

certainly a glance at the progress made by the young Dominion during the twenty-seven years it has paddled its own canoe is the best evidence that the claim is based on positive fact.

Although Canadians naturally express the profoundest admiration for the rose, thistle and shamrock, they have long since regarded the maple leaf with greater affection than any one of the other three; and why not? Their future is indissolubly linked with Canada, and here on this continent they have contributed both with their brains and muscles to build up a nation not unworthy of the proud old oak from which they sprung. It is therefore not to be wondered at that when young Canada sings "the thistle, shamrock, rose entwined," he adds, "but the maple leaf forever."

#### AUSTRALIAN PROGRESS IN HORTICULTURE.

Our horticulture friends in Australia are active along the line of suppressing insect pests and of producing the best fruit to be shipped in the best manner to distant markets. The last number of the *Vignerons*, published at Sydney says: "A conference of fruit growers summoned by the Minister of Agriculture to discuss the important subject of insect pests in orchards and vineyards, was held on the 15th March, in the Boardroom of the Lands department. The Minister of Agriculture presided, and in opening the conference said the matter of chief importance to them was to make the export trade a success, and to do this they had to grow the best kinds of fruit, and to decide upon the best methods of packing and transport. A series of papers were then read, Mr. O. Bertuch dealing with the methods of eradicating insect pests, Mr. Lancaster with the bill introduced by the present Ministry for that purpose, Mr. W. Farquharson dealing especially with the codlin moth, while Mr. J. Sykes and Mr. C. Allan dealt with the subject in general terms."

It is announced that competition from the grain fields of India, Australia and South America has reduced the price of wheat until large U. S. exports produce in addition to the value of breadstuffs going abroad, which for the first four months of 1894 has been 6,700,000 less than in the like months in 1893.

A young lady telephone operator in New Jersey ate two quarts of cherries, a quart of peanuts and then died. Chevalier Flynn should at once begin a crusade against the rearing of such spirituelle creatures in New Jersey. A woman who would lie down and die after such a feeble patriotic effort is a menace to the future race of the Jerseys.

#### SOUNDS AND ECHOES.

THE fire loss in the United States and Canada for the month of May is estimated by the *Commercial Bulletin of N. Y.* at \$10,777,800, and the total loss this year to that date at \$53,330,900.

UNDER the auspices of the American Bankers' Association, a law has been adopted by the N. Y. State Legislature abolishing "days of grace." It comes into effect with the new year.

OPERATIONS on the C. P. R. have resumed pretty much as usual, the breaks in the track caused by the flood which had to be covered by other connections having been largely repaired leaving but short distances still to be made up by outside assistance. In consequence the trains are running pretty closely on time.

SINCE our last another meeting of the creditors of Green, Warlock & Co's bank has been held. The printed statement presented showed the bank's assets to amount to \$568,766, the real property of Mrs. Green, \$36,733 and that of Mr. Worlock \$3,180, besides forty-two shares of New Westminster Gas stock, the liabilities being set down as \$457,835.

THE Ontario crop report showing the condition of the various products up to June 15 has recently been issued. From it we gather that the weather in June had so far been quite favorable to the growth of both crops and fruit. The grape vines have suffered extensively, and the peach trees were injured to some extent by frost. There is promise of only a fair crop.

THE people of Canada have long had to complain of the delays and inconveniences entailed in connection with money orders between Canada and Hawaii and Canada and Australia. Recently, however, arrangements have been completed, making Victoria the Dominion exchange office for this service, all advices of money orders issued for or from the countries named being dealt with here.

It would appear that there is not likely to be much delay in taking action with regard to re-dyking the Fraser valley. Colonel Baker recently announced at Chilliwack that the Provincial Government were already in communication with the Federal authorities on the subject, and in the meantime would sanction and assist any local works which complied with the provisions of the dyking act, and could be made part of the general dyking scheme.

As we have previously indicated, the great New York wholesale grocery house of H. K. Thurber & Co. has been in

financial difficulties, which have at last been solved by the incorporation of the concern as "the American Grocery Company," with a capital of three millions. In future, the concern will confine itself to the grocery business proper, reduce its expenses and relinquish the various manufacturing and canning enterprises in which it had extensively embarked.

SOME time back, in order to avoid all annoyances in connection with the U. S. canal at Sault Ste. Marie and obviate the retaliation which under certain circumstances was threatened by the Americans, the Canadian Government undertook to construct a canal on Canadian territory. This, it is said, is just about complete, and water will be let in about the 10th July. It will undoubtedly prove to be a great advantage to shippers of Canadian grain and produce, far ahead of many undertakings which have been carried out by the Ottawa authorities.

RECENTLY, Judge Ross, at Ottawa, decided that if a certain civil servant did not pay his debts, he must go to jail. At the Dominion capital, there have not been a few gentry in the service who have made it their business to contract debts and then set their creditors at defiance, their public position being considered sufficient to relieve them from the consequences of suits for debt. Whether or not theirs was a legal contention, certain is it that it has been a most dishonest one, and it is to be hoped that now the public have seen the last of this kind of thing.

WE observe that Mr. Corbould, M. P., has again brought up in the Canadian House of Commons the subject of lobster cultivation on the Pacific coast. Several ventures in this line, conducted both by Americans and Canadians, have, so far, proved to be failures, and Sir Charles Tupper predicts failure for this the latest proposal, nevertheless he says that he will do his best to secure another trial. Crabs thrive here, and why lobsters should not do the same is a matter that few people can understand. We don't think Mr. Wilmot does.

SUPERINTENDENT DUFFEE, of the Insurance Department of Illinois, recently made the following pertinent observations: "The solution of the difficulties surrounding the insurance situation lies more largely with the people than with the companies. When the people realize that their main protection against fire lies in their methods of building, in fire walls of substantial thickness, . . . in their constant and unwearying care for their own property, then will they be entitled to low rates for insurance, and competition for business under healthy surroundings will make rates satisfactory to the insured."