

A paper which attracted marked attention was one by Mr. R. R. Hedley, metallurgist, of the Hall mines smelter, whose subject was the smelting possibilities of British Columbia. In this paper Mr. Hedley remarked that no one knew what the Rossland mines were capable of producing. Wild statements had been made on this head, but he believed that a 500-ton plant could be erected, and run so economically that it could make a smelting rate of \$7 per ton f.o.b. In his opinion the Rossland district would soon have to increase its capacity. If these ores will smelt a concentration of 10 to 1, using twelve and a half per cent. coke, and ten per cent. barren flux, that figure will leave a profit to the smelter. He considered, however, the possibilities for successful smelting were far greater in the Boundary Creek district, where the variety of ores was greater, and a perfectly self-fluxing ore is obtainable.

Addresses were delivered by Mr. B. T. A. Bell and Mr. E. Blake-more, representing mining associations of Eastern Canada. Both these gentlemen dwelt upon the remarkable mineral resources of British Columbia, and the necessity of making them known to the world outside.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

There are, according to an American exchange, 1,643 wholesale grocers in the United States, of whom Greater New York has 83; Philadelphia, 59; Chicago, 21; Boston and St. Louis, 33 each; and Pittsburg 22.

Cable advices from Italy report a further advance of 29 lire per hundred kilogrammes in the price of fine grades of olive oil, supplies of which are said to be very scarce. On off grades, which are in full supply, prices are reported to be unsettled in the primary market.

An Educational Feature—"Nope," said Mr. Rockwell, as he wiped his glasses, "I'm afraid John's college education ain't goin' to do him much good, after all." "Why, Silas," his anxious wife cried, "what makes you say that?" "He admitted in the store yesterday that there was still a few things I knew more about than him."—*Cleveland Leader*.

The Buenos Ayres *Standard* of December 6th quotes the vice-president of the Central Locust Extinction Committee as expressing satisfaction with the harvest and the extermination of the locusts. A proposition to levy ten cents per quintal has been made for the purpose of carrying on the work of locust extinction. This on the harvest of 1,500,000 tons, as estimated, would give about \$1,750,000.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Company is preparing a shipment of flour for the Klondyke from Portage la Prairie. The first consignment consisting of three carloads, and in view of the many transshipments en route, the flour is packed in double sacks, made especially for the trade. The shipment now in preparation will be forwarded in a few days to Vancouver, at which port it will be taken on board steamers sailing to Skagway and points from which supplies are carried into the interior.

The Canadian Cannery Association, consisting of members of the fruit and vegetable canning trade, opened their annual meeting at the Walker House, Toronto, on Tuesday last. The president's address was read and the election of officers for the coming year gone on with. Mr. W. A. Ferguson, Delhi, was re-elected president. The other officers are: Vice president, W. I. Matthews, Lakeport; secretary-treasurer, W. C. Breckenridge, Hamilton. Executive Committee—W. B. Innes, Simcoe; H. J. Matthews; W. Coulter, Picton; A. C. Millar, Picton; H. D. Marshall, Aylmer. Auditors—Wm. Millar, Port Hope; W. H. Matthews, Clinton. The meeting was continued on Wednesday, when various matters of interest to the trade were discussed.

Mr. Derbyshire, of Brockville, says he has carefully estimated our make of butter and cheese for all of 1897 and is sure dairymen in this country will realize twenty million dollars, or four million dollars more than last year. The exports from Montreal for May 1 to Nov. 20, 1897, were 220,200 packages of butter, against 157,321 in 1896. During the same period we exported 2,100,000 boxes of cheese, or an increase of 370,000 over 1896, a gain in money of \$2,500,000, and for butter and cheese together \$3,250,000 more than during the same period in 1896. Not all of this quantity was made in Canada, but we must remember that there are other avenues of outlet for the products of the Canadian farmer than through the port of Montreal.

Under date of January 4th, D. Pasqua writes from Patras, Greece, regarding the situation in currants there: "We have had a very active market during December, and prices have kept strengthening all the while. The shipments of the month are as follows:

	Season to Dec. 31—		Season to end
	1897-98.	1896-97.	July, 1896-7.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
To England	49,305	42,400	54,700
" United States and Canada ..	9,910	13,185	14,065
" Australia	2,800	2,370	2,775
" Holland, Belgium, Germany and Austria	18,765	23,500	42,200
" Russia		19,321	19,321
" France	895	3,054	6,223
" Sundries	300	900	1,200
Total	81,975	104,730	140,484

In the above list are not included about 5,000 tons shipped per steamers "Ardmellie" for London, "Algerian" for Liverpool, "Powhatan" for New York, "Olivia" and "Roma" for Holland and Germany. The stocks in Greece on the first of January were reported not to exceed 17,000 tons. Owing to the reduced stocks, the pretensions of holders are daily accentuated. The good provincial fruit is virtually exhausted, and the 2,000 tons now left in Calamatta and district will be hardly sufficient to cover the retention quantity.

FREDERICTON BOARD OF TRADE.

There was a good attendance at the annual meeting of the Fredericton Board of Trade on January 17th. Discussion was had of the proposed transfer of the Canada Eastern Railway to the Dominion Government, and it was suggested that a delegation representing the business men of the city should proceed to Ottawa and lay the matter before the Government. A delegation was appointed, however, to see Mr. Alexander Gibson and find out how far negotiations had gone for the purchase of the road, before going to Ottawa.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, Allen H. Randolph; vice-president, C. Fred Chestnut; secretary, J. W. McCready; treasurer, M. Tennant; tourist committee, C. F. Chestnut, F. B. Edgecombe, W. Vanwart, F. B. Coleman and J. S. Neille.

CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, January 27th, 1898, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Jan. 27th, 1898.	Jan. 20th, 1898.
Montreal	\$13,285,791	\$14,681,555
Toronto	7,807,617	8,285,155
Winnipeg	1,240,440	1,434,080
Halifax	1,016,205	1,072,195
Hamilton	548,374	615,906
St. John	511,103	551,607
	\$24,409,529	\$26,640,498
Aggregate balances this week, \$3,375,198; last week, \$3,184,925.		

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

T. A. LYTLE & Co., City, writes:—"What should we do with a cheque for thirteen cents (13 cts.), amount of a first and final dividend, received to-day from the assignee of an estate? The cheque is drawn on a bank in Barrie, lowest exchange on which is fifteen cents (15 cts.)."

[We should say, send the cheque back. There is no sense in the assignee mailing cheques, the discount on which absorbs their face value. He could have sent you the amount in stamps, or could have bought a Post-Office order at the cost of two cents.]

ST. CATHARINES.—"We do not know in what other city that mining stock may be listed. It was not listed here. About the other company, the "Table of Stock Transactions for 1897," published in THE MONETARY TIMES of 7th January, shows how its shares dropped from 90 in August to 50 in October. Some good judges think it still worth 5

—If what a reporter of that paper learned last week be true, as he states it in the *Free Press*, Winnipeg is to be tempted by some cheap old-country money. Here is the story: "A gentleman who has long been a resident of the city, and has considerable property here, received this week from gentlemen in the old country that they were prepared to lend \$500,000 on Main street property, situated between Grahame avenue and the city hall, at 4½ per cent. interest. Two city churches have also been asked to transfer their loans, now bearing 6 per cent., to the new representatives, and on behalf of one of these—Knox church—the managers last evening decided to take prompt action in the matter." Old country people who will lend money on churches at 4½ per cent. are very likely, however, to exact security other than stone and lime. We should like to know the terms on which this 4½ per cent. money is to be had.