Ontario may know that I have, for nearly twelve months, spoken and written on the capabilities of Ontario to supply the wants of the merchants of Jamaica and other West India Islands.

As your journal circulates principally among the merchants and manufacturers, I trust you will not consider I am intruding if I inform you of the ready opening for this new branch of Canadian trade with the opening of navigation, with the strong hope that Canadian manufacturers will make a trial of this market with lumber, rough and machine-planed; tongued and grooved doors, sashes, mouldings, blinds, venetian; flour, split peas, barley, butter, hams, bacon, spiced rounds, rolls, beef hams, furniture, paints, such as white lead, zinc white, spanish brown or red paint, yellow, blue, common; black ivory, black, common; green, American varnish, (this is preferred, it dries quick); turpentine, boiled oil, raw oil, sugar of lead, litharge, common putty, sienna, burnt and raw in oil; billiard tables, paper hangings, ploughs, shovels, spades, rakes and other garden articles, seeds, fruit, vegetable and flowering, buck boards nicely finished, (particularly suited for planters and the country roads, but have never been introduced here); buggies, dog carts, phaetons, carriages, light harness, (they use here the heavy English harness); stoves, such as small cooking stoves; tin ware, rope, string, paper, all kinds; soda water fountains, (none here, but much wanted); canned peaches, fruits and vegetables, (always in great demand); kerosene oil, cheese, cornmeal, hats and caps, and light ready-made clothing. An assorted cargo of these goods would solve the question whether Canadian merchandise is able to compete, in these latitudes, with Great Britain and the United States.

In a few days, as I have cleared about 19 cases of Samples, I make an exhibit of Canadian manufactures, and per next steamer will send you the reviews of the Press on them, and the remarks of the merchants.

I ship by this steamer samples of coffee, sugar, &c., to Richard Benner, Esq., of Hamilton, Ontario, and I may as well point out the terms these goods are sold on in Jamaica and all the other West India Islands. Orders from England, the United States or from Canada, must be accompanied with a letter allowing the merchants here to draw for the amount and to deposit Bills of Lading with the Colonial Bank, who will advance the money. There is no system of credit for coffee, sugar or other natural products, as the merchant or exporter here has to pay cash on delivery at his wharf.

Yours obediently,
GEORGE MASON.

PROSPECTS IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

The following is an abstract of the letter of a gentleman at present travelling on the Upper