

The Weekly Monitor,

ISSUED ON WEDNESDAY,
At Bridgetown, Annapolis Co. N. S.
M. K. PIPER, Proprietor and Publisher
JOHN H. PIPER, Manager.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 16TH, 1900.

There is certainly a considerable difference between the profits accruing to the fire insurance companies and those which make the life insurance such a popular field for the investment of capital. In Canada, for instance, the record of the life insurance companies is one of rapidly increasing business and growing profits, but the fire underwriters, while they have had an equally abundant business, have actually been losing money. Fire insurance rates have been put up, and it is not unlikely that a further advance in the scale will be effected. *Bradford's* says of the situation in the United States:

"Fire insurance statistics demonstrate very emphatically that underwriting has been a character of the reverse of profitable of late. In its annual address before the thirty-fourth annual meeting of the National Board of Fire Underwriters the retiring president, Mr. E. C. Irwin, said that the fire loss of the country amounted to \$25,000,000,000, a sum greater by \$25,000,000,000 than that for the preceding year, and, indeed, the largest since 1880. For a period of ten years the underwriting profit has been only thirty-six hundredths of 1 per cent. of the premium. The ratio of taxes to premiums has gone on increasing steadily, rising from 1.25 per cent. in 1880 to 3.34 per cent. in 1899. The extent of the loss last year is regarded as the more startling because last year generally is admitted to have been good, with an active demand and prices generally rising, so that goods could not be replaced except at figures above their cost. It is pointed out that the moral hazard is minimized. The situation is one of very serious interest indeed to the underwriters, for they have distinctly not shared in the general prosperity."

"The news from South Africa is altogether of an encouraging nature. Robert's long delay at Bloemfontein was harshly criticized, but it was probably a necessary halt, and one that has enabled him to make the rapid progress northward toward Pretoria and Mafeking that has been chronicled from day to day. The onward sweep of his army divisions is not only rapid, but it has thus far proved irresistible, and the Transvaal and Free State troops are scattering for safety, abandoning many positions of great natural strength because they are afraid of being enveloped by the fast marching British lines. Kromstad has been occupied without any attempt at defence, and news of the relief of Mafeking is hourly expected. Unless the Boers are in great force, defending the approaches to that town, their relief will surely be accomplished during the week. Then, with nothing to turn him from his offensive work in the Transvaal, Lord Roberts will soon be at the gates of the capital, and the end of the war should be in sight. It is unlikely, now that efforts to obtain outside help have proved unavailing, that the Boers will greatly prolong the struggle."

"The British industrial situation is being seriously affected by the high prices for coal and a growing scarcity of that commodity. It is stated that the demand for coal for domestic and foreign consumption has outstripped the productive capacity of the mines of Great Britain, and that a positive coal famine is threatened. The cost of production in the iron and steel manufacturing industries, for instance, has so increased as to cause a considerable amount of the volume of new business, and the outlook along these lines is discouraging. The unfortunate condition of the British industries, however, will prove a very positive advantage to Nova Scotia, the richness of whose coal and iron deposits has but recently been recognized. Here these great staples lie in coquetry and abundance, and mining and smelting can be carried on more cheaply than in any other part of the world. No wonder capital is now being freely advanced for the development of these industries, when a world wide market is clamoring for their products."

Canada's Preferential Tariff.

The N. Y. Outlook.

In spite of the preference which Canada's tariff laws now give to imports from the mother country, those imports are not increasing as rapidly as imports from the United States. According to an official document received from Washington, Canada began to discriminate in favor of Great Britain in April, 1897, when English products were relieved of one-eighth of the duties to which goods from other countries are not subjected. The following table, the preference accorded to English goods was doubled in amount, so that they paid duties one-quarter less than those from the United States, for example; and on July 1 of this year the preference is again to be increased, so that the English goods will thereafter pay one-third less than our own. What the effect of the proposed change will be can only be estimated. Thus far the record of Canadian imports shows the following changes since the discrimination in favor of the United Kingdom began:

Total imports, 1896	\$100,000,000
Imports from United Kingdom	36,000,000
United States	27,000,000
Other countries	37,000,000

In other words, England's share of Canada's import trade has fallen from nearly one-third to barely one-quarter, while the share of the United States has increased in a corresponding ratio. The London *Economic*, in commenting on the situation, notes that the increase in the exports from the United Kingdom has been largely in raw materials which could not be brought from across the water, but has been partly in manufactured goods which the manufacturers of this country have supplied to increasing measure because of their nearness and their intimate knowledge of the needs of Canadian consumers. Without the preferential duties England's share of the Canadian trade would probably have decreased still more markedly, but the figures bring out sharply the fact that trade develops along the lines dictated by business sense rather than national sentiment.

