

geometrical designs falling into the background. Cotton millinery laces continue very dull; a few Valenciennes and guipures or the common Torchons for making up are almost the sole goods selling. Makers-up of caps, aprons, and so forth, are busy. In hosiery there is a good demand for most goods, and in cotton hosiery prices are firmer.

BELFAST FLAX AND LINENS.—All branches of the linen trade are at present quiet. Only small quantities of new flax have been brought to market. Advices from the Russian centres regarding the new crop are rather better. In yarns spinners have in many cases refused forward orders at full current rates. For tow current rates are readily accepted. Demand, however, is brisk. In the brown cloth market producers in the majority of cases are working very largely to stock. Fine diapers and damasks have a moderate attention, and full rates are well supported. Bleached linens for home and cross-Channel consumption are dull. With the States no improvement has taken place, and the shipments show a decrease compared with this time last year.

THE CHICAGO EXPOSITION.

Arrangements for this great display of the world's products are going steadily on, and the plans indicate that the buildings will be handsome and the grounds most commodious. An army of men with excavating and building machinery are transforming the appearance of hundreds of acres.

The nations which have formally accepted the invitation to participate in the Exposition are as under. They are given in the order in which their official acceptance has been received by the American Department of State: France, Spain, Great Britain, Mexico, Colombia, Germany, Peru, China, Venezuela, San Domingo, Chili, Turkey, Persia, Russia, Japan, Jamaica, Hayti, Siam, Ecuador and Uruguay. In addition to the above, the acceptance of the Argentine Republic, Brazil, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica is reported by the Latin-American Bureau. From the same authority we learn that seventeen of the eighteen American republics and all the colonies that were visited by the World's Fair agents have accepted invitations to participate in the Exposition. The appropriations made by American republics are as follows:

Mexico.....	\$750,000
Guatemala.....	120,000
Honduras.....	20,000
Salvador.....	30,000
Nicaragua.....	20,000
Costa Rica.....	50,000
Colombia.....	100,000
Bolivia.....	150,000
Ecuador—	
General Government	\$100,000
Guayaquil City	25,000
Peru.....	125,000
Chili.....	100,000
Brazil—	
General Government	\$325,000
State of Rio de Janeiro.....	15,000
State of Mina-Geraes.....	25,000
State of San Paulo.....	30,000
State of Rio Grande du Sul.....	30,000
State of Parana.....	20,000
	445,000
British Honduras.....	7,000
Jamaica.....	10,000
Cuba.....	25,000
Trinidad.....	10,000
Danish West Indies.....	10,000
Total.....	\$2,072,000

Brazil, Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru will erect their own buildings, many of them models of their own government buildings. Mexico is

expected to reproduce one of the ancient Aztec or Toltec temples. Receipts of money towards the expenses of preparation have amounted to \$2,881,320, and the amount disbursed has been \$966,814 up to 22nd September.

PARCELS FOR GROCERS.

The success attending the operations of the Sarnia Salt Co. has been phenomenal. The borings were completed without a hitch, and the richness of the salt beds into which the drill penetrated is beyond all anticipation. Within eight days from the first pumping the company had ready for the market a first-class quality of salt.

Three samples of so-called essence of coffee made by three manufacturers in Scotland have been examined by the sanitary inspector in Glasgow, with the result that the best sample shows 98½ per cent. to be water and sugar. The samples contained from 00.15 to 00.22 per cent. of caffeine, 33.85 to 56.95 per cent. cane sugar, 11.22 to 29.03 per cent. fruit sugar and other organic matter, 1.32 to 1.52 per cent. of mineral matter in ash, and 30.36 to 34.62 per cent. water.

"How are the mighty fallen!" said the grocer as he flung a lively cheese out of the back window.—*Lowell Courier*.

Antikamia, the American antipyretic, analgesic and anodyne, which has won such favor in the United States with the profession, is now on sale by all the leading jobbers in Canada.

