The Dry Goods Economist states that "lustre" is the demand of the hour in all silk materials for women's adornment. Highly lustrous ribbons can only be manufactured by the use of a fine quality of silk, and lots of it, as the filling threads have to be beaten up together in order to give body, and it is the quantity of silk and the quality that produces the lustre which is just now the distinguishing feature of silks generally. In bringing out of ribbons of this sort manufacturers have taken their cue from messaline silks, which are now in favor with the New York and Paris retailers, and are likely to be for some time to come.

With regret we learn of the death of Mr. Henry S. Boehmer, of Berlin, Ont., who had been a subscriber to the Monetary Times for over sixty years. In early life he was a successful farmer, but some thirty-six years ago retired from this occupation to carry on a dry goods store, which afterwards became the largest emporium in the county. But it will be largely as a builder up of his place of abode that Mr. Boehmer will be remembered. Berlin owes between fifty and sixty of its most desirable residences to his energy and business capacity. Besides being president of the A. O. Boehmer Co., Limited, he was also president of the Dominion Table Company, director of the Berlin Piano Co., and the J. Y. Shantz & Sons Company.

In New York, worsted yarns are much easier to sell at the old price, but as most spinners having cleared a quantity of stock have advanced their prices, buyers hesitate, and the amount of business being transacted is less than it was for the previous two weeks. The firmness of the wool market, which has compelled spinners to pay higher prices for their raw material, has not been reflected in the price of yarns. At the prices now asked the cost of production is barely covered, and, as the market is now cleared of needy sellers of yarn, the test of the future is now come. Users have covered their wants at the low prices for some time to come, and spinners are reducing production to meet the reduced demand. Coarse counts continue in largest demand, and are almost the only yarns taken by the men's wear trade.

—We are informed that the newly appointed Railway Commission will shortly visit Toronto with a view to taking evidence and considering grievances from shippers. These grievances should be put into writing, in as succinct a form as possible, it being quite impossible for the Commission to act upon general statements.

—In our notice—Monetary Times, 26th February, 1904—of the Merchants Bank of Prince Edward Island some inaccuracies are to be found in the statement there given of its deposits and its current loans. We think it well, therefore, to re-state the figures accurately, thus: Net profits for year, $55,595; transferred to rest, $30,363, making that fund $266,000; paid-up capital, $341,781; circulation, $304,756; deposits, $1,127,315; current loans, $1,769,550; total assets, $2,073,695.

—In commenting last week upon the 1903 statement of the Mutual Life of Canada, speaking of its earning power being good, the cash assets being of most advantageous character, the curious statement was made that the company's reserves "are calculated upon the lowest standards," which was the exact opposite of what was intended to be conveyed. The meaning was, of course, that the lowest rates of interest were used in calculating them; still, this would not imply a low standard for reserves, but a high one.

—During the coming month of May, when it is the custom of the good people of Victoria, B.C., to make a grand celebration in honor of the memory of the late Queen Victoria, and when thousands of visitors come in from the mainland and inland towns, it is the intention to hold in addition a great "Made-in-Canada" Fair. The idea has gained considerable headway in our great western Province, and nowhere is patriotism, both for the Dominion and for the Empire, more marked than it is there.

Mr. B. Jarvis, the Toronto architect, who recently returned from a visit of inspection to Baltimore, says he has been convinced by what he saw that the best safeguard against fires consists in the use of concrete and brick walls. The building material of the future, he said, will be monolithic concrete, poured and made of crushed bricks and Portland cement, or bricks laid in cement. Brick walls laid in lime water will not stand the fire. The best of evidence of that is the result—150 acres of brick piles. The natural stone had simply disintegrated and lost all resemblance to its original form. The following is the order in which various materials seem to have stood the conflagration:—(1) Concrete and bricks, (2) cast iron, (3) steel, (4) granite, (5) sand stone, (6) lime mortar.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures for Canadian Clearing House for the week ended with Thursday, March 17th, 1904, compared with those of the previous week:

Cities	Mar. 17th 1904.	Mar. 10th, 1904.
Montreal	.....	17,128,177
Toronto	12,590,676	13,985,987
Winnipeg	4,058,135	4,487,243
Halifax	1,484,555	1,638,866
Hamilton	999,157	1,036,775
St. John	743,570	930,641
Vancouver	1,173,841	1,133,271
Victoria	543,649	597,820
Quebec	.....	.....
Ottawa	1,829,665	1,819,654
London	753,335	780.705
	$.....	$.....

THE

Royal Automatic Smoke Consuming Company.

TORONTO, ONTARIO.

REPORT OF THE BOILER INSPECTION AND INSURANCE COMPANY.

Toronto, March 15th, 1904.

J. A. WHALEY, ESQ.,
Manager the Royal Smoke Consuming Co.,
Room Z, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

Dear Sir,—The following are the results of tests made at the Canada Life Building, Toronto, on March 11th and 14th. On the 11th inst., your smoke consuming device was in operation, and on the 14th inst., it was not in use.

	Consumer in use.	Consumer off.
Duration of test	8 hours.	8 hours.
Total coal consumed	1,327 lbs.	1,600 lbs.
Ashes produced	131 lbs.	191½ lbs.
Water pumped to boiler and apparently evapoiated	11,270 lbs.	10,110 lbs.
Temperature of water degrees F.	38.1	40
Average pressure on Steam Gauge	58.8 lbs.	59 lbs.
Water apparently evaporated from and at 212° F. per pound of coal	10.27 lbs.	7.63 lbs.
Saving in fuel by the use of the Consumer	34.6 per cent.	

With the device in use there was practically no smoke visible at the top of the chimney, but without it at each fresh charge of coal the smoke was quite black for a time. The boiler tubes were found to be much cleaner when it was in operation and the coal was burned at a seemingly higher temperature.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) GEO. C. ROBB,
Chief Engineer.

(Copy of a letter from the Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company).