

to hold real estate, required for the accommodation of the company in the Province of Quebec. Mr. Burke has certainly got good men round him in this company. It would be difficult to get together a more representative lot of Montreal business men.

The Mutual Life of New York has been doing business in Canada about thirty years, and in countries on the other side of the Atlantic just ten years. The aggregate of its foreign business, other than Canadian, for 1896, is thus given in the *New York Diplomatic Review*. The figures are remarkable:—

	Dec. 31st., 1896.	Increase in 1896.
Europe	\$96,568,832	\$12,133,577
Africa	3,908,889	285,518
Australasia	6,822,394	417,542
South America and West Indies...	145,809	26,191
Mexico	9,991,967	497,261
Total	\$117,437,891	\$13,360,089

Whether brought about through the good sense of the managers of the Order, through the teachings of experience, by pressure from the authorities of the province of Ontario, or by a combination of all three influences, the conclusion has been reached to wind up the endowment branch of the Select Knights of Canada, a friendly society with an alluring name, which has been for some years paying benefits to its members, and also professing to insure their lives. At the meeting of the "Grand Legion" of this Order, held lately in Toronto, some changes were made in its working. The most important was that relating to the endowment branch. It appears that the scheme was not satisfactory to the insurance authorities of Ontario, and fearing some hostile legislation might be introduced, it was resolved by the Legion to close up the concern. There are said to be funds on hand to satisfy all claims and leave a surplus, which will be divided pro rata amongst the members. Mr. B. J. Leubsdorf, the grand secretary, St. Catharines, has been appointed liquidator, and is engaged in winding up the affair. It is stated that this will not interfere with the beneficiary branch of the order, which is to be carried on as usual.

ABOUT DRY GOODS.

A Boston man claims to have done a service to female fashionable humanity by inventing and putting on the market a new sash for women's wear. It is made of fine basket weave silks in all the popular check and fancy effects, black satin or surah and tartan patterns. The sash has whalebone stays which hold it in shape. It is fastened by a simple but strong mechanism which holds it securely in place.

John Macdonald & Co. have in hand a line of cotton bunting which is a novelty, and at the same time likely to be in demand for decorative purposes in this jubilee season. One line consists of a number of pieces in regular widths with a pattern that shows the thistle, shamrock and rose on a single stem. A monogram of the letters V.R.I. is also a feature of the design. This house has also purchased the over product of five woolen mills, which will be sold at a cut rate.

It is noticeable, say the market reports at both Montreal and Toronto, that retailers who visit the dry goods warehouses stick closely to the memoranda of their buying lists and order very carefully of such varied merchandise as they require to assort their stocks. This is a healthy sign; for a man who buys freely or carelessly in times like these, and before he knows what effect the numerous delegations at Ottawa are having on the Government as to relaxations of the tariff, may "get left."

Patterns of goods for golfing and bicycling suits for men are very loud. Shepherd's plaid big check in white and black and red and black is shown, and the other checks are numerous, being loud or quiet according to the taste of the wearer. In New York, one firm shows 43 new styles in these Scotch cheviot suitings, composing all the new olive green, gray and wood brown shades in combinations of checks, broken bars, invisible plaids and mixtures. The customers of this concern must be swells, for we are told that these suits are sewn with pure dye silk, and are made up over Florentine serge linings, piped seams, and have all the little details requisite to first-class tailored clothing.

There is occasionally a Scottish "boom" in the United States. We may understand that there is one on just now, if we watch the advertisements of tailors and hatters. Perhaps it has all come about through the game of golf. The *Cotton and Wool Reporter* of last week declares that "everything in Scotch effect is up to date, and the hat band and ties to match is just the thing for warm weather sales. One of its advertisers makes these nobby combinations. The bands are adjustable and will fit any shape hat. Both bands and ties are found representing the tartans of the following authentic Clans: Colquhoun, Royal Stuart, Farquharson, Green Menzies, Malcolm, McDuff Macbeth, Graham, 42d and McNeill." Upon reading this one might think he was in Catto's Toronto shop on King street, or reading one of his highly Scottish and interesting catalogues.

