

Ltd., of St. John, N.B., have recently added to their lines of products, are in the hands of the wholesale trade, who speak very highly of them.

The Merchants' Manufacturing Company recently issued a circular quoting grey cottons, drills and pillow cottons at a reduction of five per cent.; certain lines of bleached sheetings were reduced  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. These reductions were this week met by the other mills.

Exemption from taxation and a grant of free water was accorded to a mattress factory the other day by the town of Owen Sound. The proprietors have leased a two-story brick restaurant building at the corner of River and Russell streets, which is being put in shape for occupancy at once.

The carpet factory of Syer & Richardson, at Port Hope, is having added to the plant a dyehouse and engine house. The firm carry about 300 samples and make various grades of ingrain carpets. The factory has twenty-seven looms and employs thirty hands. The capacity is about 1,600 yards a week.

An interesting brief sketch of a very well-known Old Country house appears in the last *Drapers' Record*. It is that of Wm. Ecroyd & Sons. It appears that Ecroyds is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, of the Lancashire houses. For long before the great Sir Robert Peel had entered into partnership with Mr. Yates and Mr. Howarth, as Howarth, Peel & Yates, the Ecroyds were big people for their day. Sir Robert perhaps made money more quickly than most of his contemporaries, for when he retired from business in 1817, he was stated to be worth £2,300,000. After an unbroken record of, almost 150 years, the well-known house of Wm. Ecroyd & Sons is being incorporated as a private limited company. The business was originally established by Mr. Richard Ecroyd in 1747, and a few years later he was joined by Henry and John, when the style became Henry, John and Richard Ecroyd. This partnership existed for upwards of a quarter of a century, when changes took place, and the original style of "Richard Ecroyd" was assumed and continued for many years after the death of the founder. Early in the present century the style again became "William Ecroyd." Various changes followed, but since 1858 the firm has been known as William Ecroyd & Sons. It need hardly be added that during the century and a half of the firm's existence fortune after fortune was made. The firm are large and liberal employers of labor, and bear a high business reputation in the cotton trade.

#### MUNICIPAL MEMORANDA.

The town of Woodstock, N.B., has voted \$10,000 for the completion of a system of sewerage.

The census of London, taken at the close of May, shows a population of 4,411,271, an increase of 200,528 since the year 1891.

According to the latest return the population of Barrie is 5,165; the population of Collingwood, according to the last assessment return, is 5,336.

Truro's ratepayers were to hold a public meeting this week to decide whether the town should get from the Legislature of Nova Scotia the power to borrow say \$7,000 on debenture for the improvement of the water works system of the town.

The Tilsonburg town council has authorized the submission of a by-law to the people authorizing the issue of debentures to the extent of \$8,000 for the purpose of erecting a town hall, council chamber, market building and fire hall combined. The voting takes place on June 15th.

The difficulties between the town of Windsor and its banker, the Bank of Commerce, have not been settled. A short time ago the council increased its rate of taxation to 23 mills, but this is still considered insufficient to cover the expenditure for the year. Under these circumstances the bank declines to advance sufficient funds.

A misunderstanding has arisen between the corporation of the town of Hull, Que., and Mr. Jarvis, of this city. A few weeks ago the corporation offered \$108,000 forty year debentures for sale, and the latter tendered for the same. This, it appears, was accepted, and now the latter refuses to sign the agreement, claiming that there is a prohibitory clause in the city by-laws. The officials claim that the objection is a trifling one.

The finance committee of the London city council opened the tenders for \$270,395.77,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  and 4 per cent. debentures, at dates ranging from five to forty years. The result was something of a surprise, as it was found that 105.16 was being realized for the 4 per cents., and 98.87 for the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cents., the latter being for short dates. The highest price ever received for city of London debentures heretofore, it is stated, has been 101.58. Mr. R. W. Inglis, manager of the Bank of British North America, was the purchaser.

