

including \$1,000 advanced on account of a mortgage loan—\$5,874.31.

"During the year the Windsor and Annapolis Railway and Western Counties Railway have been added to the list of transportation companies giving special passenger and baggage rates to members of the association. We have had some correspondence during the year with the Dominion Commercial Travellers' Mutual Benefit Society, of Montreal, with a view to an affiliation with that society, but as yet nothing definite has come of the proposal."

The members of the directorate retiring by rotation were: J. B. Weir, A. Troop, and W. J. Stewart, all eligible for re-election. Officers for 1891 were elected as stated hereunder:—

President.—T. C. Allen.

Vice-presidents for Nova Scotia.—J. P. Wallace, Edward Stairs, G. A. Woodill, W. J. Stewart.

Vice-presidents for New Brunswick.—W. S. Fisher, F. W. G. Brock, G. F. A. Anderson, John M. Robertson.

Directors.—John Redford, F. J. Cragg, E. A. England, A. Troop, J. B. Wier, B. Quinan. Treasurer.—Wm. Robertson.

Auditors.—Thomas Brown, E. B. Elliott.

#### INSURANCE NOTES.

We learn from the *Winnipeg Free Press* that Mr. Frank Dorsey has severed his connection with Messrs. D. Hope & Co., and will hereafter act as superintendent of accident insurance for Manitoba and British Columbia for the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company.

Victims of the so-called "Benefit Orders" which promise impossible profits in from one to four years, get very angry when they find themselves fooled. A Newark, N. J., despatch of 10th, says: Patrons of the Progressive Benefit Order who visited the office to inquire about the solvency of the company, found an attachment had been served on it at the instance of S. S. Rowland. This was for money Mr. Rowland invested in the scheme, and calls for a sale of the office effects at the end of twenty days. Members of Newark Lodge, No. 182, of the Order, threaten to prosecute the supreme officers, who are in Boston.

One of the biggest of the insurance companies in this country is said to pay its woman manager \$10,000 a year. She is probably a woman of unusual policy.—*Philadelphia Ledger*.

On Thursday of last week the annual meeting of the Montreal Marine Underwriters' Association was held. The president gave a resume of the business of the association for the past year, and by congratulating the members upon the work performed. The old board was re-elected as follows: President, John Popham; vice-president, Archibald Nicoll; treasurer, E. L. Bond. Executive committee, J. H. Routh, chairman, Wm. B. Evans, C. T. Hart, and ex officio the treasurer. The standing committees were also re-elected.

A decision has been reached in what is known as the Maybrick insurance case, which found its way to the British Court of Appeals. The Liverpool merchant, Maybrick, whose murder created such a sensation, was insured in the Mutual Reserve Life Association. A suit was brought by his brothers, who sought to recover on a policy for \$10,000 issued by the company on the life of the deceased. Mr. Maybrick before his death had made over this policy to his wife, and she in turn made it over to her lawyer, Mr. Cleaver, to cover the

costs of defending her against the charge of murder, for which she is now serving a term in prison. The insurance company refused to pay the policy. Action was brought to compel it to do so, by the brothers of Mr. Maybrick, who were the executors of his estate. The master of the rolls in giving the verdict said the company must pay the amount of insurance to the executors of Mr. Maybrick's estate, holding that the policy was only payable to them and not to the wife's assignee. It is a rule of law, he stated, that nobody claiming through a person in the wife's position could recover. The money therefore must be paid to the deceased's executors, the brothers, who must first pay the creditors of the estate and then devote the balance to the children of the deceased. The wife's assignee, owing to her crime, could receive nothing.

#### PARCELS FOR GROCERS.

Christmas liberality is a good and beautiful thing in its way, but should not be indulged in by those who cannot afford it. Some shopkeepers, we fear, give away in "inducements" of the kind more than they can afford. The Halifax retail grocers' association last week discussed the practice of giving Xmas presents to customers, which custom has been largely abolished in other cities. They decided that as the grocers could no more be expected to continue it than any other class of retailers, such as dry goods houses, jewelers, etc., they would also discontinue the custom.

We learn from Montreal that the beet root sugar factory at Berthier, P.Q., which was in liquidation, has been purchased by Baron Seillieres and Mons. de Musy for \$41,000.

