

JOHN M. O'LOUGHLIN, PRMR.

HENRY BELL, VICE-PRMR.

W. E. HAZLEY, TREAS.

THOS. A. WATTS, SECT.

The Consolidated Stationery Co., Limited

(AMALGAMATED FIRMS OF PARSONS, BELL & CO., AND O'LOUGHLIN BROS. & CO.)

Papers and Bags.....

Manillas, Browns, Rags, Butcher's Straw, American, Butcher's Manilla, American, Manilla in Rolls, Brown in Rolls.

BAGS—Ordinary and heavy. Order our **Bluestone Bag**, in 12, 14, 16, 20 and 25 lb. sizes. Flour Sacks, Shot Bags, Candy Cups, etc.

NOTE—Best facilities and largest and most varied stock from which to supply you many wants.

Spring Goods.....

Express Wagons—in iron and Wood Gear—Croquet Sets, Footballs, Baseballs, Rubber Balls, Marbles, Tops, Skipping Ropes, Hammocks, etc.

Wall Papers—Nice Assortment for Spring Trade

41 Princess Street,

WINNIPEG, MAN.

The Semi-Centennial of English Free Trade.

The fiftieth anniversary of the repeal of the corn laws will be celebrated in England next June. The results of half a century of free trade are sufficiently brilliant to justify the claim that the Anti-Corn League was one of the most beneficent services ever rendered to the English people. The agitation lasted for ten years, and triumphed with Sir Robert Peel's avowal of his change of mind in 1816.

For some years before there had been indications of the beginning of the end. Peel's sliding scale of duties in 1812 was intended to serve as a hub to the wheel, but it more fully demonstrated that low duties on the importation of agricultural products did not mean disaster, and the demand for their total repeal gained new strength. When wheat was allowed to come into England from Canada at a nominal duty, the principal of the corn law was naturally abandoned, and when, in 1815, Peel's budget abolished the duty on 430 articles out of 813 then taxed, the whole fabric of protection began to crumble. At the opening of the parliamentary session of 1815 Sir Robert Peel made the pregnant avowal that during the last three years he had observed, first, that wages do not vary with the price of food, and that with high prices you do not necessarily have high wages; second, that employment, high wages and abundance contribute directly to the diminution of crime; and third, that by the gradual removal of protection industry had been promoted and morality improved. There followed the introduction of a bill to repeal all duties on imported grain after three years, and it is the final passage of this act which marks the beginning of the free trade era in England.

There is but one survivor of the leaders of the anti corn law movement—Charles Pelham Villiers, M.P.—and the presentation of an address to him will be one of the features of the coming celebration. Among the results to which the disciples of Cobden and Bright can point to justify the value of their principles is the fact that the foreign trade of England, which in 1816 was only \$750,000, reached last year a total of \$2,910,000,000, exclusive of \$300,000,000 in re-exportations. In twenty years the sum of pauperism in England has been reduced from 930,000, or 4 per cent of the population, to 711,000, or 2½ per cent. At the beginning of the free trade era the annual product of the shipbuilding yards in Great Britain was 123,000 tons, while last year they turned out 1,069,191 tons. Taking the industrial development of the country as a whole it has been one of the most remarkable facts in the history of civilization. If the economic condition of the people has not kept pace with it, the generation which succeeded Peel has at least seen the fulfillment of his desire that the

man who earned his bread by the sweat of his brow should be able to procure it in cheapness and abundance, and that his eating of it should not be made bitter by a rankling sense of injustice.

