

CANADIAN BOOTS IN WEST INDIES.

Mr. R. Bryson, who is the Canadian trade agent stationed at St. John, Antigua, remarks that within the last three or four years, practically all the imports of boots and shoes into Antigua as well as Dominica and Montserrat came from England. This state of affairs, however, is now altered. During the current year the United States have made great strides in capturing this trade, while Canada is now joining in the competition and seems likely to get a considerable share of the trade, too. Canadian footwear is as yet a novelty here, but the shipments, which have recently arrived, have in most respects pleased importers and will lead to repeat orders. Most importers prefer to buy from Canada rather than from the United States, all things being equal, so that Canada has an initial advantage. It must be remembered that Antigua is a poor country, and the purchasing power of the people very small. A considerable portion of the population do not wear boots or shoes at all; hence the trade is not large and the bulk of it is in the cheapest qualities only. So far as shipping facilities are concerned, Canadian manufacturers are as well placed as those of the United States. The Pickford and Black steamers sail from St. John and Halifax monthly, on fixed dates, and freight charges are the same as from New York. There is one difficulty to which I have previously called attention. Canadian manufacturers are in the habit of drawing through the bank against shipments. Most importers here object to that; they are quite willing to remit on receipt of goods and are in the habit of so doing. Manufacturers should therefore first satisfy themselves of the standing of their consignees and make free shipments. Everything points to Canada doing a much increased trade in footwear in the near future, thinks Mr. Bryson. And this can be greatly helped by putting on goods a superior finish. The finish of the cheaper grades of Canadian goods should be improved. Buyers are guided much more by the eye than anything else, and while the English boot may (and probably does) wear longer, the more attractive appearance of the American article gives it the preference.

A DOCTOR ON DOCTORS.

Those who have read any of Dr. William Osler's works or charming professional addresses, naturally want to see and hear the man. This accounts for the large gatherings on December 27th and 28th, when he was announced to speak. At the Medical Library gathering in the Queen's Park the doctor inculcated strongly that the profession must outgrow its narrowness, its tendency to form cliques, the bitterness of hostility shown by one medical man to another for no adequate reason. They should cultivate a fraternal spirit. He gave a rub to the financially speculative disposition of too many doctors. "There are," he said, "comparatively few men in the profession who, after forty years of practice, can give fifty or a hundred dollars to such an institution as this much needed library. The money is needed for insurance or home expenses, yet such a building is an object of solicitude, and if some doctors, who invested \$150 in War Eagle stock, had put fifty of it in Golden Fleece and the other hundred into an institution of this kind, they would have had a much better investment; indeed they could have built the largest library on the continent. A doctor never knows how to be a financial success; it is not taught in the profession (Laughter.)"

FORT WILLIAM TO THE FORE.

The Ogilvie Flour Mills Company have now taken over from the original promoter of the Fort William, Ont., power scheme, Mr. E. S. Jenison, the rights of the Kakabeka water falls, near that place. The company's elevator has just begun operations, and their large mill will no doubt be completed this year. The citizens of Fort William are elated by the improved outlook for the place. The town council has arranged with the company for a mutually satis-

factory basis for the supply of power for the waterworks and the electric lighting plant. Plans for the work in view are nearing completion. During the present winter surveys of the whole water supply of the Kaministiquia River are to be made, also provision for the storage of water at any of the lakes which feed the stream. Actual work on the development will hardly be commenced before early in the summer, but they hope to have the power harnessed by June, 1906. As some 30,000-h.p. will probably be developed, they will in the meantime be looking for users outside of their own mills, the railway companies and the town. "The canals and raceways will be built of sufficient capacity to develop the entire power of the falls without further work on this portion of the plant, all that will then be required being additional penstocks and turbines to bring about a development of about 50,000-h.p." The new company will assume the liability of the old promoters, and propose to deposit \$50,000 in the Bank of Montreal as a guarantee.

MONTREAL'S GROWTH.

The new buildings erected in Montreal during 1904 approached fourteen hundred in number, according to the report of the building inspector, Mr. Chausse. These consisted of 1,147 dwellings, which number is 460 more than in 1903—the greatly increased demand for dwellings for artisans having resulted in unusual construction—148 stables and sheds, 42 stores, 15 warehouses, 13 factories, besides a number of churches, schools and hospitals. There is a decrease in the number of stores erected this year, as compared with last.

The total value of the various structures erected corresponds very closely to that of the previous year. Their value aggregated \$3,643,181. In 1903 it was \$3,848,733, and in 1887 it was \$3,793,178. But these are the only years which surpassed 1904, and in both the phenomenal amount of building was due to something exceptional, such as the erection of the C.P.R. shops, large office buildings, etc. In 1904 there was nothing of this sort to swell the operations, but there was an extraordinary number of residences of the smaller class put up.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Canadian Almanac, 1905.—This excellent compend has now reached the dimensions of a volume of 450 pages, and its scope of information is constantly widening. No more useful companion can be on one's library table or on one's shelves. Accompanying the book this year is a timely map of Ontario, delineating "New Ontario" clear up to James Bay on the east, and to the Lake of the Woods and Winnipeg River on the west. The character of the land and timber is shown in the different districts of Nipissing, Algoma, Thunder Bay, and Rainy River. The route of the Algoma Central and other projected railways is given.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

Accountant, Hamilton.—The matter (Canadian Savings per head, compared with savings of other countries), was dealt with in Monetary Times of 9th December. The figures are doubtless the same as Mr. Stewart wrote last week to the New York Sun about. It would not be fair to assume that the under-estimate of Canadian savings was made purposely. Whoever compiled the figures for the United States Government of course thought that no country on the earth could surpass the United States in anything. There are plenty of such people across the lakes; but one does not expect to find them in the Department of Statistics. We refer to the matter elsewhere.

W. E. A., St. John, has had a letter from Mr. A. W. Donly, secretary of the Canadian Commercial Club, Mexico City, asking for a list of all the Boards of Trade of the Dominion with their presidents and secretaries. He asks the Monetary Times for such a list, and we have pleasure in forwarding it.