

production is estimated at 147,025 tons of coke, while shipments were more than 1,200 cars a day, and an increased shipment of 357 cars over the preceding week.

An application is being made for a charter for La Compagnie de Carrosserie de Montreal, or, to put it into English, the Montreal Carriage Mfg. Company. The capital proposed is \$100,000, and the applicants are Messrs. P. A. Lariviere, Paul Chartrand, E. Tougas, Adelard Robert and Israel Charbonneau.

Messrs. James Watson & Co., Glasgow, writing Sept. 21st, say: "The Scotch pig iron market has been flat this week, and prices have receded all round. A considerable business, principally in Scotch war-rants, has been done, the general impression being that holders have been selling. The prospects of an early termination of the coal strike are not so good as they were a week ago."

It is interesting to note the displacement of cut nails by wire nails in recent years. The production of nails in the United States for a series of years is reported as follows, representing the number of kegs of 100 pounds each.—

Year.	Cut Nails.	Wire Nails.	Total.
1888.....	6,493,000	1,500,000	7,993,000
1889.....	5,811,000	2,435,000	8,246,000
1890.....	5,641,000	3,136,000	8,777,000
1891.....	5,002,000	4,114,000	9,116,000
1892.....	4,508,000	4,719,000	9,227,000
1893.....	3,049,000	5,949,000	8,091,000

BOOKS AND STATIONERY NOTES.

It is said that Raymon Moore, who wrote the words and music of "Sweet Marie," has already made \$20,000 out of it.

He—"Can you remember the names of Howells' novels?"

She—"Oh, yes; Aunt Beaconhill makes me memorize them. But I can't remember the stories."—*Truth*.

"Hill-Crest" is a new book, the first issue of a new Toronto publishing firm, Cooper & Co. The book is after the style of the "Pansy" series. It relates the struggles of a motherless family of four girls; written by Mrs. Flewellyn, who is Canadian born, it deserves a place in many Canadian homes:

William Briggs, the Methodist Book Room, Toronto, will issue, probably next month, an important contribution to our biographical literature, in a "Life of Major-General Sir Isaac Brock, the Hero of Canada," from the pen of Mr. D. B. Read, Q.C. This gentleman, who has already written the "Life of Governor Simcoe," will have doubtless found a worthy subject for his pen in the life and character of Brock.

Sir Charles Tupper, the High Commissioner for Canada, has had under consideration the large number of essays on the history, geography and resources of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories of Canada, submitted by scholars in the schools of the United Kingdom, in the terms of the offers published in December last, by direction of the Hon. T. Mayne Daly, Q.C., Minister of the Interior. Much difficulty was experienced in awarding the prizes from the fact that so many of the essays were of considerable merit. Several of the papers that have not gained prizes were nearly up to the standard of those to which prizes have been awarded. They all indicate the attention that must have been devoted to the study of the history, geography and resources of the colonies. A total of 225 papers were received, 169 from England, 23 from Wales, 30 from Scotland, and 3 from Ireland.—*Canadian Bookseller*.

FIRE INSURANCE MATTERS.

The ratepayers of Huntingdon, Que., have met to consider the purchase of a steam fire engine. The fire committee had made a careful estimate and believe the steamer would cost only \$20 or \$25 more than the present system. No increase of taxation would be called for. After some conversation, it was moved by Dr. Cameron, seconded by R. Sellar, and carried unanimously, that the council have the approval of the meeting in the action it proposes taking.

Last year's losses by fire in the States have been computed by the eminent statistician and economist, Mr. Edward Atkinson, at more than \$150,000,000. The waste of property in smoke, Mr. Atkinson says, "is increasing year by year in undue proportion to the increase of property at risk." An exchange thinks we ought to add to the \$150,000,000 loss the cost of sustaining insurance companies, which is about \$70,000,000, and the cost of sustaining fire departments, which is fully \$30,000,000. Then the real measure of the fire tax of the United States during the past year may be placed at not less than \$250,000,000. Is it not time the people of this continent learned how to lessen the ravages of fire?

