

lishmen anywhere belonged to the Empire, and were just as good as the Canadians!" or words to that effect. The meeting seemed in the humor to enjoy this angry outburst, in the midst of which Mr. Purchase rose from his place on the platform and stood beside Rathbone, as much as to say: "Touch my friend, touch me!" But nobody was physically hurt, and the wordy fray ended, with the sympathy of the crowd decidedly with the Canadians at the finish.

I don't know what the Americans thought of this quarrel between the Lion and her Whelps, but they whooped and hurraed as if they enjoyed it. Naturally, they would side with the Canadians. Next day the American delegates had more to say in convention, for the South African representatives of science and the British Lion were quelled, if they were present in the meeting at all. The original arrangements of the committee in charge were a good deal upset by the absence of some people—more or less distinguished—who had promised to attend and read papers. But the interchange of opinion and experience by those who were there, the presence of capitalists and scientists, and the additional light which the press will—from the number of press men present—throw upon this undoubtedly rich mineral region, justifies the promoters of this convention, I think, in regarding the probable result of it with satisfaction.

Rat Portage, June 6th.

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TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

The difference between the aggregate inward and outward foreign trade of Toronto, in May, 1896, and May, 1897, a difference of half a-million dollars in favor of the former, is largely explained by the fact that the imports of coin and bullion in May last year were \$336,312, and last month only \$15,174. The free imports were \$332,328 and \$336,531 respectively; dutiable goods, \$1,037,022 and \$942,891, making the total imports \$1,705,662 in May, 1896, and \$1,294,597 in May, 1897. Exports were of the value of \$439,237 in May last year, and of \$301,748 in May this year. We append our usual comparison of various dutiable goods:

DUTIABLE IMPORTS.

	May, 1897.	May, 1896.
Cotton, manufactures of.....	\$86,201	\$ 98,319
Fancy goods, laces, etc.....	34,281	27,257
Hats, caps and bonnets.....	21,604	20,772
Silks, and manufactures of.....	49,947	27,202
Woolen manufactures.....	74,581	77,532
Total dry goods.....	\$266,614	\$251,082
Brass and manufactures of.....	\$ 6,316	\$ 3,720
Copper.....	178	247
Iron and steel.....	113,274	124,660
Lead.....	7,298	6,624
Metals and comp.....	7,654	8,550
Total metals.....	\$134,630	\$143,801
Books and pamphlets.....	\$21,297	\$20,264
Bicycles.....	58,130	94,555
Coal, bituminous.....	10,467	10,605
" anthracite (free).....	72,466	43,843
Drugs and medicines.....	24,219	21,579
Earthen, stone and chinaware.....	26,110	20,239
Fruits, all kinds, and nuts.....	14,328	19,902
Glass and glassware.....	19,161	17,027
Jewellery and watches.....	21,281	19,460
Leather and manufactures of.....	37,610	29,713
Musical instruments.....	9,611	6,215
Oils, paints, colors.....	32,340	22,216
Paper and manufactures of.....	40,359	31,630
Spirits and wines.....	3,748	6,580
Wood and manufactures of.....	10,293	8,539

There is not much variation in the amount of imports of dry goods in the two months, and but little difference in metal merchandise either. Paper and books, delf and glass, leather, drugs, oils and paints show an increase; fruits, spirits and wines and bicycles a decrease. Among Canadian produce exported was more lumber this year, more cattle and horses, more dead meats of all kinds. Agricultural products made a small showing. Manufactures showed the fair figure of \$105,677, mainly composed of agricultural implements.

EXPORTS, PRODUCE OF CANADA.

Produce of	May, 1897.	May, 1896.
The Mine.....	\$	\$ 643
" Fisheries.....	15	17
" Forest.....	57,273	42,993
" Field.....	28,933	36,429
Animals, etc.....	300,248	242,144
Manufactures.....	105,677	97,018
Total.....	\$492,146	\$419,244

THE PORT OF ST. JOHN.

There was submitted to the Board of Trade of St. John, New Brunswick, last week, a statement of inwards and outwards traffic, a condensation of which we subjoin. The steam and sail tonnage of the port made a total of 1,372 vessels of 555,050 tons, subdivided as follows, April 1st, 1896, to 31st March, 1897:

	STEAM.		SAIL.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British.....	199	213,505	792	124,532
Foreign.....	172	154,959	209	62,054
Total.....	371	368,464	1,001	186,586

There were 7,146 cattle, 5,238 sheep and 1,330 horses shipped from the port, the value being over \$600,000. Of the total exports, value \$5,512,000, the principal items were:

Asbestos.....	\$ 45,370
Coal.....	10,746
Other products of the mine.....	21,619
Products of the fisheries.....	300,107
Lumber of all kinds.....	3,259,122
Horses, cattle, etc.....	613,545
Dairy produce.....	152,101
Hides and skins.....	43,174
Meats of all kinds.....	98,265
Wool.....	13,049
Apples.....	28,846
Grain.....	357,175
Wheat flour.....	151,786
Oatmeal.....	46,066

Imports of free goods amounted in value to \$1,342,490; of dutiable goods to \$2,138,523, composed mainly of cottons, \$103,000; fancy goods, \$83,000; books and pamphlets, \$34,794; fruits, \$103,000; glass, \$43,000; iron and manufactures of, \$108,000; oils, \$110,000; paper, and manufactures of, \$42,145; silk goods, \$83,292; molasses, \$128,916; woolen goods, \$216,000.

ONTARIO MUTUAL LIFE COMPANY.

So numerous was the gathering of policy-holders and agents on the occasion of the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Company, that the town hall of Waterloo had to be engaged in order to accommodate them, the company's offices being quite inadequate. The fact of such an attendance shows the interest felt in the company; we may also say the pride felt in it, for the residents of the thrifty and enterprising county of Waterloo take pride in their industries and their institutions, of both which they have several that justify a feeling of pride. Agents were present at the meeting from points as far apart as Saint John and Montreal in the east, Lindsay, Toronto and Seaforth in the west.

The report shows an increased number of new policies, also increases in premium income and interest income, the rate of interest earning being slightly higher than in the previous year. At the same time the death rate was higher than usual, some 16 deaths from accident involving a loss of \$44,000, but the death claims were still below the expectancy. The total income was \$760,403—namely, from premiums, \$599,339, and from interest, annuities, etc, \$161,064. The outgo for the year was \$501,591, of which expenses and taxes accounted for \$125,559, and payments to policy-holders for death claims, endowments, surrenders, etc., \$376,032. The company's surplus, on a four per cent. standard, is brought up to \$213,789 over liabilities of \$3,191,117, a condition on which the management is entitled to congratulation.

An interesting comparison was made by a member of the board of the prominent position of the company to-day compared with a quarter century ago. And several leading policy-holders gave testimony to the sound principles upon which the company is conducted, and the liberal results obtained from the premiums they had paid in. The manager's brief address expressed with the simplicity and directness characteristic of the man how much he felt the responsibility of safeguarding the interests of policy-holders in a life office, and his confidence that their duty to the company would continue to be faithfully performed by its large staff of officers, agents and employees.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

The world's visible supply of coffee showed a decrease of 174,856 bags last week.

The value of currants is well maintained; Canadian merchants quote 5½ cents as a bottom price for cleaned currants.

The visible sugar production in the entire island of Cuba to June 2nd was 203,500 tons, against 186,143 tons same time last year.

According to the latest advices from Sicily, the present crop of almonds has been damaged somewhat by unfavorable weather.

It is stated that some further lots of Brazil nuts have arrived at Para from the interior, but nothing is said as to their destination,