No Hope for Irish Home Rule.

London, May 9.—In his Prime Minister's speech to-day Lord Salisbury, the Premier, referred to the difficulties and intricate Irish problem and said: "Mr. Gladstone is at the moment, for the sake of the country and for his party, attached himself to the idea of separation of England and Ireland. There has been a long struggle, but no one can say the home rule cause, presents any elements of genuine satisfaction for the future. It might be that the Irish rule would be realized and that Mr. Gladstone's aspirations would be fulfilled, but I do not believe that the cause which have been well known have been repeated to any purpose in English history. Apart, however, from the fact of former struggle, and I am still assured that there is no hope of the predominant party ever consenting to give Ireland practical independence. We have had no serious conflict from the South African war; how a bloody government in spite of warnings, could so suddenly arm against the most powerful continental, and thus secure a terrible advantage. We now know better than we did ten years ago what a risk it would be if we gave a disloyal government, in Ireland, the power of accumulating forces against this country. Mr. Gladstone shared his own party as that for the moment they are created and a powerful factor in English politics. But it must not be imagined that the Government is likely to be permanent."

"The total post office revenue for Nova Scotia for the year ended June 30, 1899, was \$83,650.78—\$77,324.94 less than the previous year."

Local and Special News.

—Garden seeds at cost. Mrs. J. E. Burns.

—Borden has contributed over \$10,000 to the Hull fire relief fund.

—Drop a card to J. H. Hicks & Sons for extra doors and windows.

—Karl Creelman the Turco globe trotter, is now wheeling through Australia.

—Mr. Milton Murray has purchased Mr. C. S. MacLean's farm at Margareville.

—The London fund for the relief of the victims of the Hull fire, exceeds \$200,000.

—A. B. C. Moore graduated from Rochester Theological Seminary last week.

—Since the Dominion election of 1896, seventeen members of the House of Commons have died.

—The total loss sustained by the insurance companies in the Hull and Ottawa fires is \$9,010,000.

—A little seedling has been done on the farm in this vicinity owing to the cold, backward weather.

—Expected this week at Paradise station, a certain of Shingles. *Residence of J. H. H. H. H.*

—Mr. Chas. D. Burdette, of Brimley, has purchased the farm of late Rufus DeWolfe at Lower Middleton.

—Alvin Grant, one of the oldest journalists in Nova Scotia, died suddenly Wednesday at Halifax in his 83rd year.

—Mr. William Clark, of Upper Grandville, was thrown from his horse Wednesday and dislocated his left shoulder.

—Get Shaffer & Piggott's prices on timothy, clover, alfalfa, and all garden seeds. Also flour, feed, etc.

—Since last June the Standard Oil Company has paid forty cents in dividends on each one hundred dollar share.

—The second concert in aid of the India Patriotic Fund will be given at the Court House next Friday evening, 18th inst.

—Sergeant C. E. Moore, of the 60th Battalion, son of Capt. E. M. Moore, of "The Paradise," is on the Bismarck team this year.

—Mr. Wm. L. Wright has been transferred from the United Bank Agency here, to the management of the branch at Grandville Ferry.

—Wanted at once, a first-class waiter-finisher—none other need apply. Also several apprentices. Mrs. Walker, Juggler's Block, Bridgetown.

—It is rumored that the Liberal convention for the nomination of a candidate for the approaching federal election will be held about June 1st.

—A man named Robert L. Marshall, was sentenced at Truro last week to more than a year in jail, for a fine of \$125, and ten days in jail, for uttering counterfeit money.

—Mr. J. P. Parker, who has finished his third term at the University of Maryland Dental College, won a gold medal as first prize for work on a full lower silver plate.

—Rev. H. H. Roach will talk on the "New Imperialism" in W. C. C. A. hall next Monday night. Mr. Roach is a clever, forcible speaker and his theme a popular one.

—Mr. H. S. Jones lost a valuable Jersey cow the other day under rather peculiar circumstances. The animal was found dead with her horn caught under the roof of a barn.

