

ample, Waterloo county, which contains Galt, Preston and Berlin, all busy hives of industry, shows an increase of 18½ per cent. Elgin, chief town St. Thomas, goes up from 36,000 to 40,000; Wentworth containing Hamilton and Dundas, from 61,000 to 71,000; Lanark county, boasting Almonte, Perth, Smith's Falls, increases from 31,000 to 34,000. While the counties of Hastings, Peterboro, Kent, give similar indications. The people of Brant county, for example, who numbered 29,000 ten years ago, would hardly have grown in number to nearly 33,000 if it had not been for the industrial activity of Brantford and Paris. We shall return, at a future time, to this interesting volume.

#### THE GOVERNMENT OF CITIES.

Toronto has for several years been asking from the legislature for a special charter, and so far she has asked in vain. But the reasons given by Alderman Boustead, in an interview with a *World* reporter, seems to us conclusive of the reasonableness of the demand and the necessity of its being granted. Mr. Boustead gave as a reason why he could not be a candidate for Mayor, that the work of the office would exact his whole time, and that he could not give his whole time to public affairs. Most other people, who would be willing to take the office of Mayor and give to it the time that the proper discharge of its duties demands, are in the same position. Mr. Boustead added that the amount of business coming before the committees of council, from week to week, is more than any business man can reasonably be expected to attend to. The system is faulty in exacting from individual members of the council greater sacrifices than they can afford to make, or the public has a right to expect. This is a defect which certainly ought to be cured, and if it can be cured in no other way than by a special charter, a charter ought to be granted. Mr. Mowat has had a natural reluctance to depart, in any case, from the general municipal law; but he is not likely to offer unreasonable objection to any reform which may be shown to be necessary for the efficient working of a city municipality. And there can be no reason why rural members of the legislature should oppose a change demanded in the best interests of the city. To begin with, Alderman Boustead thinks that the council should be elected by the citizens at large and not by the wards. The representation by wards has its good and its bad points; and we fear that, as things have hitherto been, the bad has preponderated over the good. Ward representation insured attention to every part of the city; but it also led to ward grabbing and log-rolling. Henceforth there will be nothing to grab, since the local improvement tax is to cover all cases where ward grabbing could possibly have come in. This change will make ward representation comparatively innocuous. At the same time, the danger of any particular ward being neglected will no longer exist; since local improvements will be done under the law and as a matter of right. The chief reasons which made a change in the mode of

representation desirable can no longer be said to exist; and there are set-offs to any minor reasons that may be urged. We do not think that this change is essential; and in seeking a charter, it will be wise not to deviate from the beaten path more than is necessary. A council of thirty-six members may be too large; but much larger bodies manage to dispatch business with reasonable expedition.

The executive work of the city council is done under difficulties. Mr. Boustead thinks that there are too many committees. He would reduce the present number, ten, to five, and have an executive committee composed of the five chairmen, who should be paid for their services, and whose tenure of office, without any intervening appeal to their constituents, should be for three years. The mayor, he thinks, should count on giving his whole time to the business of the city, and should get a salary of not less than \$5000 a year. Though the work may not take a man's whole time, it was a mistake to lower the salary from four to two thousand a year. That some such change as this is desirable does not admit of doubt. The whole of the citizens have no right to expect ruinous sacrifices from individual residents. The committees at present have both legislative and executive work to do. Under the proposed plan, special committees might still prepare legislation when necessary; and the executive officers should be confined to executive business, or as nearly so as possible.

Some such plan as this would, we think, be better than a multiplication of commissions, and it would be better than the system now in vogue. The citizens delude themselves, if they think that they can exact unreasonable sacrifices from individual aldermen, and the wish to do so could not be reconciled with honest intentions. Alderman Boustead's plan may not be, in all respects, perfect; but it furnishes an excellent basis for the discussion of the changes in city government which the progress of events and the accumulation of business have made inevitable.

#### TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

According to the Board of Trade returns, furnished us promptly on this day week but too late for last issue, exports at the port of Toronto for last month were greater in aggregate value than those of the previous October, while imports were smaller. The total imports were:

	Oct. '87.	Oct. '86.
Dutiable goods.....	\$1,037,322	\$1,309,036
Free goods.....	425,197	322,090
Coin and bullion ....	24,042	15,587
Total .....	\$1,486,561	\$1,646,713

A decided decrease in imports of dutiable merchandise and a marked increase in free goods imported are noticeable features. In spite of smaller purchases of silks and cotton goods the greater purchases of woollens increases the total imports of dry goods. Fortunately the increase is not serious, October being a small month for dry goods import. Coal is the item showing the greatest decline. No anthracite appears to have come in during last month. Iron and steel goods, jewellery, glassware,

and musical instruments all exhibit decreased import values. Books, drugs and leather, an increase.

	Oct. '87.	Oct. '86.
Cotton goods .....	\$ 45,598	\$ 57,326
Fancy goods.....	32,492	27,625
Hats and bonnets.....	16,253	13,561
Silk goods .....	51,730	57,932
Woollen goods .....	112,120	65,224
Total .....	\$258,193	\$221,668

Books and pamphlets....	76,427	75,859
Coal .....	75,982	235,717
Drugs and medicines....	19,740	15,475
Fruit, dried and green ..	27,252	30,760
Glass and glassware....	27,368	36,205
Iron and steel goods....	112,413	129,808
Jewellery and watches..	34,517	37,998
Leather goods.....	27,415	14,699
Musical instruments ....	15,148	18,501
Paper goods .....	38,132	38,143
Wood goods .....	25,279	16,244

In exports we shall include only the Canadian products shipped. We had nothing from the mine or the fisheries to send abroad last month from Toronto. Horses, horned cattle and sheep were much smaller items than in the previous October; wool a larger one; eggs, a new item. A decided increase in barley export is observable, 443,229 bushels (\$185,769) having been shipped last month against 109,347 bushels (value \$62,815) in the previous October. No wheat or other cereal finds its place among last month's exports at this point. Manufactures show the usual variety: Books, carriages, leather goods, sewing machines, liquors, tobacco, furniture, woodenware. The exports for October this year and last may be classified as under:

	Oct. '87.	Oct. '86.
Forest products .....	\$ 36,490	\$ 43,040
Field do .....	111,334	71,671
Animals and produce....	188,728	137,921
Manufactures .....	44,957	45,420
Miscellaneous .....	.....	1,258
Total .....	\$381,509	\$299,310

#### MUTUAL BENEFIT LIFE ASSOCIATIONS.

A convention of the assessment life assurance associations of the United States was held in Philadelphia, a few weeks ago. These conventions have been held annually for some years past, for the purpose of comparing notes, getting new ideas from the experience of each other and adopting improved methods of operating such societies.

One of the most useful branches of study has been found by these conventions to be the collecting and publishing of the combined experience of the associations respecting the death rate, met with at different distances from the year of entry. These have been collated for nine years past, from nine, and from fourteen associations, respectively; and shew very clearly the law of increasing mortality with increased age. They show also the tendency of the best lives to "drop out," leaving the poorest ones to pay increased assessments.

The following table gives, in brief, the number of lives under observation in nine associations, and the deaths per 1,000 among those particular lives during nine years—that is to say among those of them who did not allow their certificates to lapse. And in the last column is given the result upon a larger number of lives in fourteen