On the other side is to be set the fact that farming has ceased to be profitable in England, and that the proprietors of the land have seen their incomes woefully curtailed. But that has been due to causes much too powerful to be counterbalanced by an import duty on breadstuffs. The English farmer is not worse off than his brother agriculturist in the older settled parts of the Union to-day, and as for the English landlord, his sole grievance consists in losing the purely artificial increase of rent secured to him by a system of protection. It is conceded that the condition of the agricultural laborer is very much better than it was. Though the present agricultural distress in England has brought out mutterings against the regime of free trade, and some sentiment in favor of the revival of the protective duties on grain and meat, no section of any political party has ventured to champion the cause of the squirearchy so far as to echo the demand for a tax on bread. As Lord Salisbury recently remarked, the great body of consumers are, in such a case, absolutely masters, and they are not at all likely to see their interests sacrificed to those of the landowners. The free trade movement which had its triumph in England fifty years ago has had no steps backward, and these are less likely to-day than they ever were.—Boston Herald.

Literary Notes.

Massey's Magazine for May opens with a paper by Charles G. D. Roberts, the well known maritime province writer, on the "Apple Lands of Acadia," with illustrations. Anything Robert's writes is of course pleasant reading. Mary A. Reid contributes "From Gibraltar to the Pyrenees," giving some interesting sketches of Moorish Spain. "The Mystery of the Red Deep," by Duncan Campbell Scott, is concluded in this number, followed by "The Cutters Friend," a short story by Sydney Flower. An interesting article on Arctic explorations, is given by Lieutenant O. Peary, the Arctic explorer, with illustrations. "The World of Art and Letters," introduces a number of fine illustrations. Edward Farrer writes on agriculture in Quebec. There is a paper about royalty called "When Victoria was Young," and a short story giving a plaintive incident of the war of 1870. The regular departments, Current Comment, Woman's Kingdom, and The Literary Kingdom, are well-filled.

A new publication, The Canadian Transportation and Grain Trade Journal, has appeared on the scene in Montreal, published by James B. Campbell. The Journal will be published monthly.

The Cosmopolitan for May opens with a bright sketch of Seville, the famous old Spanish town, by H. C. Chatfield-Taylor. Pleasantly illustrated is the article; "Some Types of Artists Models," as is also "Art in Photography and Photographic Models." "Hilda Strafford, A California Story" by B. atrico Harratia, is continued in the May number, as is also "Mrs. Cliff's Yacht" by Frank R. Stockton. In these days of such keen interest in athletics, the article on "Physical Training at the University," with many illustrations, will prove very acceptable to a large number of readers. Another timely article is "The Dangers of High Buildings," appropriately illustrated with views of a number of the "Sky Scrapers" in different cities of the United States. An account is given of "The Phoenix Park Tragedy," with interesting dates of the remarkable trial in connection with that tragedy. Thomas W. Knox writes on "Convicts and Bush Rangers in Australia." The regular departments are filled with interesting matter relating to art, letters, science etc.

One of the most valuable annuals published in the interest of the grain and provision trade is the Statistical Annual published by the Cincinnati Price Current. The number for the year ending March 1, 1896, has just been issued. It gives a great deal of valuable statistical information about the grain, provision, live stock and beef trades. Some of the tables give prices and other statistics running back about 45 years. The annual will prove a very valuable reference to all persons handling or interested in grain, provisions, live stock and meats.

Last Australasian Wool Crop.

A decrease beyond all precedent in the Australasian wool crop for 1895 is reported by Daniel W. Maratta, United States consul-general at Melbourne. For several years past the clip has been falling off. In 1891, when the down grade commenced, the number of sheep in New South Wales was 61,841,416, while last year they numbered 47,483,830 only. Between 1891 and 1895 alone the decrease was 9,500,000 sheep, a greater number than in any previous year. The decrease during the drouth of 1892 was less than 4,000,000, and even the great drouth of 1881 left New South Wales with only 6,250,000 fewer sheep. The decrease during 1895 resulted from two causes, a disastrous drouth in many districts, and the fact that the clip of 1891 was unduly augmented by the great shearing strike of that year, which by delaying shearing gave the clips of many stations too much growth. Mr. Maratta says that the very heavy losses in sheep cannot fail to direct attention to the possibility of a further decrease of the 1896 yield, compared with the attenuated clip of 1895.