There is a large demand for potatoes in the Cuban markets, and so encouraging are the reports that a number of dealers in Nova Scotia have gone exclusively into the business. Last week the steamer "Winthrop" carried to New York 450 barrels consigned to dealers in Havana. The "Monticello" on Saturday landed 394 barrels. Yesterday, says the *St. John Telegraph*, a number of teams were engaged in transferring them to the New York pier warehouse.

The Erie Soap Company, a concern of \$50,000 capital, at Erie, Pa., fell into the hands of the sheriff last week. The execution writs were over \$2,000, but the combination of soap-makers have pressed the concern too closely. The execution writ was issued by a local bank.

The whole of the Nimpkish River salmon pack has been secured by Messrs. Perkins, Ince & Co., the well known wholesale grocers of this city. This is said to be one of the finest brands of British Columbia fish.

INSURANCE NOTES.

The Water Commissioners of Windsor, Ont., lately opened tenders for the new pump for the water-works, which were as follows: Kerr Bros., Walkerville, \$9,990; Inglis & Sons, Toronto, \$9,850; Worthington, New York, \$12,250; Blake, New York, \$14,185; Knowles, A, \$13,835; B, \$13,795. The commissioners awarded the tender to Kerr Bros. as a home firm.

The directors of the Atlas Assurance Company arranged to pay, on September 25th, an interim dividend of 5s. per share, tax free, being five per cent. on the original paid-up capital, on account and in anticipation of the dividend for the year 1891.

"Nearly all men and women like to gamble; not a few greatly enjoy stealing; the taking advantage of somebody else, the robbing of somebody; getting rich themselves out of some

poor fool or some person whom they believe to be a fool. These human traits are the foundation of the endowment orders which came into life about four years ago, and are now coming to their death very rapidly." Such is the terse manner in which the assessment insurance concerns are described by the *Insurance and Investors' Magazine*. The waste that these concerns are causing, the harm they are doing can hardly be overestimated.

We learn definitely that Mr. William Harty retires on the 1st October from the active management of the Ontario agency of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, to be succeeded by Messrs. Broughall and Brophy, general agents of the society for Manitoba and British Columbia. The territory controlled by the agency for the future is to extend from the county of Leeds in Ontario to the Pacific Coast. We are glad to understand that Mr. Harty continues his connection with the society by becoming one of its Canadian trustees. He will also remain with the society until January next to aid the new management in any way possible.

In South Dakota a party operating a steam threshing machine is required to give a bond to indemnify any one who may be damaged by a fire originating from the machine. A party who fails to do this is guilty of a misdemeanor.

A disastrous fire, which began in Halifax at ten last night, has swept many of the wharves and their storehouses into ashes. At three this morning the fire brigade had given up hope of subduing the flames, and the Royal Engineers were blowing up houses in order to stop them.

MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances for week ending 1st Oct., 1891, were as under:

	Clearings.	Balances.
Sept. 25.....	\$1,952,353	\$195,987
" 26.....	1,894,816	307,541
" 28.....	1,313,610	233,591
" 29.....	1,866,408	206,999
" 30.....	1,942,960	300,510
Oct. 1.....	1,780,292	196,615
Total	\$10,750,439	\$1,441,243
Cor. week 1890	\$10,537,609	\$1,711,683
Cor. week 1889	9,660,744	1,892,106

TORONTO CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances of this clearing-house (of which the Bank of Toronto is not a member) for the week ended 1st Oct., 1891, are as under:—

	Clearings.	Balances.
Sep. 25.....	\$888,975	\$ 97,142
" 26.....	921,151	115,278
" 28.....	907,132	192,715
" 29.....	912,535	77,718
" 30.....	936,161	126,096
Oct. 1.....	858,065	115,084
Total	\$5,424,019	\$724,033

—The striking lumbermen at the mills on the Chaudiere, near Ottawa, have received a concession from Mason & Son's mill, viz., they agreed that ten hours should constitute a day's work and that the wages should be the same as before the strike. That mill was started about two o'clock on Monday last without interruption from the men. On Wednesday, however, when Perley & Pattee made an attempt to load a railway car with lumber, the strikers prevented them. The chief of police appeared on the scene with a number of men and used their batons on the strikers, two of whom were arrested for stone throwing and other violence. The car of lum-