

—We learn that Mr. D. Hughes Charles, manager of the Galt branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, has been appointed to the charge of the Peterboro branch of the same bank, in succession to the late Mr. R. C. McHarrie.

—Almonte business men begin to realize the value of a board of trade, and at a representative meeting, held a few days ago, it was decided to apply for a charter for such an institution. Mr. Wilmott, manager of the local branch of the Bank of Montreal, was appointed secretary, pro tem.

—The total cut of lumber in Ottawa and Ottawa Valley mills during last season is stated to have been 611,000,000 feet, compared with 588,000,000 feet for 1900. Amongst the largest producers were J. R. Booth, 125,000,000 feet; W. C. Edwards & Co., 85,000,000 feet; MacLachlan Bros., 70,000,000 feet; St. Anthony Lumber Co., 50,000,000 feet, and Gillies Bros., 40,000,000 feet. The prospects for the current year are believed to be favorable, the demand for high-grade lumber being good.

—From Yokohama were despatched three carloads of seal-skins, on the C.P.R. mail steamer "Empress of Japan," which arrived in Vancouver on the 9th of January. The shipment was transferred from the steamer and forwarded from Vancouver early on the 10th, arriving at West St. John on the 17th, and was there put on board the "Pretorian," which sailed on the 18th, and arrived in Liverpool on the 28th. The shipment will make the passage from Yokohama to Liverpool in one month, thereby eclipsing the Suez route by a week. This surely speaks well for the Canadian route.

—A town, ten of whose industries paid out last year \$455,200 in wages, and turned out merchandise to the value of \$2,380,000, must be a stirring town. These figures were cited the other day by an Amherst man to a visitor, and he proceeded to indicate, without naming any firm or company, that this Nova Scotia town had these figures to her credit in 1901. Rhodes, Curry & Co., the house and car builders, and the Robb Engineering Works were two of the concerns easily recognizable. But besides engines and cars, this town turns out, on a large scale, leather and fur goods, lumber, carriages, pork, heating goods and aerated waters.

—Excise duty on inland sugar in Germany is calculated on the roots. The duty is based on the assumption that from 12½ parts of beet 1 part of grain sugar is obtained; but in actual practice 1 part of raw sugar is now yielded by 9.27 parts of root. In France the makers of sugar are allowed to elect whether duty shall be levied on the roots they use or the sugar they make. The average composition of the sugar beet is given thus:

Water .....	84.5 to 79.0
Sugar and other soluble bodies .....	11.5 to 17.0
Cellulose and other solids .....	4.0 to 4.0
	100.0 to 100.0

One million one hundred and fifty-five thousand tons beet sugar made by Germany in 1885. Next to her come Austria, France, Russia.

—To those, and they were the great majority, who knew Richard Lancefield only as the studious, civil Hamilton librarian, of good habits and pleasing manners, the story of his disappearance under a cloud was startling in the extreme. Scarcely anyone was ready to suspect that he would be guilty of embezzlement, or would attempt to hoodwink the trustees, as he seems to have done successfully, into paying his salary twice over. But to those who were aware that he was trying to beat the book-makers at pool-rooms, that he was evidently spending more than his income, and was often hard up, his downfall was not astonishing. It is even said that he was drinking too much. The curious thing is that none of those in authority around him should have become aware of his recent habits. He adds another to the melancholy list of exiles, led into dishonesty and disgrace by his own folly, and destined to live conscience-stricken and in misery, in a foreign land.

—A special meeting of the National Life Assurance Company, of Canada, was held on the 7th instant. Mr. Elias Rogers, general manager and director of the Crow's Nest Coal Company, and director of the Imperial Bank of Canada, was elected president in succession to the late Henry S. Howland. Mr. W. D. Long, of Messrs. Long & Bisby, Hamilton, was chosen first vice-president, and Mr. A. S. Irving, president of the Toronto News Company, second vice-president. Mr. Peleg Howland, principal of the firm of H. S. Howland, Sons & Co., was elected a director, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his father.

—A Canadian paper publishes the report of the United States Commissioner of Immigration at Boston, showing the number of Canadians landed at that city from our Maritime Provinces, and heads the item: "A Nova Scotia Exodus." This is not accurate. It does not necessarily represent an exodus. People come and go week by week between Boston and the provinces; and in the summer months of every year servant girls and artisans of various kinds go back to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick by the thousand, just as tourists go from Boston by the thousand. The figures Mr. Billings gives make out a total of 44,667 passengers arriving at Boston in 1901 by the following routes: Dominion Atlantic R. & S.S. Co., Yarmouth, 31,265; Canadian Plant Line, Halifax, 9,272; Yarmouth S.S. Co., Yarmouth, 3,973. Miscellaneous, 157.

—The following comparison is taken from a recent Ottawa blue book. It is a statement showing the quantity of butter, cheese, flour and oats exported from Canada to the West Indies for the six months ended June 30, 1899 to 1901, by Pickford & Black's steamship line:

	1899.	1900.	1901.
Butter, packages .....	992	1,367	2,389
Cheese, packages .....	940	687	1,585
Flour, barrels .....	2,737	5,591	16,399
Oats, bags .....	924	1,760	7,852

It will be seen that there is an increase in every item during the first half of 1901, as compared with either of the previous similar periods. But it should not be difficult to make every item much larger. For example, Great Britain and the United States sent to Demerara alone \$67,628 worth of butter, and \$15,330 worth of cheese last year, while Canada sent only \$5,636 worth of both.

#### CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, February 13, 1902, compared with those of the previous week

CITIES	February 13, 1902.	February 6, 1902.
Montreal.....	\$18,465,256	\$15,782,960
Toronto.....	13,045,013	15,132,403
Winnipeg .....	2,535,769	2,739,804
Halifax .....	1,629,816	1,849,856
Hamilton .....	741,875	767,845
St. John .....	692,927	743,128
Vancouver .....	783,546	800,594
Victoria .....	472,344	450,937
Quebec .....	1,034,987	1,315,155
Ottawa .....	.....	1,853,379
	\$40,901,606	\$41,436,061

Aggregate balances, this week \$6,110,524; last week \$6,765,145

#### MEETINGS.

##### THE MANUFACTURERS LIFE.

##### 15th Annual Report.

The 15th annual meeting of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company was held at the head office, Toronto, February 6th, 1902. The report presented by the managing director was of the most satisfactory nature, calling forth congratulations from all sides. It was as follows:

##### REPORT.

This being the first annual meeting since the amalgamation of the Temperance and General Life Assurance Company of North America and the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company, no doubt a great deal of interest will be taken in the report of the year's transactions by the shareholders and policy-