—Annapolis has been forced to give up the idea of a Queen's Birthday celebration this year, owing to the inability of the Government to furnish adequate special train accommodations.

—Capt. Ogilvie, of Ogilvie's Wharf, on the Bay Shore in Kings county, has nine sons, seven of whom have followed the father's calling and now hold captain's certificates.

—The regular communication of Railway Lodge No. 41, A. F. & A. M., will be held at Masonic Hall tomorrow (Thursday evening) at 8 o'clock. The brethren are respectfully requested to be present.

—Persons are warned against using bicycles on the sidewalks of the town, as such misconduct noticed after publication of this notice will be punishable by law.

—A footpath over the river bridge would be most convenient to a convenience to the residents of the town, and it is petitioned to have the work done as soon as possible.

—The bridge across the main road to Paradise Corner was up last Friday, and travel between points on either side of the gap could only be effected by making a detour through Clarence or on the south side of the river.

—Captain Longmire's schooner the Temple Bar and Packet are both in port. The former arrived on Monday with heavy freight from St. John, and the latter yesterday with a load of coal from the Joggins for the Poultry Company.

—Middleton is to have a big time on Tuesday next, when merchants are to hold their annual bazaar. It is to be a home trade advantage of the big trade discounts offered, the men will enjoy an exhibition of some of the finest horses in the two counties. Read the ad.

—McKenzie, Crowe & Co. are building a considerable addition to their lighthouse and report a grand business. Also three boats are being built for the same firm.

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—Carpets at cost. Mrs. J. E. Burns.

—Seed barley at cost. Mrs. J. E. Burns.

—Off cloth, single and double widths, at cost. Mrs. J. E. Burns.

—Mrs. Harvey is opening new sundresses, umbrellas and hats every day.

—Balances of grass seed, timothy and clover at cost. Mrs. J. E. Burns.

—Astronomers say the eclipse of the sun on May 28th, will not be visible in Nova Scotia.

—Dr. V. D. Schaffer will be in his dental office at Lawrenceton from May 18th till the 20th.

—Miss Arnaud, of Annapolis, will assist at the concert to be given next Friday evening in aid of the India Patriotic Fund.

—Mayor Ruggles' handsome residence is receiving an artistic coat of paint under the hands of painters Carter and Greenland.

—At the auction sale on the farm of the late Hector MacLean, at Upper Grandville last Saturday, the property was bid in by the mortgagee.

—The March of the White Brigade will be a new and very pleasing feature. The concert program to be given next Friday evening is in aid of the India Patriotic Fund.

—Order your building finish, doors, sashes, sheeting, flooring, mouldings, etc., from J. H. Hicks & Sons. They pay special attention to out-of-town orders.

—The Ladies' Banner—a trophy to the champion basket ball team of the town—will be presented on Monday evening next, in connection with the lecture.

—A young man, Charles Shaw, of Round Hill, is being tried before Justice Cox here this morning for breaking into S. E. Bancroft & Co.'s store at Round Hill and stealing cash and goods.

—The Methodist parsonage is undergoing repairs. New windows have been replaced the old fashioned many paneled ones, and a new coat of paint will appear on the walls of the most attractive residence of the town.

—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Moore, of Paradise, leave for Cape Breton tomorrow. Mr. Moore has been pursuing studies in theology, and will take the degree B. D.

—Inquiry into the upper end of the fire protection service leads us to believe that the town is ill prepared to battle with even a small fire. Inadequate apparatus and a disaffected fire brigade constitute a poor combination for successful fire fighting.

—The roads throughout the county are in a wretched condition, and much more than the average amount of road work will be required to put them in shape. The lack of funds for the purpose is largely responsible for the unusually rough condition of the roads.

—The Driving Park is being put in shape for the Queen's Birthday races. The heavy winds of last winter did much damage to the fences, and this is now being repaired. The track is too wet yet to be worked into a good condition, but a few days' sun will dry it out.

—All taxes for the year 1900 not paid by the 25th inst., will be sent for to the Town Clerk's Office in all cases as added assessments will bear interest at 5 per cent. This applies to tax on land as well as property tax.

—It is reported that the Annapolis Valley Steaming Company has made an offer to the Dominion Iron and Steel Co. to purchase the company's steamship service between Annapolis and London. The proposed route would be fortnightly and would be performed by steamers of a suitable class. The promoters of this line claim that the farmers of the Valley would profit by the establishment of a direct line to London for their cattle and sheep shipments would then be available.

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