

The "Tribune" agrees with the general opinion that a Merchants' Day for Windsor is a splendid thing. It advertises the town and demonstrates in a more emphatic manner that Windsor is the very best place in which to obtain bargains on Merchants' Day. Crowds of people came to Windsor from the surrounding towns and country. The Avon boat came in on the early morning tide and remained until evening, returning with a large number of passengers, tired but triumphant. The merchants were satisfied. An account of this success at Windsor having gone abroad, the Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Agriculturist, says: "Why not have a Merchants' Day in Summerside. It will be impossible to have it now before Christmas. Why not have it about the middle of January; the roads will likely be in good order." Certainly, have a Merchants' Day anywhere; if the merchants need stirring up, if there is stagnation in trade, or if the residents are beginning to do their shopping in larger places. The people like novelty, and are likely to support the enterprise that offers them bargains and "a good time" both at once.

ESPERANTO—THE PROPOSED UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE.

Car ciuj Kanadanoj konfesas ke nenic estas trovebla pli bona laboristo ol la Anglo. In this cryptic sentence perhaps some reader with an acute linguistic nose will scent the meaning: "Because every Canadian confesses that nowhere can you find a better worker than the Englishman." The language is Esperanto, that "international auxiliary tongue, the easiest in the world to learn," as the advertisements of the Esperanto Association say. A few of us take the invention with deadly seriousness, and with a view to improving Shakespeare, translate his masterpieces into this engaging patent slang. You learn the language while you wait. Substantives are made by adding *o* to a root-word, adjectives by adding *a*, and adverbs by adding *e*. Plurals are shown by the terminal *j*, and words are built up in sections as a toy house is constructed with bricks. For instance, with these odds and ends, anyone with a little spare time, can build up the word "weakness." *Mal* denotes opposites; *fort* obviously means strong; *ec* signifies qualities; and *o* is the hall-mark of a noun. Hence the combination *fortico* spells strength, and *malfortico* stands for weakness.

Esperanto has its uses, on emergency, even in trade, and by means of it the industrious man may make himself understood, say, in Belgium. Some tables are at hand showing Canada to have a Belgian trade. The Belgian market has this to recommend it for exporters, that its tariff is low, its credit is good, and singularly little prejudice against imported goods exists. But in Brussels buyers "buy low", they are as keen as anybody in Glasgow or Belfast, and one can name no acuter buyers in the United Kingdom than those of the said two cities.

BANKING AND FINANCIAL.

The Merchants Bank of Canada has opened a branch at Fort William, Ont.

It has been resolved by the directors of the Standard Bank of Canada to increase the capital of that bank from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. A meeting of the shareholders will be called to authorize the new issue. The directors purpose an immediate issue of \$250,000 at 200, being a premium of 100 per cent.

The Bank of Hamilton shows a gratifying statement. The earnings for the year have been large, namely \$357,000, after providing for Hillhouse Brown's heavy defalcation, besides which a large sum accrued from premium on new stock issued. After dividend they were able to put \$135,000 to rest besides nearly twice that much in the shape of premium. It is proposed to increase the capital by half a million.

Because of change in the date of the bank's year from the close of May to the close of November, the statement of the Hochelaga Bank is for eighteen months ended with the latter date. The net profits for that period have been \$492,992, which is equal to \$328,661 for twelve months, and at the rate of more than 16 per cent. on the paid capital. After paying dividend, \$250,000 was carried to reserve, which is \$1,450,000, and \$10,000 placed to officers' pension fund.

There is a project of amalgamating the Chatham Loan & Savings Company with the Reliance Loan & Savings Co., of Toronto. Meetings of the shareholders to consider the proposal, will be, for the Reliance, on January 8, and for the Chatham company, January 9th. The Chatham company has an authorized capital of \$1,000,000, of which \$309,000 is paid up. It is understood that the Reliance Co. will pay for the assets of the Chatham Company by issuing \$175,000 debentures and \$133,000 in stock in the Reliance at par.

It is announced this week from Winnipeg that the Canadian Co-operative Investment Company has assigned to the Northern Trusts Company. Liabilities are estimated at about \$160,000, and assets at \$200,000. "The cause of the assignment was that contract holders took advantage of withdrawal claims and the moneys received were not equal to the amount necessary to meet the withdrawals." Money was borrowed from a bank to the extent of \$24,000 on mortgage securities, with the expectation of being able to pay it back gradually from money received from contract holders. This was not found possible, and an assignment resulted. It is supposed that apprehension caused by the difficulties of the York Loan Company caused depositors in the Winnipeg concern to withdraw deposits.

The amalgamation of the Huron & Erie Loan Company and the Canadian Loan and Savings Society was agreed to by the required number of shareholders of both a fortnight ago. Then the amalgamated company chose a board of five directors from the Huron & Erie, and four from the Canadian. The five representing the Huron & Erie, are, we are told: Col. Little, Messrs. V. Cronyn, K. C., Frank E. Leonard, John Labatt and T. G. Meredith, K. C. Those from the Canadian are Messrs. Robt. Fox, A. T. McMahan, John Christy and Dr. Eccles. Adjusters who are to examine the last annual reports of the assets of the companies have been appointed. They are: Huron & Erie, T. G. Meredith, K. C., and George A. Somerville; for the Canadian, Messrs. J. S. Blackburn and A. T. McMahan.

LIFE INSURANCE NOTES.

We hear that Mr. George Moffat, formerly of the Manufacturers Life, has been engaged as insurance editor of the "Expositor," Newark, N.J. George makes a breezy paper wherever he goes.

The Continental Life Assurance Company has purchased the brick structure known as the Medical building on the corner of Bay and Richmond Streets, Toronto, owned by the College of Physicians and Surgeons. It will be refitted, in part for the company's purposes, and in part for commercial offices to be rented.

Mr. J. S. Wallace, provincial manager of the Imperial Life Assurance Company at Winnipeg, is being worthily congratulated upon having closed and delivered a \$75,000 policy this past week. This is one of the largest policies, if not the largest policy ever issued on any one life in the Canadian West, and speaks well, not only for Mr. Wallace, but also for the company.

Among those who have already remembered the editor with dainty Christmas cards are Messrs. David Burke, of the Royal Victoria; Mr. A. L. Eastmure, of the Ontario Accident. Calendars have reached us from the Guardian Assurance Company, the Maryland Casualty Company, the Canada Paint Company, the Canada Permanent Loan Corporation, the Great-West Permanent Loan Company and the Confederation Life of Winnipeg. For these and all other similar compliments we offer our friends thanks.