

An arrangement has been made by which the wholesale dry goods business of James Johnston & Co., Montreal, is to be amalgamated with that of the W. R. Brock Company, of Toronto. The arrangement is to take effect on December 1st next. The business of James Johnston & Co. is of long standing in Montreal, and its senior partner, Mr. Slessor, has been connected with it for nearly forty years. He will become a director of the Brock Company, and will manage its Montreal business. The W. R. Brock Company will probably by this amalgamation become as well known in Quebec and the Maritime provinces as it is now in Ontario and parts of Canada farther west.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

Mr. George L. Chase, president of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company, completed on August 1st his fifty-second year in the insurance business. He has been president of the Hartford since July, 1863.

Mr. A. M. Mackay, formerly secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association at Hamilton, now local advertising manager of the Sun Life Assurance Company, is in Montreal, and has assumed his duties.

A Winnipeg paper learns of the sale of the old Bank of British North America block in that city, to the Northwest Fire Insurance Co. The object of the company in purchasing the property is to obtain a permanent head office here.

A local board has been formed in St. John, N.B., for the National Life Assurance Company of Canada. It is composed of Messrs. Joseph Merritt, J. D. Chipman, Dr. G. A. Hetherington, L. P. D. Tilley and F. A. Jones. Dr. A. F. Emery is physician for the company in that city. The local manager is Mr. W. I. Fenton.

One of the guardian philosophers of the Insurance Press has the following among his brief discourses to the uninsured: "Do not flatter yourself that your wife and children will bear the misfortune calmly and philosophically if you leave them without a copper in the till. Calmness and philosophy butter no parsnips nor do they buy shoes."

"Did you have a good time?" Of course you did. And you can't afford to insure your life, so the Mrs. and the little Misses may have a good one when you take your never-ending outing? The very best accident insurance policies can now be purchased at so reasonable a rate that no wage-earner has a particle of excuse for being outside the breastworks.

"Life Echoes" tells of a Canadian youth who at the persuasion of a brother took out a life policy, paid the premiums and continued paying them. A number of years afterwards, in a different city, having incurred obligations he looked around to find how he could meet them, and it occurred to him that possibly some money could be raised on the life policy in the Canada Life. "Accordingly I wrote the agent of the company to ascertain what amount I could get on it, and to my surprise I found that I could at any moment raise between three and four hundred dollars on my policy. This was to me a surprise and a relief, and I then began to realize more fully the value of a life policy."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

THE MAKING OF BLANK BOOKS.—An interesting booklet, with illustrations, giving a brief account of the origin of books and the art of book-binding. Published by Warwick Bros. & Rutter, Toronto.

VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE; Twelfth Annual Report, being for the year 1898-99.—We have already referred, at various times, to the proceedings of the board during the last fiscal year. But it is satisfactory to have in concrete form this record of the doings of that body and such a collection of statistics relating to the Pacific Coast, as well as to Vancouver. The illustrations, too, of scenes connected with the fishing and lumbering industries, and representing the streets of Vancouver are of great interest. Pp. 140; News-Advertiser Office, printers, Vancouver.

THE GROWING TIME IN CANADA.—A sketch of the Dominion, geographical, statistical, industrial. The illustrations, which are numerous, give an excellent idea of the high level of

comfort which exists in Canada, and the letter press, while brief, is suggestive. The pamphlet is a creditable one. Globe Publishing Co., Toronto.

—A wide survey, and a judicious summing up of the prominent features in the Canadian business situation, characterize the address made before the proprietors of the Bank of British North America by their chairman. We have obtained a verbatim report. The address was a written one, indicating that deliberation had been used; and manifestly a good deal of the portion relating to Canada was from sources well informed not only as to the provisions of the Banking Act, but as to recent flagrant infractions of them in the case of La Banque Ville Marie. One suggestive sentence we quote, which is this: "It is true that the Act provides for heavy penalties for excess of circulation, but inasmuch as it is further provided that the amount of any penalties for which the bank is liable shall not form a charge on the assets of such bank, in case of its insolvency, until all other liabilities are paid, they are of no value whatever as a deterrent." And the conclusion drawn is natural, that the Government should take notice of this defect in the Act and make provision for an adequate penalty.

—In remarking upon the fact that Canadian wood chartering is drawing to an early close this season, mainly owing to the scarcity of stock at the mills available for shipment, The Timber Trades Journal, of London, says: "But another circumstance which is making itself felt in connection with the wood shipments from Canada, is the growing tendency to contract with the different liners from Montreal and Quebec."

ONTARIO CHEESE BOARDS.

At nineteen cheese boards this week the offerings were 31,342 boxes. Last week eighteen boards offered 24,733 boxes. Nothing new has developed during the week. Prices continue very firm, and the tendency seems to be upwards, although at only one board from which we received reports were all the offerings taken. Salesmen are holding out for higher prices, and as buyers are not disposed to meet them sales continue very light:

Boards and Date of meeting.	No. of factor- ies.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold. Boxes.	Price Per lb. Cts.
Brockville, Sept. 14 ..	..	3,293	1,705	10½
Madoc, Sept. 14	13	620	285	10½
Tweed, Sept. 14	..	500	425	10½
Brighton, Sept. 15....	11	960	..	..
Iroquois, Sept. 15....	..	1,038	30	10½
Kemptville, Sept. 15..	..	850	850	10½
Ottawa, Sept. 15	..	1,436	412	10½
Perth, Sept. 15	..	1,100	1,100	10½
South Finch, Sept. 15 ..	..	1,090	..	10½
Belleville, Sept. 16 ..	..	830	50	10½
Cornwall, Sept. 16 ..	..	1,435	572	10½-11
London, Sept. 16....	25	4,448	310	10½-8
Campbellford, Sep. 19 ..	..	1,450	1,345	11-11 3-16
Ingersoll, Sept. 19 ..	..	2,220	..	10½
Napanee, Sept. 20....	..	528	175	11½
Peterboro, Sept. 20 ..	..	4,200	..	11½-8
Pictou, Sept. 20	13	990	..	11½
Sterling, Sept. 20	..	750	750	11½-7-16
Woodstock, Sept. 20..	17	3,604	..	11 1-16

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, September 21, 1899, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Sept. 21, 1899.	Sept. 14, 1899.
Montreal	\$17,001,606	
Toronto	3,712,194	\$9,927,109
Winnipeg	1,886,448	2,060,208
Halifax	1,466,360	1,426,147
Hamilton	885,985	853,848
St. John	725,643	698,294
Victoria	875,158	761,076
Vancouver	1,305,097	1,198,821

\$33,858,491

Aggregate balances, this week, \$5,852,440; last week,