

"Canada's fruit exhibit is also a source of wonder to those who are not well informed on the capabilities of our sister country in this line. In the line of small fruits particularly there is no exhibit in the building which can excel or even equal the exhibit of Canada. Here are currants, gooseberries, raspberries, cherries and strawberries of the finest grade, both in the matter of size and flavor. The fresh fruit is just beginning to come in now, and this year's crop in all these lines appears to excel even the choice bottled exhibits of former years.

"In this line the Province of Ontario has an unusually fine exhibit. The apple exhibit alone from this province would entitle it to a high rank as a fruit-growing section, even if there were no other fine specimens of fruit-growing ability on exhibition.

"When it comes to Canada's cereals more is known in the United States of her wide expanse of territory which seems to be the natural home of all small grains. Here, too, Ontario seems to have carried off the first place in the matter of a general exhibit, for not only has this province an unusually fine exhibit of cereals, but her dairy products also seem as if she has started to carry off all honors in this direction. Not satisfied with having the biggest cheese ever made on exhibition, Canada stepped in for 126 of the 135 prizes to be awarded in this line.

"In the matter of butter Ontario again bobs up into prominence. Her six shorthorn cows, now on a test of butter-making capacity, have so far taken the lead; two of them having on more than one occasion given over fifty pounds of milk in a day, which breaks the record in that line.

"In the mines building Canada also has a fine exhibit of the ores of the precious metals as well as the more generally useful baser metals. In some lines the exhibits are of ores peculiar to that section of country. As an instance, the nickel and platinum ores from the Sudbury mines of Ontario. There is one ingot of nickel in this exhibit weighing 4,500 pounds. Here, too, are fine specimens of asbestos and mica from the Province of Quebec. There is a very fine exhibit of plumbago or graphite, which comes from Buckingham county, near Ottawa. From these deposits comes nearly all the plumbago used by American manufacturers of lead pencils and other articles in which plumbago is used."

Then turning to the West, the Chicago paper says: "A pyramid in the Canadian section of this building shows the amount of gold which has been taken from British Columbia as 551,000 ounces, and, according to Mr. Law, nearly all of this has been taken from placer diggings, little or no attention ever having been paid to the subject of lode mining.

"In this exhibit the Northwest Territory comes in with a fine exhibit of lignite, bituminous and anthracite coals. Specimens of tar taken from the Athabasca river encourage the belief that this section of country also abounds in oil, and some attempts are being made to prospect for this useful article." After praising our exhibits in the liberal arts, of agricultural machinery, and of the exhibit in the archaeological and anthropological departments, the account concludes: "Altogether the Canadian exhibit is exceptionally

good in all the departments at the Fair, and will undoubtedly result in attracting many people to this promising country."

#### CLEARING-HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday last, compared with those of the previous week:—

	July 13.	July 6.
Montreal .....	\$11,592,879	\$11,355,222
Toronto .....	6,186,467	8,200,509
Halifax .....	1,502,529	1,617,297
Hamilton .....	779,735	878,891

Total clearings.. \$20,061,610 \$22,051,919  
Aggregate balances this week, \$2,921,137;  
last week, \$3,756,759.

—Accounts of the prizes won by Canadians in the cheese competition at Chicago having been incorrectly stated in some minor respects, a resident of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, writes to the *Montreal Gazette* desiring that justice be done to that county. Mr. Archibald says that the exhibits of Angus Cameron, of Antigonish, and Allan Kennedy, of Union Centre, received an award of 96 points and 90 points respectively, while that of Donald McPhee, of River John, was awarded 92 points. He adds: "They are all young men, natives of this county, who learned the business in my factories since 1888. The cheese exhibited in their names was made by them in my factories. In all I made five entries at the Fair with the above result."

—The subsidized steamers to the West Indies sailing from Halifax having found it unprofitable to call at Guadeloupe, permission has been given by our Government to pass that port. The operation of the new French bounty system has, it seems, so encouraged exportation to the mother country that all the products of that colony now find their way to France. Owing, however, to the demand for Canadian flour at Martinique, the other French seaport on the route, the steamers will continue to call at that island as they have been in the habit of doing.

—At a recent meeting of the Winnipeg Board of Trade the following boards of examiners were elected for the ensuing year: Grain examiners—S. A. McGaw, G. R. Crowe, J. A. Mitchell, S. Nairn and S. Spink. Flour and meal examiners—S. Nairn, R. Muir, S. Spink, C. H. Steel, F. W. Thompson. Hide and leather examiners—E. F. Hutchings, P. Gallagher, H. Tulloch, N. Bawlf and F. Ossenbruge.

—Two sessions ago the People's Life Insurance Company was incorporated by special Act of the Ontario Legislature. Since the company got fairly into working order it has succeeded in attracting considerable business. In the list of its directorate appear the names of a number of prudent business men, many of whom have been successful in their respective avocations. They are anxious that the plans of the company be fully investigated not only by agents, but by those seeking protection for their families by means of life insurance.

—A possible new development in Canadian trade is suggested in the report that Mr. J. B. Spencer, of Ceylon, has made arrangements with the Rathbun Company, of Deseronto, for a trial shipment of shooks for the construction of tea boxes. The wood now in use is obtained from Japan, but the Douglas fir of British Columbia, the Ceylon man says, is far superior to it.

—A St. John report says that the lumber market there is dull owing to lack of demand in the United States. Some of the mills have closed down and nearly all of them are sawing in small companies.

—A Franco-Russian convention which went into force on Wednesday, provisionally embraces mineral oils from the United States.

—London, England, news of June 24th said: There has come in the last day or two a sense of relief to what is the greatest drouth in memory. The irreparable damage amounts to an international calamity. Even the milk supply of this metropolis has been cut down by a startling percentage this week, and dealers threaten to charge a shilling a quart in a few days. The fields of England, France and Germany are brown instead of green. Hay in England has risen to £10 a ton, an unprecedented feature. On the other hand, all kinds of fresh meat sell at the lowest prices ever known, because the animals are being slaughtered by the wholesale, on account of lack of fodder. The penalty for the latter luxury will come later. Most crops are now beyond saving, and the government will have a difficult problem in dealing with the agricultural distress of the next few months. The abnormal dryness seems to be healthy.

—It is a true word that was recently said by the *Chicago Tribune*, that there is altogether too much signing of petitions, recommendations and endorsements nowadays. "If a man's name has any value, he should be careful how he puts it on paper. If he thinks his signature carries any weight, he should refuse to sign if he does not feel inclined, even if his refusal does displease the applicant. It is better to say 'no' than to say 'yes,' and then try to back out of it."

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