

THOSE TRADE AND NAVIGATION RETURNS.

Editor CANADIAN JOURNAL OF FABRICS:

SIR,—Statistics are only of value inasmuch as they are correct, otherwise their value is considerably less than—nil.

I have already had the honor to call your attention to items in the Canadian Customs returns for the year ending June 30, 1893. You seem to have missed the point of my criticism. I desired to point out that these returns led me to think that the Custom House officials had, for reasons not apparent to me, been including in their total of United States trade goods shipped from England, Germany and elsewhere to Canada, via the ports of Portland, Boston and New York, thereby unduly swelling the total of our trade with the United States. Because goods pass through a port in the States en route to Canada, is no good reason why these goods should be placed to the credit of the United States' trade returns.

I will give one instance, though I could give many.

In the returns under the head of "Terra Japonica, Gambier and Cutch," the imports from Great Britain are put at 50,475 lbs., of \$2,734 value. Now this concern alone imported from Great Britain no less than 52,410 lbs. of cutch, and used further 21,188 lbs. of cutch, which I have every reason to believe also came from Great Britain. Of this amount 24,560 lbs. came through the port of Portland on through bill of lading, being shipped during the winter. If our shipments of cutch more than absorb the total quantity credited to Great Britain under the heading of "Terra Japonica, Gambier and Cutch," where then do the shipments of cutch to other people and the shipments of terra japonica and gambier come in?

Yours truly,

LOUIS SIMPSON,
Gen. Manager Montreal Cotton Co.

DEATH OF LT.-COL. MARTIN.

Many readers will learn with sincere regret of the death of Lt.-Col. John Martin, formerly commanding officer of the 6th Fusiliers, but better known in the commercial community as head of the old firm of John Martin & Co., wholesale furriers, St. Paul st., Montreal. The regiment he commanded was formerly known as the Hochelaga Light Infantry, and it was during his command that it saw service during the Fenian raid at St. Albans, where it acquitted itself so well. Col. Martin had great affection for his old regiment, from which he retired in 1883, and was much esteemed by his officers and men. Mr. Martin was born in Exeter, England, in 1826, and coming to Canada, started in the fur business in 1853, in Montreal. He built up a large trade, which was uniformly successful till the depression of last year, when he was compelled to call a meeting of his creditors. At that time Mr. Martin was suffering from a most severe attack of the grip, and his courage under a complication of difficulties evoked much sympathy. It was no doubt this severe siege of sickness and business troubles that hastened his death. Mr. Martin was a man of fine bearing. He was exceptionally well versed in the intricacies of the fur trade, and no man in Canada could talk more intelligently or entertainingly of fur trade matters. One could not ask of any fur-bearing animal of any quarter of the globe regarding which he could not give interesting information and tell something of its natural history and the conditions of the trade. Besides three daughters, Mr. Martin leaves behind him two sons who will be able successors to the business—Harry Martin, and Horace T. Martin, author of the interesting work on the Canadian beaver, which has often been alluded to in this journal.

In last month's issue we referred to the fact that Mayor Miner, who is President of the Granby, Que., Rubber Works, and who has done so much for that town, was to be fêted by his fellow townsmen. The event came off on the 22nd ult., when the town held a general holiday. The fête took the form of a demonstration in Victoria Park, where addresses were delivered by several prominent people. Athletic sports were then indulged in, and in the evening there was a grand banquet in the town hall, presided over by George Vitrie.

RECENT CANADIAN PATENTS.

Jos. E. Chenette, Napa, Cal., has patented a holder for sewing machine needles. It comprises a socket for receiving the end of the needle-bar, a nut and bolt for clamping the needle, a sliding-pin in the body of the socket, and a cam for projecting the pin into the needle opening.

John Reece, Boston, Mass., has patented a button-hole sewing machine containing the following: a clamp-frame and a stitch-frame, one relatively movable with relation to the other a manually controlled starting device, a work-clamp, and devices to automatically close the work-clamp after the machine has been started by the manually controlled starting device. There is mechanism for automatically cutting the material in the work-clamp preparatory to stitching, also for automatically spreading it. Devices are provided for the automatic stoppage of the machine on the completion of each button-hole. A cam device is provided in order to effect the relative changes of position of the stitch and clamp-frames, together with an actuating device for the same, and there are means also for automatically determining which two clutch pulleys shall move the actuating mechanism connected with the cam device. The needle is eye-pointed, and is located above the material, while below the latter there is a stitch-forming device, both being rotatable in unison about a common centre when stitching the eye of the button-hole by radiating stitches.

John Reece, Boston, Mass., has patented a sewing machine, in which, besides the ordinary stitching mechanism, there are comprised a mechanism for the production of over-edge stitches and devices to rotate the stitch-forming mechanism in one direction, rotation after rotation. There are devices to change the relative positions of the stitch-frame and clamp-frame for the purpose of insuring not only the production of over-edge stitches along the sides and outer end of the button-hole, but also to impart a slight movement to and from in the direction of the length of the button-hole, while the stitch-forming mechanism is being given a semi-rotation at the end of the button-hole.

Matthew H. Kohlrausch, Billerica, Mass., has patented a machine for scouring and rinsing cloth. It consists mainly of a series of tanks, placed side by side, submerging rollers placed in each tank, a carrier roll and a pair of continuous squeeze rolls, arranged longitudinally with regard to the series of tanks and common to them all, and guides arranged so as to deflect the cloth in its passage from the carrier-roll to the feed-roll laterally, and to guide it from each tank to the next. There are drip-catchers arranged above the sides of adjacent tanks to receive the liquid dripping from cloth passing between the squeeze-rolls from one tank to the next, and to return the liquid to the tank from which it was absorbed by the cloth. The squeeze-rolls taper uniformly in the same direction, and are provided with annular grooves arranged above the sides of the tanks, and with annular cushions arranged in these grooves and projecting from them.

TRADE MARKS.

B. Priestley & Co., Bradford, Eng., have taken out a trade mark for textile fabrics.

Wm. McCabe, St. Louis, Miss., has taken out a trade mark for corsets, corset waists, dress and garment stiffeners.

The Crompton Corset Co., Toronto, have taken out a trade mark for dress shields.

THE statement made last month that Wm. Calvert & Co. had made a settlement with their creditors at 50 cts. on the \$1 was premature. Such a settlement was offered by Mr. Calvert, in notes of his own spread over an extended time, but no agreement was come to. A further meeting will be held this month to take action.

H. P. LABELLE, furniture dealer, Montreal, has assigned on demand of Rolland Freres. Liabilities about \$100,000. The principal creditors are Hochelaga Bank, \$30,000; Banque du Peuple, \$12,000; Estate Evans, \$14,000; Mlle. Orkney, \$7,000; H. Picard, \$3,000; and J. A. Bulmer & Co., \$3,021.