

to the amount of \$6,500, the sum of \$3,442.36 had been added to the reserve fund, making that fund now \$43,171.98. The investments of the association are now all in debentures. During the year a conference took place in Montreal, between a deputation of all the commercial travelers' associations in Canada, and the heads of the railways, and an important reduction in travelers' rates had been effected in the North West, and some valuable baggage concessions gained.

The financial statement for the current year was read by the secretary, which showed receipts of \$43,010.13, and disbursements of the same amount, including a balance of cash on deposit amounting to \$6,671.71, as at 30th November, 1896. The assets are \$45,167.11, and the liabilities (principally provisions for claims not yet proved) to \$1,995.13, making the total amount of the reserve fund to date \$43,171.98.

The annual meeting has been fixed for Saturday, 19th December. Nominations of officers for next year were made, and there was no contest for any of the offices. Therefore the list stands as below, Mr. Alf. Robinson being still secretary:

President—Mr. Wm. Gray.  
First vice-president—Mr. C. E. Perry.  
Second vice-president—Mr. H. G. Collamore.  
Third vice-president—Mr. N. W. Robertson, Hamilton (re-elected).  
Treasurer—Mr. Samuel Munro (re-elected).  
Seven directors for London—H. Line, F. W. Crabbe, H. S. Wilcox, J. M. Logan, John T. Green, Jas. Granger, J. C. Hazard.  
Toronto—F. W. Heath, R. H. Greene, H. Horsman.  
Hamilton, R. K. Hope, John Booker; Stratford, James Dow; Brantford, George Watt, jr.; St. Marys, James Maxwell; Galt, John Wardlaw; Ayr, John G. Watson; Oshawa, E. O. Felt; Waterloo, S. Snider; St. Thomas, B. F. Honsinger; Woodstock, F. J. Richards; Windsor, James F. Smyth; Chatham, Charles Hadley; Ingersoll, R. H. Cotter; Sarnia, Wm. Storey; New Hamburg, J. Ratz; Winnipeg, T. Harry Slater; Aylmer, R. G. B. Moore.

#### NORTH-WEST COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS.

The annual meeting of the North-West Commercial Travelers' Association of Canada was held on Saturday evening, 5th inst., in the board of trade room, Grain Exchange, Winnipeg. The president, Mr. A. S. Binns, in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and approved, the chairman called for nominations for officers and directors. The following were received:

For President—A. L. Johnston.  
For Vice-President—J. Mundie.  
For Treasurer—L. C. Macintyre.  
All three were elected by acclamation.

Directors—F. Drewry, J. Lindsay, E. L. Thomas, J. T. Persse, W. Hargreaves, S. S. Cummings, H. W. Lethbridge, M. W. Rublee, K. McKenzie, C. R. Steele, A. P. Jeffreys, F. Couse, F. J. C. Cox, were nominated. Seven compose the board. The result of the balloting will be known on Saturday evening, Dec. 19th.

A. L. Johnston, chairman of the committee on by-laws, reported that they had revised the by-laws as requested, and that a copy of the same had been mailed to each member, and will come up for discussion at the annual meeting.

It was resolved that the annual celebration should be of the same character as last year, viz., a conversazione and ball, to be held on Monday evening, the 28th December.

#### FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The Toronto department stores, in their holiday window displays, are giving a prominent position to groceries.

Low grade India and Ceylon teas are rather scarce both in Toronto and Montreal. Prices in consequence of the shortage are rather firmer.

A number of Canadian factories continue to make cheese, but the inferior quality of the winter out-put should be sufficient to discourage the practice.

The British Columbia halibut fishery continues to yield large catches. The latest halibut cargo of the "Capilano," which entered Vancouver on the 30th November, consisted of 40 tons of fish.

A London cable says that Hafers, of Santos, places balance of present crop there of Santos coffee as 750,000 bags, and that Ornstein estimates growing crop of Rio as 2,750,000 bags, and of Santos as 3,500,000 bags.

In their last circular the Hills Bros. Co., New York, say regarding figs: The packing season in Smyrna having closed, arrivals are very light, and will shortly stop altogether. Considering the shortage in the crop present prices are low.