"What shall I say of a recent visit to New York?" says a correspondent. "Wholesale business is very slow and bad there, and prices were not so low for twenty years past; there are thousands of unemployed, still, to outward appearance, everything is bright and gay; the streets are a marvel of cleanliness, extraordinary for a city of such vast extent. I had the pleasure of 'assisting' at the Easter Sunday 'parade'—and what a sight it was; the well dressed multitudes struggling into fashionable churches to see the floral decorations, hear the exquisite music, display their new clothes, admire or envy others, and, quite incidentally, worship God? Then, outside, as the crowds, moving slowly homewards, filled both sides of Fifth Ave., far as the eye could reach, what a flower-garden-show of ladies' hats, beautiful costumes, every shade and style—'t'was a scene, under the cloudless sky, to be remembered but not described."

Waterproof fabrics for women's wear are all the more of importance in the trade now that bicycling has been added to the list of female accomplishments. Ladies going a-wheel want fabrics that will be uninjured by use on the road, and above all that will shed water in case of a sudden shower. A number of cloths, much alike, are offered by the trade for this purpose. They are serges treated chemically in the dyeing and finishing process, and the best among them are not apparently altered in the least. In fact, some show a better finish and finer feel than the same stuff not treated. The fabric originally came from England under the name of "Cravenette," which name is patented. There have been numerous imitations made in the States, says the *Reporter*, under various names, that are equal in every way to the original. These goods are used largely for ladies' dresses, water-proofs, and also for men's light-weight suits. Many bicycle costumes are being made of this material this year, and the cutting up trade is using large quantities of it. The process is a secret one, and the various names under which the material is known are Cravenette, Pleurette, Rain-proof, Shower-proof, etc. The latest addition to this water proofing family has just been discovered by a photographer in London, and is known by the name of Pegamoid.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

A worthy man, Samuel Colgate, soap manufacturer and philanthropist, died some days ago in New York.

The annual consumption of salt in the United States is estimated to be one bushel of fifty-six pounds to each inhabitant.

The fishing in the whole of Norway to April 10 is reported to have resulted in 23,000 barrels of steam refined cod liver oil, against 12,000 last year, and 14,000 barrels for 1895.

An American paper states that a new system of selling linseed and other oils is proposed. Instead of selling them by the gallon, as now, sales are proposed to be made by weight.

Caustic soda was to be made for the first time by the Michigan Alkali Co. at Wyandotte, about May 1st. The capacity at the start is 400 drums per week, but the amount may be doubled within a few months.

The French olive oil producers, finding themselves unable to meet the competition of the cheaper cottonseed oils from America, have begun an agitation to have the tariff increased from 3½c. a gallon to 7c. or 8c.

When Nova Scotia fish begin to come in, they come with a rush. For instance, the *Yarmouth Times* of 30th ult. thus announces: "Fresh fish arrivals since 27th: Schooners 'Annie M. Sproul,' 5,795 lbs. halibut, 4,000 lbs. cod and cusk; 'Curlew,' 7,450 lbs. halibut, 9,200 lbs. cod; 'E. A. Horton,' 6,380 lbs. halibut; 'E. Norwood,' 13,000 lbs. halibut.

St. John tobaccoists raised the price of black tobacco last week from five to six cents; Index, from eight to ten cents; Napoleon, from eight to nine cents; packages of cut tobacco, from ten to eleven cents; cigarettes, from ten to eleven cents; Myrtle Navy, from twenty-two to twenty-eight cents. These, however, were liable to be changed at a subsequent meeting of dealers.

The *New Westminster Columbian* of 29th April has advices from Oregon to the effect that the salmon catch, this year, on the Columbia River, is likely to prove a failure. Of course, the "big run" has not yet commenced, and the full number of nets are not yet in the water; still, the salmon caught so far do not average one per boat, and those in a position to judge predict that the total Columbia River pack this year will not reach 35,000 cases.

California peaches and apricots are scarce in Pacific Coast markets; only a few cars of the former remain in California. But notwithstanding low prices and stocks, there is no speculation. In regard to evaporated apricots the *California Fruit Grower* says: "Apricots are scarce, and what few odd lots remain go out to fill jobbing orders and to make up assorted cars. It would be hard to find a straight car of choice