The Halifax retail grocers' association have a report from the committee appointed to look after the early closing of retail stores. One member has secured the names of 66 retailers who are willing to close up at 8 o'clock on the evening specified. It is confidently expected that all retail stores will conform to the practice of closing at 8 p.m. on all evenings except Fridays and Saturdays. Why should they not? All they take in after 8 p.m. will hardly pay for the gas they burn.

Smelt fishermen of Miramichi complain of new railway rules this winter, by which not only the freight to the United States must be prepaid as formerly, but also the American customs duties.

The bonded stock of tea held in London, England, at the end of November, was over ninety-one millions of pounds, and in addition to this there was 3½ millions arrived but not included, 3 millions of it Ceylon and India, half a million China. A comparison of kinds in the bonded stock of two successive years is interesting:

	lbs., 1891.	lbs., 1890.
Congou.....	24,416,000	32,207,000
Souchong.....	2,245,000	2,630,000
Scented tea.....	4,470,000	2,794,000
Green tea.....	2,935,000	1,652,000
Oolong and other sorts...	1,446,000	1,195,000
Total China.....	35,512,000	40,478,000
Indian.....	40,362,000	30,978,000
Ceylon.....	14,966,000	8,506,000
Java.....	460,000	715,000

Grand total arrived to 30th November.....91,300,000 80,677,000  
Comparing 1891 with 1889 the contrast is still more marked, for in that year the stock of China tea was 51,806,000 pounds, and of India, Ceylon and Java, 37,000,000. The stock of the latter is now 55,000,000.

The regular annual meeting of the Retail Grocers' Association of Toronto was held

since our last, President Barron in the chair. The main business of the meeting, we are told, was the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows:—President, Mr. Booth; vice-president, Mr. Clarke; treasurer, Mr. Williamson; inside guard, Mr. McCulloch; executive committee, Messrs. Mills, Roberts, White and Westren; trustees of special fund, Messrs. Butcher, Barron and Gibson. The secretary is to be chosen later, by ballot. It was unanimously decided to hold an "At Home" this winter, as the last was so good.

If the resolution of the German Bund can be carried out successfully, the fining of its members \$1 an offence for treating one another in a saloon will do more to prevent drunkenness than any other temperance movement of to-day. The treating habit, says the *Detroit News*—and it is nothing but a habit—is responsible for more drunkenness than any other one thing.

The Davies Packing Factory in Toronto, it is said, now slaughters 75,000 hogs each year, while Gront, of Ingersoll, slaughters about 50,000; Fearman, of Hamilton, 35,000; and Thos. Lawry, of the same city, 30,000.

This is the season of the year when every grocer of taste can exercise his ingenuity in window dressing. Of course, he will have to lay in sundry yards of club moss, for this refreshingly green garland, dotted here and there with sprigs of red holly-berry, makes an effective frame for his window and doorway and gas brackets. Then the toothsome boxes of Smyrna figs and Bosnia prunes are laid open. Fresh lemon, citron and orange peels displayed to best advantage, and also the large flat layer raisin that will serve, with big Grenoble walnuts, as dessert. Peeping out of their packing of crushed cork will be seen the juicy grape from Malaga. Yellow oranges from Florida, and yellow lemons from Messina make pretty bits of colour in the window, with here and there a fancy package of *bon-bons*. Old boxes masquerading in vari-coloured crinkle paper look well, and the pear-shaped Stilton cheese should not be forgotten. Columns of *pates de foix gras* distributed around, and truffles, look appetizing; so do the various other canned delicacies sought for at this festive time. The small boy will expect to see his favourite candy mixture in a big barrel near the door, and if his mother hasn't to reprimand him for sampling, he will be a model boy, indeed.

In the branch store of one of the oldest and best known retail grocery firms in this city a monster cheese is displayed. This is very well, and deservedly attracts attention, but when the eye falls on a placard announcing a prize to the person who makes the closest guess to weight of the cheese, why—well, what do you think of it any way?

#### AUDIBLE "WHISPERS."

The number and tone of the friendly letters which accompany remittances from our subscribers are almost enough to make one forget the worry caused by an occasional deadbeat, who tries to evade payment for his paper.

Mr. Henry F. Jackson writes from Brockville, December 2nd: "I think I have been a subscriber to THE MONETARY TIMES since the first year of its publication (1866). And I do not feel able to relinquish the benefit of being posted on 'The Situation' yet."

On 28th November, Mr. W. J. Smith, forwarder and wharfinger, Richards' Landing, on the north shore of Lake Huron: (paraphrasing