holds first place in the English market, and is valued at from 4 to 8 cents above Canadian creamery; that the quality of Swedish butter is owing to the establishment, in 1868, of schools for the training of dairy maids; and that Government should do likewise here. The suggestion seems a most natural and reasonable one, but too much must not be expected from the means proposed. The Swedish people before 1868 were noted for some characteristics favorable to butter-making. They were cleanly and neat, and methodical in habit. Yet the Swedish Government has expended a comparatively large amount, and it has taken a long time, to bring up the quality of the butter-product of Sweden to its present standard. It is worthy of consideration whether or not the result may be attained in some other way more speedily and even by a less outlay. We have already seen that the utensils used are an important factor in the work. The facts gathered from the history of dairying where improvement has been made emphasize the importance of this factor. Prof. Sheldon writes of Continental dairying as follows:—"They study the principles of their art, which are propounded to them by scientific teachers," and "they follow out the most approved systems and adopt the most modern utensils."

Government cannot but recognize at the outset that there is a need of the adoption of better utensils. Only a few dairies are supplied with the "best modern utensils," and the few dairies that are better fitted up than is the rule, instead of being supplied with complete and uniform outfits, are supplied by articles picked up in different places, and in some cases, as a matter of fact, purchased in the States. Abstract teaching in Dairy Colleges will be a slow process. On the other hand, the introduction and use of suitable appliances will carry instruction and induce a change of method in each home diary. The difference between hand-sewing as it was and machine-sewing as it is, is not less than the difference between the primitive butter-making that is and scientific butter-making that shou d be. The introduction of sewing-machines and the revolutionary change thus brought about, is an illustration of what may be done in other industries, in even that of butter-making. It would seem that government aid would be most economically and effectively given by recognizing the importance of the other factor in the desired improvement. It is for private enterprise, or capital, to do one part of the work. It belongs to government to do the other—or purely educational part of the work The need of educational work to be done makes capital timid about taking hold of its part of the work. Let the government policy be to encourage such investment of capital as will be calculated to forward the work. There would be in this nothing inconsistent with the general policy of government. Any help given would be to encourage what, owing to this very need of education, is bound to be a "struggling industry." By encouraging such an effort the government would do the most, at the least cost, to forward its own purpose. After the first lift given to the industry, government would leave the work to be completed by private enterprise.

—It is to be feared that the mode of audit adopted by corporations is too often a farce. An audit should not be made in a merely perfunctory manner. It should be gone into thoroughly and in accordance with a system; vouchers compared in every instance with entries of payments. Not only this, but auditors should know something of the character of the vouchers, and something of the party or parties who signed them. It is quite evident that the parties who professed to audit the accounts of the corporation of London, Ont., could not have taken this trouble. Had this been the case the late city chamberlain cou'd not have embezzled the large sum of $80,000 at intervals during a period of nearly thirty years without being detected. Surely, a system of falsifying accounts, falsifying returns of unpaid taxes, passing fraudulent vouchers and coupons, and in covering up his entries, would have been noticed, had any shrewdness been shown by those who passed upon his work. Indeed honest people in such positions should invite the closest scrutiny into their accounts. If corporations are too negligent to see that this is made, they deserve to suffer. Either aldermen or directors of Boards who neglect their duty in this respect should be held responsible for their acts, by those who placed them in positions of trust.

—The usual briskness of trade at the holiday season was exceeded during this Christmas-tide in some departments of this market. Wholesale orders in the staple lines were not large, but in fancy goods, furs, glassware, jewellery, Christmas stationery, books, there were numerous express orders and a most active demand at retail. When writing of goods per express, we are reminded that complaints have been made, in various quarters, of the inadequacy of the Express Company's facilities to do the business promptly when a "rush" comes We have been told, indeed of cases where goods in transit by express were delayed four days at within 100 miles of their destination for lack of transportation. This certainly cannot be called "express" freight, and is an unjustifiable delay, even at Christmas. The railways too have their share of blame for delaying business the Grand Trunk in particular, is so blocked with freight at times and at certain points that merchants are occassioned much inconvenience. The Kingston *News* gives an instance "of goods having been shipped from Chicago and being a month upon the road to Kingston—almost time enough to admit of making a couple of voyages across the ocean," and urges the construction of the suggested double track on that railway.

