

LITERARY NOTES.

The Century Co. had accepted Dr. S. Weir Mitchell's new novel, "Hugh Wynne, Free Quaker," for book publication, and it was to be issued this autumn. A large edition had been printed and advance orders had been received from the trade, when the strength of the story and its probable drawing power as a serial in *The Century* decided the editors of that magazine and the publishers to suppress the book for a year and use the novel first in *The Century*. Those who have read the story consider it not only Dr. Mitchell's masterpiece, but one of the really great American stories. The author believes that one may so saturate himself with the essential particulars of any time as to be able to live in it and speak of it with the familiarity of the life of his own day. Dr. Mitchell has made a careful study of the customs, dress, sports of Revolutionary days, and the manners of the interesting social groups which formed the society of Philadelphia from 1753 to 1783, and he has made studies of all the historical persons who are brought into the book. The character of Washington is said to be drawn in a singularly lifelike way, and the contrasting sides of his character interestingly set forth. The Historical Society of Philadelphia has given Dr. Mitchell access to the great collections of family letters stored in its vaults, and the novel will be historically accurate in every particular. While the hero himself and those who take the most prominent parts in the book are entirely fictitious, the use of real persons as side characters makes it peculiarly realistic.

The *Montreal Witness*, this being its jubilee year, has been printing ever since last December a weekly page of the reminiscences of its early readers who still survive, many of which have been of much interest, and all have been full of eager and hearty good will for the paper which has been to the writers a life long counsellor and family friend.

This is the fiftieth year of publication of "The Canadian Almanac," and its size has been increased to 354 pp. Among the new features are a short History of Canada, giving the main events in Canadian history, chronologically arranged, an Historical Diary of the years 1895-96, and an interesting article on the King's Loyalists. The regular departments of the "Almanac" have been brought up to date, among them being that invaluable Post Office Gazetteer of the Dominion, giving the name of every place in Canada, with the railroad or steamship lines on which located or nearest railway station. The usual mass of interesting statistics and astronomical calculations is given, and the "Almanac" is embellished with engravings of prominent persons and public buildings. The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd., Toronto.

THE WOOL MARKET.

TORONTO.—The fleece wool has now nearly all been sold for export to the United States, little if any being left. Prices are therefore about nominal at 21 to 22c. for combing. Pulled wools are in moderate demand from the local mills at 21 to 22c. for super, and 22 to 23½c. for extra.

MONTREAL.—Though manufacturers are buying sparingly, the market continues very firm, all fine showing an advance of 10 to 15 per cent. in the last couple of weeks. Some good sales of B.A. have been made at an advance of 10 per cent. We quote: Capesgreasy, 15 to 16½c.; B.A. scoured, 26½ to 35c.; Canadian combing fleece is now selling at 24c.

ARTHUR LAWRENCE, brother-in-law of Wm. Clark, of the West Flamboro woolen mills, is now carder at the Wardlaw yarn mills, Dundas. Mr. Wardlaw is bringing out various new samples of yarns suited for knitters of golfing and bicycle hosiery.

THERE have been recent changes in the firm of M. Harding & Son, shoddy manufacturers, Simcoe, Ont. One son recently went to the Waterloo woolen mills, and the other has since gone to take charge of the carbonizing department of Brodie & Co., Hespeler. Mr. Harding is at present carrying on the business alone.

FABRIC ITEMS.

William Stone, hatter, of Chatham, Ont., is in financial difficulties.

H. Nicholson, tailor, Port Arthur, is offering a compromise at 25 cents on the dollar.

The stock of Mader & Co., dry goods, Strathroy, Ont., has been sold at 46c. on the dollar.

Robert Dixon, dry goods, Rossland, B.C., has sold out to H. R. Dunlop, late of Montana.

M. J. O'Hearn, late of Orillia, Ont., is opening in dry goods and clothing at Rossland, B.C.

C. Ross & Co., dry goods, Ottawa, lost \$250,000 by fire on December 3rd, \$100,000 insurance.

In the estate of Gamble & Co., dry goods, Ottawa, a dividend of 37 cents on the dollar has been declared.

William Bonnell, commission merchant, 82 Bay St., Toronto, died at his residence, 402 Bloor St. west, recently, in his 68th year.

The Dominion Government is at present conducting an enquiry into the method in which certain contractors for military supplies have been observing the specifications.

At the quarterly meeting of the Dominion Commercial Travelers' Association, held in Montreal, November 14th, J. D. Rolland was elected president, to succeed Col. Fred Massey, by acclamation.

Long & Bisby, wool merchants, Hamilton, Ont., who recently purchased the stock of the McPherson boot and shoe business, together with the factory, have made a sale of the entire stock to a Toronto firm.

Joseph Albert Duchesne, of Montreal, doing business under the name of Joseph Albert Duchesne & Co., dealers in woollens and tailors' trimmings, has assigned on demand of J. Horsfall & Sons. The liabilities amount to about \$3,000.

A block of seven-story buildings in Bradford, occupied by a large number of business firms, was destroyed by fire Nov. 30th. The loss is placed at £200,000. Among the occupants of the buildings were Holdsworth & Sons, Possette & Co., and Ainsworth & Co., all woolen merchants.

"Eaton's, the great Toronto departmental store, are running a parcel delivery express through the Annapolis Valley with Kentville as a central depot, in connection with their letter order department. What do Halifax merchants think of the scheme?"—Halifax *Evening Mail*.

Shears & Selater, St. John's, Newfoundland, are doing a general commission and brokerage business, and represent a number of leading Canadian and English firms. Their Canadian business should increase materially with the industrial development of Newfoundland and the consequent growing closeness of relationship with this country.

S. Carsley Co., Ltd., Montreal, recently gave the newsboys and girls their annual treat of one suit of underwear, stockings and mufflers. The total number of newsboys and girls this year was two hundred and eighty. The generosity of Mr. S. Carsley is shown in this splendid manner every year to the great increase of the material comfort of a deserving class in the community.

The creditors of the Ontario Straw Goods Company and the American Felt Hat Company met recently in the office of E. R. C. Clarkson, the assignee, and decided to sell the total assets to Thos. Dunnett for \$19,000. A statement was presented showing liabilities of \$37,000, consisting of trade debts \$15,000, due to the bank \$15,000, and due to T. Dunnett for money advanced, \$7,000. Against the bank's claim, however, is a life insurance policy for \$10,000. The assets consisted of stock \$25,000, and book debts \$4,000. Mr. Dunnett will continue the business.

A recent Associated Press dispatch says the Coats Threads Co., which last summer became amalgamated with the Clark Company, Jonas, Brooks & Brothers, and James Chadwick & Brothers and announced that the company would raise its total nominal capital from £5,750,000 to £7,500,000, has made known that the Coats concern has absorbed the thread mills of Finlayson, Bousfields & Co., Scotland, and that it is also negotiating with the Knoxes for their factories in Scotland and the United States.