

the service of the Western for over twenty years, will be superintendent of agencies in the new department, which will be termed the Metropolitan district.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

CLERK, Quebec.—You did not send your name. We do not answer such questions when asked by anonymous letter-writers.

T. G., Barrie.—The address in question, "The Development of Canada," delivered by Mr. George Hague before the Canadian Bankers' Association, was reported in THE MONETARY TIMES of September 20th, 1895.

BANKER, Warton.—Have replied by letter.

S. M., Bathurst, N.B.—Cannot recollect or trace the article you mention. In which issue did you see it?

C. J. L., Detroit.—The Canadian Year Book is the publication best suited to give you such figures and ratios. Write to George Johnson, Dominion statistician, Ottawa.

BANK OF OTTAWA.

A very satisfactory statement was made to the shareholders of this bank at its annual meeting last week. The rate of earning had been well maintained, and the proprietors have the pleasure this month of receiving a bonus over their usual eight per cent. dividend. With reference to the paragraph in the report referring to an increase of 5,000 shares new stock, while that power was given the directors at the meeting, it does not follow that it is intended to issue such stock at once. We understand that immediate action on the premises is not likely. In any case, it would take some months to get through the legal forms and special meetings which are necessary for such issue.

The remarks of the president as to the generally prosperous circumstances of the year for farmers, and the activity in mining, were followed by a paragraph on the lumber trade of a decidedly less pleasing character. And living as he does in a great centre of the lumber trade, Mr. Magee doubtless knows whereof he speaks. One of his sentences has the right Canadian ring about it: "Let us hope the question will be dealt with [by the Dominion authorities] in a manner consistent with the interests of this country only." The general manager called attention to the fact that the aggregate circulation of the banks reached in October the highest point ever known; and that the deposits have increased nearly \$23,000,000 in a year. It is interesting, too, to observe that in spite of the reduction of a half per cent. in the rate, Government deposits have continued to increase.

DRIED AND EVAPORATED APPLES.

That Canadians have much to learn of the arts of drying and evaporating apples, all interested in the trade are ready to admit. The Austro-Hungarian Consul-General at New York recently called attention to the position of the Dominion in these industries as follows:

"The dried apple industry in Canada does not occupy the high position which might be expected from the great quantity and the most excellent quality of its fresh apples. There is consequently a lack in that country of distinguished establishments which produce dried apples for exportation to Europe. This is undertaken by a number of small firms, all of whom produce 'evaporated apples,' the quality of which is, however, considerably inferior to the productions of this industry in the United States, principally, perhaps, because the exportation of fresh apples in ordinary years takes away nearly the whole surplus of the finest qualities of the crop, leaving thus only the refuse, which is not fit to be dried for exportation."

This statement, while containing some truth, is not unlikely to convey a false impression of the apple trade conditions. A sharp distinction must be drawn, as everyone in the industry knows, between apples "dried" in the farmhouses and "evaporated" in the factories. The Canadian evaporators have, with a few exceptions, failed to maintain the credit of this country by their productions. Their factories are for the most part small and the machinery incomplete. This is partly the outcome of the uncertainty of the apple crops, as the evaporating machinery is carried from district to district according to the yield of the orchards. In the United States, on the other hand, large factories have been long established, and the smaller ones are, in many cases, under the ownership of an energetic syndicate of capitalists. The methods of the Canadian factorymen are, as a result, not usually as thorough as those of their American competitors. Some time ago, the German Government passed a law prohibiting the importation into the Fatherland of apples that had been dried on wire trays. It is said by a trade authority that not more than one-fourth of the Canadian evaporators have discarded the old trays. Where the apples are dried on wood, in many cases by unskillful regulation of the

heat or imperfect machinery, the fruit often suffers deterioration through overheating of the wood, whereby the apples contract a burnt odor, and are oftentimes covered with black specks. Appearance counts for a great deal in the sale of apples, and until the Canadian evaporators learn to produce fruit well bleached and of a uniformly bright color they cannot hope to succeed abroad. There is also room for improvement in packing. A number of firms have been painstaking in this matter, and by a tasteful selection of a fancy paper covering and more care and arrangement, the demand for their products has increased.

A comparison of the dried apple trade in Canada with that of the United States is more favorable to this country. The N.Y. *Journal and Bulletin of Commerce* in the course of a daily review of the New York market, Dec. 14th, quotes dried apples as follows:

Apples, sun-dried, Canada, quarters per lb. . . .	5 to 6 cents.
" " State & W'n, quarters, per lb. . . .	4 " 5½ "
" " Southern, quarters, per lb. . . .	3 " 4½ "
" " Southern, sliced, per lb. . . .	3 " 4½ "
" " Northern, coarse cut, per lb. . . .	4 " 4½ "
" " Southern, coarse cut, per lb. . . .	3 " 4 "

It will be seen from these quotations that choice Canadian sun-dried apples are worth from one cent to a cent and three-quarters more a pound than the best United States fruit. The reputation of the Canadian dried apples has been built up only by the hard work of a few merchants. The competition of general dealers who, by way of barter, receive large quantities of dried apples, to secure trade was so great that it was found difficult to get them to insist upon more careful selection and preparation of the apples. The task was undertaken and three means of improvement suggested, viz.: that the fruit should be (1) large quarter cut, (2) bright in color, and (3) dry. The merchants were advised to carefully grade the fruit according to its quality, and above all to make prompt shipment to the wholesale centres. By these means a vast improvement has taken place in the dried apple trade within the past two years. With an abundant supply of choice green fruit available, drying and evaporating apples should be profitable industries in Canada.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

SATURDAY NIGHT.—This is the Christmas Number; one of a creditable series, and more full than usual of illustrations. "Le Sabre de mon Frere" is a good short story by Mrs. Denison, and the paper on the sporting events and records of the year, with its portraits of our "cracks," will have attraction for many. But the best thing in the issue is Mack's paper, "The Graves of Three Great Canadians." Nor must we forget to mention the two colored lithographs, "The First Harvest in Canada" and its companion picture of the comfortable homestead sixty years after. These alone are worth the price of the paper.

THE CHOIR INVISIBLE.—A delightful story by James Lane Allen, the scene laid in Kentucky; there is much agreeable word-painting in the book, and the landscape scenes are sometimes quite entrancing. The trials and chastenings of John Gray are told with fervor; the result of them the reader must discover for himself. Although uneven in parts, the style is elevated and chaste. It is a book that deserves many readers. George N. Morang, Toronto, is the publisher; 12mo. cloth, \$1.25; paper, 75 cents.

THE CANADIAN CHURCHMAN.—A new dress of type characterizes the latest number of this weekly, which is the Christmas Number. The literary contents are interesting and the pages pleasant to the eye, careful presswork being evident throughout. The illustrations are numerous and the cover unusually attractive.

Accompanying the December number of the Windsor Magazine (London: Ward, Lock & Co.; Toronto: Wm. Bryce; price, 35 cents), is a 150 page novel, "The Scallywag," by Grant Allen. An article of more than passing interest to Canadians is one on "Masters of Empire," a chat about Colonial Premiers, with illustrations of the Colonial offices, London, and a number of the Premiers.

CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, December 16th, 1897, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Dec. 16.	Dec. 9.
Montreal	\$13,269,251	\$12,901,554
Toronto	8,321,549	8,400,241
Winnipeg	2,158,412	2,480,301
Halifax	1,178,106	1,249,270
Hamilton	667,975	792,048
St. John	585,841	670,869
	\$26,181,134	\$26,494,283

Aggregate balances this week, \$3,501,445; last week, \$3,754,407.