—Some very piquant evidence has been given before the Legislature of New York on corners in grain and stocks. Vanderbilt, who ought to know, said that "not one man in ten who goes to Wall Street but comes out a loser." Mr. Von Boeckler said, "the lambs were not compelled to go into Wall Street;" and there was a general concurrence of statement that the operators' profits are derived from the plucking of these innocents. Mr. Rufus Hatch did not like corners unless he had a hand in them; while condemning them as wrong and injurious to the public, he naively admitted his constant participation in them. Stocks, he had said, were 50 per cent. too high; but he, being on oath, modified that statement because he might want to bull the market himself the next day.

—An act is to be applied for at the present session of the Ontario Legislature, authorizing the Credit Valley Railway Company to amalgamate with, or lease their Railway to, or make traffic or running arrangements with the Ontario and Quebec R. R. Co., including provisions for rearranging, consolidating, and if necessary, increasing the bond debt of the Company so as to make it uniform with that of the Ontario and Quebec R. R. Co.; and also to authorise the C. V. R. Co. to lease or work the London Junction Railway.

The Merchants' Bank of Halifax has declared a half yearly dividend of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

—It appears that the recent meeting of the St. John Board of Trade was, to use the words of a resolution passed at a general meeting of the Board, held last week, "irregular and unconstitutional and therefore illegal." Mr. H. D. Troop has resigned the presidency, to which he was chosen at the annual meeting. His resignation has been accepted and Sheriff Harding unanimously elected president. Mr. Jeremiah Harrison was chosen to fill the vacancy in the Council caused by the election of Sheriff Harding to the presidency.

—A dividend at the rate of six per cent. per annum was declared at the general meeting of proprietors of the Bank of British North America, held in London on the 5th instant. Mr. E. Hoare, who presided, gave a satisfactory account of the business. The commercial outlook in Canada he considered to be decidedly hopeful. The proceedings were short and unanimous, and the report was adopted.

—We learn from the Glasgow *Herald* that Mr. George M. Tytler, secretary of the Bank of Scotland, has resigned his position as at Whitsunday next, when he will have completed thirty-seven years of service. He will be succeeded by Mr. John Stormonth Darling, senior, agent at the Kelso branch.

Correspondence.

FIRE INSURANCE IN LONDON.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times.

SIR,—I notice in the *Globe* of the 13th inst., the following announcement: "A meeting of the Fire Underwriters' Association was held yesterday afternoon to consider the London, Ont., tariff. It was stated that the city was badly insured." No action was taken pending the meeting of the companies having head offices in Montreal. Now, Mr. Editor, can you explain what the writer of the notice intends by saying "badly insured?" Does he mean that a number of the citizens are foolish enough to be insured in small mutual and stock companies, having very small assets and no surplus? Or does he intend to say that our tariff is a bad one? If the latter, he evidently knows nothing about it, for I believe there never was a tariff got up that was fairer or more equitable to the insurer or the insured. Every risk was examined, and rated according to the hazard, and everything was considered before the rate was fixed. We did not, as is done in other cities, rate all first-class buildings the same, and all second class alike; but we put a rate on each as they were numbered on Goad's plans, taking the occupation into consideration, which I maintain is the right way.

All the trouble with our tariff has been caused by having two agents join our Board, who did so with the intention of breaking their agreement and cutting under the tariff all the time, and they have done all they could to injure those who have acted honorably and stuck to their agreement. I blame the companies who employ such agents; but being small concerns struggling for existence, I suppose they feel compelled to net rates to get what business they have. These "Black Sheep" have set a few of our merchants against the Board. These are merchants who ought to have known better.

The members of the London Board of Underwriters are quite as intelligent a set of men and understand their business just as well as any other Board; but a few members of the Board of Trade think they can run not only the City Council, Waterworks and Rail Roads, but the Insurance business of the Forest City. Young, aspiring aldermen who think they know more than experienced persons who are old enough to be their grandfathers. However, to satisfy these young merchants we wish the head offices would either send us a manager who shall do all the rating or to send two of their own number to go over and readjust our tariff if it is not right. The agents who made the tariff have acted, I am quite sure, honorably and justly to the insured without partiality to any one.

Yours Respectfully.

AN AGENT OF THIRTY YEARS' STANDING.

London Dec. 15th 1882.