ping business, it would take enormous subsidies to meet the annual deficits of a fast line of steamers between Canada and Great Britain. At the same time we do not wish to throw the least discouragement upon any well devised, feasible and promising scheme for improving the ocean service between Canada and the old land. Postal subventions and every reasonable form of aid should be granted to both steamers and railways, which, practically, control the transportation business.

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Without entertaining any pessimist fears as to the future of British shipping, we are afraid there is a deeper question involved in the shipping combine problem than any touched upon by those who have discussed it so far. That question is, How can Great Britain continue to control the carrying trade of the world under the British flag? Will not the struggle to maintain her position of mercantile maritime supremacy involve a new Navigation Act? Is not a revolution likely to take place in the fiscal policy of Great Britain, which will set all existing methods at nought?

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The Union Bank of Halifax and Commercial Bank of Windsor are in course of being amalgamated. The former has a capital of $1,000,000, with reserve fund of $642,659, the latter a capital of $500,000 and reserve found of $60,000. It is stated that the title of Union Bank, will be retained.

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Canada's foreign trade went last year, ending 30th June, considerably beyond any former period. The returns issued are open to correction, but they will be found substantially correct. As compared with the previous three years, the figures are as follows:

	Exports of Canadian goods.	Total Exports.	Imports.
1902...........	$196,105,240	$211,725,763	$202,791,595
1901...........	177,431,386	196,487,632	181,237,988
1900...........	168,972,306	191,894,723	180,804,316
1899...........	137,360,792	158,896,905	154,051,593

Since 1899 the foreign trade of Canada has increased to the extent of $101,568,860. The exports of goods produced in Canada has increased in four years to extent of $58,744,448, including natural and manufactured products. This tells us where the enlarged deposits flowing into the banks come from.

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The strike of the anthracite coal miners continues. The leader, who is doubtless feathering his nest out of the unfortunate colliers, as has been done by leaders in other strikes, says: "The men will win it they can hold out for ten weeks longer." That will bring the time to the early part of October, when the demand for coal becomes pressing, as furnaces stoves generally, require hard coal. Ten more weeks of strike means, at least, $1,0000,000 to $15,000,000 more being wasted over this insane struggle, which already has cost $400 for every man engaged in it; that is, every miner has sacrified an entire year's income, the loss of which will fall largely upon storekeepers, though thousands of families will have been impoverished, and hundreds ruined in health as well as purse.

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

Taxation of Isurance is unknown in Great Britain, save a penny stamp on policies, except those on farm produce.

Ottawa Clearing House.—Total for week ending July 17, 1902: clearings, $1,878,432; balances, $457,852.

The Guardian will in future be known as "The Guardian Assurance Company, Limited." It has dropped the words "Fire and Life" out of its title.

Lifsabyrgdarfelagid is not what it looks like—a jumble of 19 disconnected letters. It is Icelandic for "Life Assurance Society."

A Portable Telephone is coming into use in France and Germany. The wire is so light that a man can easily carry 3 or 4 miles of it. The line can be worked up to 6 miles.

Of Remarkable Accidents there is no end. A man swallowed his false teeth. To recover them and prevent his choking an operation was performed, which resulted in his death.

Common Table Salt used as snuff is stated by an English physician to be very soothing in cases of facial neuralgia. It is innocent any way and worth trying.

London, with 2,000,000 more Population than New York, had only 3,684 fires in 1901, while New York had 8,504. The difference in the rate of burning property in the two cities explains the difference in rates for fire insurance.

Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society.—The fire premium income in Montreal of the above society for 1899 was $33,474, not $50,484, as given in our list of premiums published on the 11th inst.

Quoting a Price to an enquirer is not a verbal contract to sell at that price unless it is specifically stated that the goods are offered at such price and the offer is at once accepted.

The Complete Returns of the Life Insurance Business in the United States for 1901, says the "Spectator," show that there are eighty domestic companies recognized by the insurance departments as level premium organizations, thirteen of which transact mainly industrial business. On January 1 last the total assets of these eighty companies amounted to $1,910,784,985, exclusive of not admitted items aggregating $10,649,616. At the beginning of 1901 the level premium companies were possessed of admitted assets of $1,742,414,173, so that the gain for the year was in excess of $168,370,000.