

departments of machinery and miscellaneous manufactures, entries close on 14th August; fruits and flowers, 1st September.

ONTARIO BUREAU OF INDUSTRIES. — Annual Report for 1891. Part IV. Loan and Investment Companies. Part V. Chattel Mortgages. Warwick & Sons, Toronto.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES FOR THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, 1892.—Printed for the Legislative Assembly by Warwick & Sons.

The *Manitoban* comes this month as a World's Fair souvenir number. It is worthy of note as containing, among other illustrations, the pictures of the members of the Winnipeg and Brandon Boards of Trade. In the preface an engraving represents Lieutenant-Governor Shultz, while others within the magazine portray the likeness of the Hon. Mr. Daly and that of the Hon. Mr. Greenway. The number contains some excellent articles, that upon "Life in Manitoba" probably having first place.

Universal Bimetallism is the name of a book very recently written by R. P. Rothwell, editor of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*. Mr. Rothwell finds in the establishment of an "International Monetary Clearing House or commission composed of expert representatives of the nations, empowered and instructed by their respective governments," a solution for all monetary difficulties. It is evident to all that if a bimetallic standard is to be maintained some international action must be taken, and nations are now more capable of successfully undertaking this action than they ever were. The book contains much information in the shape of monetary history and statistics, and is well worth 75 cents, which is the price asked. It is published by the Scientific Publishing Company, of New York.

We have received the annual report of the loan companies and building societies in the Dominion of Canada, with comparative tables of the chief items for the years from 1867 to 1892 inclusive. To this report, which is as usual full of the most important information, we will make extended reference in a later issue.

ADDITIONAL SUMMARY.

A small corner grocer, J. V. Perrault, of Montreal, has assigned with liabilities of \$800; there is nothing worthy of note in his case. — Another embarrassment is that of L. N. Desrosiers, who has been doing a large business at Notre Dame de L'Assomption, Que., and who for many years past has been one of the leading storekeepers of the district. He is offering his creditors 70 cents on the dollar, payable in from four to sixteen months' time. His troubles are partly attributed to a heavy loss which he met with a year or two ago, and has had more or less of a load to carry ever since. There is quite a surplus shown, viz., about \$17,000 over liabilities of \$20,000, but a good proportion of the assets consist of book debts.

—Although drilling for natural gas in Hamilton has been unsuccessful and an explosion of nitro-glycerine in the well has produced no better results, the proprietors say that they will not abandon the work.

CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday last, compared with those of the previous week:—

	Aug. 17.	Aug. 10.
Montreal	\$10,079,266	\$12,296,021
Toronto	4,717,234	6,060,571
Halifax		139,939
Hamilton		

Total clearings.. \$ \$
Aggregate balances this week, \$
last week, \$

—The Sarnia Board of Trade met on the 31st July. Two letters were read from manufacturers seeking a business location, a Chicago exhibitor who intends to make patent swings, and the patentee of a machine for trimming and preparing flax fibre for hackling. Committees were appointed to investigate these projects. The Board then decided to co-operate with the Fort William Board of Trade in petitioning the Government to dredge the mouth of the Kaministiquia River, and with the British Columbia Board of Trade in asking an arrangement of customs duties to facilitate trade with Australia.

—Last year nearly two-thirds of the crop of Manitoba and the North-West reached the sea via Buffalo. This year the bulk of the trade will go by the St. Lawrence route. This change is due to various causes, partly to the high rates charged by the Erie canal on east-bound freight, and partly to the stringency of the American money market. As a result of the closing down of the mines, many vessels are entering the grain carrying trade, freights have come down and the transportation companies between Kingston and Montreal have all the business they can attend to.

—As a result of the present clouds in the American financial horizon, the convention of the American Bankers' Association has been postponed to a future day to be fixed hereafter. This convention was to have met in Chicago on September 6th. While the meeting would have been most interesting at this stage of the crisis, there can be no doubt but that American bankers will serve their own best interests and the interests of the community by continuing a close personal attention to business.