Confectioners have packed the bon-bons offered for the Christmas trade this year in the daintiest boxes yet seen in the trade. For some years the public has shown a preference for goods in pretty packages, and has sometimes found the old maxim true that "all is not gold that glitters."

As promised by Mr. Davies, the Minister of Marine at Charlottetown, the Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries, Prof. Prince, will hold conferences with the lobster fishermen, probably as under: At Moncton, December 10th; Pugwash, 11th; Pictou, 12th; Halifax, 15th; and Yarmouth, 17th.

On Wednesday last in Montreal an auction sale was held of teas, the underwriters having ordered them sold after the recent fire on St. Peter street. Some 1,500 packages were disposed of, and satisfactory prices obtained, prices which illustrate the belief in a still stronger tea market than at present.

The Minnesota game warden last Friday night seized and confiscated 30 tons of venison which was being illegally shipped to Boston, New York and Chicago. Venison is now selling at 18 cents a pound, and the quantity seized can easily be sold. Then the fines will realize as much more for the State if they can be collected.

Thirty thousand dollars is the value placed on a shipment of turkeys and geese made from Ingersoll, Ont., last week, to England, via Portland, for the Christmas market. There were 5,079 carcasses of the birds, filling two cars, went from Harriston, and were frozen at Ingersoll before being put upon the special train of fifteen cars. At Cobourg, on last Friday and Saturday, some twenty-five tons of turkeys were bought from farmers for shipment to Britain for Christmas.

The Spanish Government have prohibited all grinding of cane in Cuba until the month of February. It is quite certain, says the circular of Willett & Gray, that no sugars will be made before, and they may be mistaken about February also, or they may be right, but not in the way expected. In our first estimates of the crops of the world, given herewith for 1896-97, we place the Cuba crop at 100,000 tons. This is subject to such corrections as may be necessary. If the war does not terminate, so that grinding can begin before April, it is not likely that our estimate will be exceeded.

The following is Mr. Licht's report giving estimate of the European beet sugar production of the 1895-96 campaign as compared with preceding campaigns:

	1896-97. Tons.	1895-96. Tons.	1894-95. Tons.
Germany .....	1,800,000	1,617,812	1,844,586
Austria .....	1,650,000	791,405	1,055,821
France .....	780,000	667,858	792,511
Russia .....	750,000	780,000	615,058
Belgium .....	265,000	230,000	243,957
Holland .....	145,000	106,829	84,597
Other countries .....	170,000	130,000	156,000
Total .....	4,960,000	4,323,899	4,792,530

At the November meeting of the Coffee Factors' Society in Rio it was declared that the currant crop in Rio for the season from July 1, 1896, to June 30, 1897, is not less than 3,750,000 bags. Their first estimate on the growing crop in Rio is a minimum of 2,500,000 bags for the crop season commencing July 1, 1897, and ending June 30, 1898, but this estimate is subject to revision later on, and they also add that the quantity they now fix upon as a minimum is exclusive of the crop of Cafe das Aguas, the blossoming of which does not occur until the month of December, and consequently at their last meeting they could not figure what this part of the crop may amount to. Latest advices to-day from the oldest established house in Santos give the unsold stock in that port as 750,000 bags.—*N.Y. Journal and Bulletin of Commerce.*

#### DRY GOODS AND TEXTILES.

Our Montreal correspondent reports a very firm market for wool, with light stocks on spot. Several considerable sales of B.A. scoured have been lately made, the largest being of low grade, but the main demand in this kind of wool is for the better qualities. With regard to a cargo of Cape wool now nearly due at a Montreal warehouse, some American enquiry has been made and the cargo may possibly be sold in the States.

In the designs of silk goods for next spring combinations of the darker shades are rather frequent. Fashion seems inclined to show an amount of favor to darker combinations as opposed to what are known as the regular spring coloring, although these latter cannot be displaced. Black is much seen in the collections for next spring, either in the ground or in the figure. Plums, purples, heliotropes, also take a place, and these combined with black form dressy patterns which, while looking more sedate than the lighter spring colors, are none the less tasty and stylish.—*Dry Goods Economist.*

The stock of print cloths, regulars and odds, at Fall River, Provi-