

## CANADIAN PACKERS.

The Canadian Association of Fruit and Vegetable Packers met in Toronto in their annual session on the 6th inst. The meeting was well attended, the following members being present: W. Boulter, sr., Picton; Frank Boulter, Toronto; W. J. Flynn, St. Catharines; T. N. Dunn, J. H. Lee, Strathroy; W. Innes, Simcoe; W. A. Ferguson, Delhi; A. C. Miller, W. R. Wright, Picton; T. Owens, D. McAuley, Trenton; W. A. Carson, R. B. Morden, Belleville; H. J. Matthews, Lakeport; T. A. Montague, A. McKillop, West Lorne; W. H. Buntin, H. Carlisle, St. Catharines; J. J. Nairn, Aylmer; S. Fenton, St. Catharines; W. C. Breckenridge, Hamilton.

The election of officers was among the most important business of the meeting; the elections resulted as follows:

President—W. Boulter.

Vice-President—W. A. Ferguson.

Secretary-Treasurer—W. C. Breckenridge.

Assistant Secretary—G. A. Willis.

Executive Committee—W. Boulter, A. C. Miller, W. A. Ferguson, T. Montague, W. P. Innes.

Selling Committee—W. A. Ferguson, W. Boulter, W. P. Innes, S. Fenton, H. J. Matthews, A. C. Miller, W. C. Breckenridge.

Auditors—W. A. Carson, J. J. Nairn.

The various members of the association consider that the year has been a good one. Stocks at the beginning of the season were not large, and are now within small compass. Of fruits generally there is but scant supply, while the association is completely out of stock of strawberries. It was decided at the meeting to advance the price of staple lines of corn, peas and tomatoes  $2\frac{1}{2}$  c. a dozen. Although there was some talk among the members as to next season's operation, no arrangements were made with reference to it. The present mode of selling through committee has not given the best satisfaction to jobbers, and it is possible that a change may be made before next season's pack is placed on the market. It is understood that the association will soon be strengthened by the addition of other packers.

## OTTAWA BOARD OF TRADE.

On Tuesday evening, 29th January, the Ottawa Board of Trade held its annual meeting. Mr. Wm. Scott, president, in the chair, and between twenty-five and thirty members present. The first subject discussed was the protection of the city from fire. Then the officers' reports were read. That of the secretary, Mr. N. S. Garland, showed the membership of the board to be 181, an increase of 23 during the year. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$686 on hand at the beginning of 1895.

The president's report mentioned among the subjects considered by the board the Canada Central Exhibition, an increased grant to which was asked from the City Council; the parks question; the inter-provincial bridge; the Montreal and Ottawa Counties Railway, the construction of which was sought for; private banks; the Insolvency Act; the Montreal, Ottawa and Lake Huron Canal; the sawdust question as it affected Ottawa mills; better water supply and fire appliances for the city; the Ontario Arbitration Act for the settlement of commercial disputes. The election of officers then took place with the result that the following gentlemen were chosen:

President—Joseph Kavanagh.

1st Vice-President—C. Ross.

2nd Vice-President—A. W. Fleck.

Treasurer—C. A. Douglas.

Council—Thomas Workman, W. T. Masson, P. D. Ross, George F. Henderson, George S. May, J. W. McRae, George Burn, W. E. Matthews, P. Whelan, Wm. Scott, R. M. McMorran and C. J. Booth.

Arbitrators—F. H. Chrysler, P. I. Bazin, A. Pratt, Ald. Cook, W. Northwood, A. D. Richard, G. L. Orme, P. Larmonth, P. Baskerville, H. H. Wootten, G. H. Perley and D. O'Connor, jr.

When the result was announced, Mr. Kavanagh took the president's chair and briefly thanked the members of the board for the compliment of being elected president.

Mr. R. J. Wickstead gave notice that at the next meeting of the board he would move a resolution, "That it is expedient that the colony of Newfoundland be forthwith admitted into the Union in accordance with the provisions of the B. N. A. Act of 1867.