—At a meeting of the South Kootenay Board of Trade, held at Nelson, B.C., on the 18th of July, R. E. Lemqn was elected president; J. A. Turner, vice-president; G. A. Biglow, secretary-treasurer; and Messrs. Holt, Houston, Robson, Wilson, Hume, Gilker, Applewhaite, Marsden, Squire, Teetzel, Bogle and Watson, members of the council and of the arbitration board. Messrs. Applewhaite and Houston were elected auditors.

—The regular meeting of the Guelph Board of Trade was held on the 16th inst. The discussion for the most part was confined to questions of local interest. A committee was appointed to receive the Toronto delegation on the 28th. A general discussion followed on the matter of freight delivery by the Grand Trunk and Canada Pacific railways.

—The House of Lords has decided on appeal that the underground railways in London are liable to land tax. The decision seems somewhat hard, as the land on the surface is also liable. The fact that mines are liable to the land tax is scarcely a parallel point, yet it is the one on which the Law Lords relied.—*Herapath's*.

CROFTER SETTLEMENTS.

From time to time considerable interest has been directed to the formation of crofter settlements in the Canadian North-West. A large sum of money was expended by the British Government in planting a colony at Saltcoats on the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway; but disaster has been the only outcome of this experiment. Sir George Trevelyn, in answering a question put to the Government upon the success of this colony, on the 18th of July in the British House of Commons, made the following statement:

The history of the Saltcoats crofter settlement in Canada has not been a satisfactory one. Unfortunately, during the early period of the settlement, the circumstances were such that, of forty-nine original families, only eighteen remain. Agricultural implements and cattle were supplied them, on which a lien was taken by the agents of the colonization board. A succession of bad seasons and disease among their cattle followed. On the representation of the sub-committee, the crofters were permitted last December to sell some of their young stock of cattle, and they have, from time to time, been assisted by grants of grain and potato seed. Recent complaints are now being looked into by the sub-committee at Winnipeg, and Sir Charles Tupper has promised personally to enquire into them during his visit to Canada. Under these circumstances, I do not consider it necessary to appoint any special commission to go into the matter. The money allotted could not have been worse spent than under the circumstances of emigration to Saltcoats.

It is more than probable that the policy of the Government along this line will be altered and possibly terminated, as the proposed settlement of British Columbia appears to have made but little progress.

WHAT EUROPE IS PRODUCING.

In August trade is dull, for heat and dust have driven people from cities to seek the cool shades of Muskoka or enjoy the refreshing breezes along the sea-coast. And the stores in country districts, too, are deserted, but for a different reason; here all is life and activity, since harvest is at hand. But although customers no longer throng the store, the merchant's mind is far from being unoccupied. He must think of the coming fall trade; and so it is now of the utmost interest that he should know what is being prepared in the manufacturing centres for the coming season. Apropos to this, we have read nothing with greater interest than the letters in the last number of the *Dry Goods Economist*, written by their European correspondents.

After making a few remarks about the Lyonese silks, *La Mode* says:—

Other silks I have seen are divided into diamond shapes, each rectangular division shaded across from the upper to the lower corner. This is very effective in satin, and looks well in a variety of colors. Akin to these are the shot striped backgrounds, in two hues, woven one in the other, so that the predominant color in the one stripe takes the second place in the one which alternates with it. Bouquets or running scrolls will be brocaded on such foundations. A greater novelty still is a cross-bar pattern of satin, with uneven edges, which looks as if some one had taken a brush and dabbed the striped material with it along and across, softening the edges of the same with a wet sponge. Satin splashes of this sort are also worked up into brocades. An icicle pattern rendered in this way, in white and blue, makes a handsome dress fabric. Sometimes eccentric curves are brocaded on shaded or shot grounds.

CHINE SILK REVIVED.

With these tendencies it is not surprising to find the old-fashioned chine silks revived. Those who may not remember to have seen any specimens of these tissues, which were in