While some municipalities take umbrage at practical suggestions from the underwriters as to the preparations for fighting fire, others are very glad to accept hints that may save them loss. In Cornwall,

for instance, when some requests were made by the fire underwriters, the officials of the fire brigade took steps to put that organization in the highest state of efficiency. People are pressing upon the town council the urgent necessity of providing a hose wagon capable of carrying 1,000 feet of hose, and a horse or two to draw the same. On several occasions heavy losses have been sustained because the firemen, when they reached the fire, found they had not enough of hose and had to wait over until more was brought from the station. The *Standard* makes some further suggestions to the brigade with respect to the disposition of their coats and helmets.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

THE INSURANCE FILE.*—We have received another issue of this annual, which reproduces in *fac-simile*, photographically reduced, the latest issued yearly reports published by Life Assurance Companies doing business in the United Kingdom, and by the principal offices transacting insurance in its other branches. The reports are about 150 in number. One needs a magnifying glass to read them, in which respect they are even worse than the modern American daily newspaper, but for purposes of special record and reference they are valuable. There are other parts of the 250-page book which are legible by the ordinary man, not an entomologist or a watchmaker. For example, "Salient Features of Insurance Offices," in which the various schemes of insurance upon which the several companies pride themselves are tersely set out in a series of paragraphs, which are preceded by an explanatory editorial introduction.

IRWIN'S CANADIAN TARIFF HAND-BOOK.—Published by C. W. Irwin, Customs broker, Toronto. Price 50 cents. This new edition of an established work will be welcomed, no doubt, by many merchants. As Mr Irwin says in his preface, almost every branch of the importing trade has been affected by the recent tariff changes, and some carefully revised version of the law is a necessity for importers. The present edition, we are told, has had the advantage of revision by experts. It contains the latest tariff changes, departmental rulings, sterling and foreign money tables of francs, marks, lire, florins of Austria, florins of the Netherlands, showing their equivalents in dollars and cents, and other tables, such as metric weights and measures. There has been added a resumé of commercial law. "Other tariff books have been issued in advance of mine," says the compiler, "but I have preferred to be sounder and surer and not quite so headlong." The book has now reached 178 pages, and is a valuable adjunct to an importing merchant's outfit. Mr. Irwin has also handed us a copy of "Downing's United States Customs Tariff for 1894," a book of 530 pages, published by R. F. Downing & Co., William street and Exchange place, New York, which he says is the best compilation of the kind of which he has knowledge.

JOURNAL OF THE CANADIAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION.—Vol. II., No. 1, September, 1894. Pp. 92. Published for the Association at 62 Church street, Toronto. Sent without charge to Associates. Any one not an associate may subscribe at \$1 per annum. Communications for the *Journal* should be addressed to The Editing Committee, Journal of Canadian Bankers' Association, Toronto. Printed by THE MONETARY TIMES Printing Company, Limited. Noticed elsewhere in this issue.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

EXPOSITOR, CITY.—Nothing of the kind was stated or inferred. The men are decent men. All there is in it is that they think they can accomplish a certain thing by stated methods in a given time. THE MONETARY TIMES, after enquiring into the matter, does not think so.

G.C.B., Detroit.—One element in the success of the Toronto Industrial Fair assuredly is the low price of admission, 25 cents, which induces more than double the number to attend who would do so if the charge were 50 cents, as in the case of the Detroit Fair. The first three years' total admissions, 1879 to 1881, averaged \$25,000 annually; the next three years, \$33,000 each; the next, \$43,000, then \$60,000; then in 1891 to 1893 the average figure reached \$68,700, and this year has been \$68,930.

H. B., Indian Head.—While it is usually a pleasure to furnish information to our patrons, we have never promised to search out statistics and make a lot of enquiries in order to oblige a person who does not even subscribe \$2 a year for the paper. And we have no intention of doing this in your case.

EUROPEAN AGROUND, Cornwall.—The man who wrote you must have been mistaken. It is not livres that are meant, but lire, which are Italian coins worth about 19 cents each. Write to the consul at Montreal, or consult a banker. If the parties are respectable you should have no trouble.

*THE INSURANCE FILE. London: W. J. West, 21 Godliman street, and Page & Pratt, Limited, 5, 6 and 7 Ludgate Circus Buildings, London, Eng. Price 1s.; cloth boards, 2s.; by post 4d. extra.