## RUBBER STAMPS IN LAW.

Is a receipt valid which is made by a rubber stamp and identified by a clerk? A Philadelphia judge decided the other day that it was not, being bad in law. So we are told by the *Bookseller and Newsdealer*. This being the case, will the signature to the correspondence of a firm or company, made by a rubber stamp, as is often done nowadays, be any more legal than the receipt just mentioned? The practice of using

a rubber stamp instead of handwriting may be carried to an unwise and unbusiness like length. The journal quoted says: "The principal of a house or the manager of a department is too prone to delegate important powers and responsibilities to subordinates. The latter may be faithful, honest, and intelligent, but there are certain important duties which, in the interest of employer and employee, the former should assume. A slight mistake in the office has caused many a weary and expensive hour on the witness stand in court."

## CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday, Feb. 7th, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Feb. 7.	Jan. 31.
Montreal .....	\$10,667,160	\$10,620,344
Toronto .....	8,360,870	4,332,940
Halifax .....	1,233,261	944,341
Winnipeg .....	730,687	641,954
Hamilton .....	677,532	474,206

Total ..... \$21,669,510      \$17,013,785

Aggregate balances this week, \$2,943,939; last week, \$2,733,559.

—The business of the Perth Mutual Fire Insurance Company is growing. Its aggregate at risk is \$8,760,081. And, warned by the untoward experience of 1893, the management is accumulating a cash reserve. The company has some \$10,000 cash in bank, holds mortgages and debentures for \$52,000, and behind these has \$138,000 in premium notes. The total assets at 31st December, namely, \$211,466, shows an increase for 1894 of more than \$18,000. The proportion of the company's business done on the cash system is larger than that done on the note system. Losses are happily less than those of 1893, and the company is able to show, as the result of the business for last year, a net profit of \$13,692, which shows that they have done quite as well as the average of fire insurance companies.

—In the speech from the throne the Government of Nova Scotia uses the following language about 1894: "While the past year cannot be described as one of general prosperity throughout the Dominion, it must be a gratification for us to know that a fair degree of success rewarded the industry of our people in their diversified fields of labor. A good harvest, an average fishery, marked progress in mining operations and considerable activity in other departments, combined to enable the people of Nova Scotia to avoid to some extent the depression of trade which prevailed so widely on this continent."

—The Truro Board of Trade held its annual meeting on Friday, 25th January. Officers for 1895 were elected as under: C. E. Bentley, president; E. E. McNutt, 1st vice-president; W. E. Blight, 2nd vice-president. Members of executive committee: R. T. Craig, T. G. McMullen, I. E. Bigelow, R. J. Turner, D. J. Thomas, P. McG. Archibald, W. Craig, G. Walker Smith, S. M. Bentley, F. McClure. The secretary is G. A. Hall. At the next meeting the subject of attracting new industries to the town will be taken up.

—The annual meeting of the Exchange Bank of Yarmouth has been held. The earnings of the year sufficed to pay the dividend of 6 per cent. and place \$4,240 to profit and loss. The reserve remains as before at \$30,000. The former board of directors was re-elected, namely: Robt. Cale, president; J. H. Killam, vice-president; N. B. Lewis, B. B. Law, Wm. Lovitt.

—We are informed that Mr. W. D. Matthews, of the Toronto firm of W. D. Matthews & Co., has been elected to a seat at the board of directors of the Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Company, to fill the vacancy created by the death of the late Mr. A. M. Smith.

—We receive, just as we are going to press, a copy of the annual report of the Toronto Board of Trade for 1894, whose 150 pages embrace reports of several of the sections of the board, as well as statistics of the port and a list of the members.

—Mr. William Ross having resigned the position of secretary of the Guelph & Ontario Investment and Savings Society, the position has been secured by Mr. J. E. McElderry, who for many years has been a merchant in that city.

—Additional reports of companies will be found on page 1,046 of the present issue.