From reports made by the chief engineer and the fire committee to the Sarnia town council, it is evident that some money will have to

be spent on the waterworks of that town. The continual strain upon the pumps and pipes in supplying water for the disastrous fire of May has renewed the influx of gravel to the intake pipe. In the meantime, says the *Observer*, the pumps are sucking impure water from beneath the docks, and complaints have been made of impurities found in the water supplied for domestic use. The trouble has led to a renewal of the old contention against the present location of the works, and for a change to the head of the river.

The by-law awarding a bonus of \$20,000 to "La Societe Anonyme des Faienciers du Canada," of France, was adopted by acclamation by the ratepayers of St. Johns, Que., on Tuesday of last week. This is the company that has been negotiating for months with Messrs Duncan and Alex. Macdonald, for the acquisition of the St. Johns Stone China-ware Company's potteries, and the voting of this bonus was the finishing stroke of the deal. The terms of the bonus are \$2,000 per annum for ten years, conditionally upon the company employing not less than 150 hands for eleven months in the year, with a pay roll of not less than \$40,000 a year. The agreement was signed in Paris, May 20th, by Mr. Alex. Macdonald, and their intention is to manufacture, not only ordinary crockery, but a fine class of porcelain ware.

#### A BOARD OF TRADE REQUEST.

The following resolution, carried unanimously by the Vancouver Board of Trade, speaks for itself and needs little comment:—

"Resolved, that whereas the following goods comprise all articles which may be shipped ex-warehouse free of duty upon any sailing vessel leaving this port: Coffee, cocoa, cocoa-paste, chocolate, dried or canned fruits, flour, meal, meat (salted, dried and canned), lard, molasses, syrup, rice, sugar, split peas, tea, vinegar, coal oil, tobacco; and whereas it is the custom in the United States and all countries, except Canada, to allow all goods for consumption during the trip to be shipped free of duty on sailing ships bound for foreign ports; and whereas it is well known that, in consequence of this restriction, the owners of ships coming here to load restrict as far as possible their purchases to the above articles, when under more liberal treatment they would largely increase their purchases; and whenever ships are loading partially here and partially on the Sound or at San Francisco, said purchases are made in the United States in preference to this port, to the serious disadvantage of our own merchants and traders; therefore be it resolved, that this board do respectfully petition the Hon. the Minister of Customs and the Government that it may be allowed to ship all goods, whether for consumption by the passengers and crew, or for use in the fitting-out or navigating of sailing vessels, to be taken out of bond and shipped free of duty."

#### LIFE INSURANCE MATTERS.

A decision given last week in favor of the plaintiff in the suit of Chambers against the North-Western Mutual Life, on trial in the supreme courts of St. Paul, is worth recording. The trouble over the payment of the insurance arose out of misstatements made by the insured in his application for the insurance, in which he stated that he did not use "malt or spirituous beverages," and that he had "always been temperate." The court held that these answers applied to his regular habits and not to exceptional or occasional acts, and that the term temperate did not mean total abstinence, but abstinence from excessive use.

In the Hirschberg and Mrs. Getz matter, the St. Louis Board of Life underwriters has backed down. Manager Bennett, of the Scottish Union & National and the Lion Fire, writes to a New York paper that the St. Louis board did exactly what Hirschberg & Co. originally asked for, namely, the appointment of Mrs. Getz as a solicitor in succession to her husband. She was commissioned second agent only when the board refused the request of her appointment as solicitor, or, as we in Canada call it, canvasser. A solicitor in this country corresponds to what the Americans call a counsellor-at-law.

With reference to legal proceedings recently taken, the *Ætna Life Insurance Company* issues a circular, dated May 28th, which recites that this company, chartered by the State of Connecticut in 1853, has since that date transacted its business under the provisions of its charter and amendments, and the supervision of the insurance commissioners appointed since 1861, not only without a criticism and to the satisfaction of its policy holders, but with the knowledge and approval of its plans and methods by the Insurance Department, so far as we have been advised up to the present time. Commissioner Betts, by legal proceedings recently instituted, seeks to re-open the question of the relations of the company to its participating policy holders, which has been repeatedly settled by legislative action, viz., in 1878 and 1883, and by the Insurance Commissioner in 1878, as will be seen by his certificate appended hereto. The circular adds: "Whatever the result of these proceedings, entirely unwarranted either from a legal or equit-