

river, and when finished will present a substantial business-like appearance. Indeed, it will be quite an ornament to that part of Sarnia.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

At Valleyfield, last week, a by-law was presented providing for a loan of \$63,000 to pay off a floating debt, and for the construction of sewers, etc. The ratepayers, however, voted against the measure.

On the 4th inst. three by-laws were passed by the ratepayers at Hawkesbury, Ont., involving the raising of over \$170,000. Of this, \$100,000 is for the installation of a system of waterworks; \$53,000 will be expended on sewers, and \$20,000 on good roads.

The result of the large meeting of ratepayers held in Sydney, Cape Breton, on Tuesday last was that they voted almost unanimously in favor of a bonus of \$250,000 for a steel shipbuilding industry. Two sites are proposed, one at Barrack Point, and the other near Whitney Pier.

In successive paragraphs of a Quebec newspaper we learn that the valuation of the village of Sutton is about \$200,000, and of the township of Sutton nearly \$850,000; also that the Sovereign Bank decided to open there and appointed Mr. J. C. Massie, of Cowansville, manager, when, not to be outdone, the Eastern Townships Bank opened a branch on the same day, with Mr. R. P. Buzzell as acting manager. Competition may render some things necessary, but it would not have struck us that Sutton was a place that needed two banks. The valuation above given would alone indicate this.

Someone has sent us a copy of The Sarnia Post of 26th July, which after enumerating what Sarnia has done for the Grand Trunk Railway, goes on to ask more consideration for the town on the part of the railway. We quote a few sentences: "It is contended that in exchange for the concessions and privileges partially enumerated in the foregoing the town might naturally expect a little more than it gets from the Grand Trunk. How long, for instance, would the city of Port Huron put up with a dirty cinder platform at its down-town depot, right in the heart of the business section, or have local trains from Detroit and Battle Creek and intermediate points find their terminals at Sarnia, or have American grain unloaded at Sarnia for transshipment to an American destination? Just long enough to tell the Grand Trunk, as they have done, that unless the city received better treatment the business of its merchants would be diverted to other channels. Port Huron got what it demanded as its reasonable rights. It is not necessary to get into a row with the Grand Trunk in order to secure better conditions for Sarnia, and such is not the purpose of this article by any means. On the contrary The Post believes that the interests of Sarnia and the Grand Trunk are one, and that the best interest of both is in working together for their common good."

FIRE LOSS FOR JULY.

Happily there have been two comparatively favorable months in the matter of fire waste on this continent this year, namely, June and July, neither of which much exceeded ten millions gone up in smoke. In the preceding fourteen months, we had seen an average destruction of property by fire equal to \$15,220,000 per month, according to the records of the N.Y. Journal of Commerce. That paper gives the following table, which shows the losses by months for the first seven months of the years 1900, 1901, and 1902:

	1900.	1901.	1902.
January	\$11,755,300	\$16,574,950	\$15,032,800
February	15,427,000	13,992,000	21,010,500
March	13,349,200	15,036,250	12,056,600
April	25,727,000	11,352,800	13,894,600
May	15,759,400	22,380,150	14,866,000
June	21,281,000	9,590,000	10,245,350
July	13,609,100	15,740,000	10,028,000
Total	\$116,908,000	\$104,666,150	\$97,133,850

During July there were 161 fires in the United States and Canada of a destructiveness, each, of not less than \$10,000. Of the nine whose losses exceeded \$200,000, one was in Toronto, and one in Oka, Que.; two were in Chicago, one each in Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Hartford, Albany and Dallas, Texas. August has opened with very moderate losses. "Probably the combination of frequent rains and reasonably cool weather may be credited with this fortunate condition of affairs."

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Within the next few weeks no fewer than 44 steamships are expected to land in Philadelphia with sugar from Java, with cargoes estimated to aggregate 250,000 tons.

A Belleville dealer is reported to have received an order for a million barrels of apples from an English house. This, it is unnecessary to say, is far and away the largest order ever received for Canadian fruit.

Every indication points to a large apple crop in Canada this year, more especially in Ontario. That of the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, is described as being hardly up to the average. Buyers are cautious about beginning business too early. Pears and peaches according to late reports are likely to be more plentiful than last year, but scarcer than in 1900.

The Park, Blackwell Co., limited, pork packers and provision merchants, Toronto, at a cost of over \$50,000, have just made some additions to their factory which double its capacity, and will now be for 4,000 hogs and 300 cattle per week. They have just made an addition to their cold storage plant at a cost of over \$10,000, their refrigerator plant now being valued at \$25,000 to \$27,000.

A company has been incorporated in Owen Sound under the title of the Owen Sound Fruit Packing Company, limited, for the purpose of putting up an apple-packing warehouse, capable of storing at least 10,000 barrels of fruit with room sufficient for a proper separation of varieties, etc. The company's capital is given at \$25,000, and its general manager is Mr. Adam Brown, of Annapolis, who is an authority on growing and packing apples.

Prof. Robertson, Dominion Dairy Commissioner, and Prof. Fletcher, of the Experimental Farm, have gone to Prince Edward Island to give lectures to the farmers respecting chicken fattening. Prof. Robertson is very enthusiastic as to the future of the chicken industry on the island. At present the chickens are bought from the farmers, fattened at the four Government stations and sold in the Old Country at considerable profit. These stations, however, are only regarded as temporary expedients until such time as the farmers shall have become so thoroughly conversant with the business that they can do the work for themselves.

P. T. Barnum, having told the landlord of a hotel in the Adirondack Mountains, with great solemnity, that he hesitated to find fault with anything about the hotel when so much was agreeable, was urged by the landlord by all means to be frank and do so. "Well," said Barnum, "it is only one thing. I have discovered with regret that your pepper is half peas." The landlord declared it could not be, but, on being assured that Barnum knew as much about pepper as ginger, he wrote a caustic letter to his grocers for sending him such stuff. They, knowing doubtless who the real complainant was, replied that, if he would spell the word "pepper," he would doubtless find half of it composed of "p's," and that article which they sold had only the amount the orthography required.—Ex.

We are interested to find the following about Canadian apples in Kuhlow's German Trade Review, dated Berlin, 25th ult.: A prominent fruit and produce dealer in Baden is of opinion that a large demand for Canadian apples and apple products could be created in Germany. He says that the dried American apples arrive in fair condition, but that the evaporated apples do not; nor can they be kept in the market for any length of time, for they soon become mouldy or decay. This dealer suggests that the apples should be more thoroughly evaporated, and then properly packed for the export trade. He says there is a great demand for evaporated apples, and if they can be received in better condition there are prospects of a still further increase of trade.