

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

The Hon. JAMES PATTON, Q.C., has been appointed Collector of Customs for the port of Toronto.

The Imperial Oil Company of London and Edinburgh have been awarded the contract for supplying the Government Light House with oil for the coming year.

Mr. HARRIS, a supporter of the Ontario Government, has been elected to represent Prescott County in the Ontario Legislature in the stead of the late Dr. HARRIS, Conservative.

The Canada Temperance Act was passed in the County of Halton, Ontario, by a majority of eighty-eight, and in Annapolis County, Nova Scotia, by a majority of twelve hundred.

Public health is now in successful operation in the city of London, England. The movement is spreading and doubtless ere many years have passed it will have succeeded everywhere in populous cities.

It is announced that the Postmaster General of the United States, will, next session of Congress, prepare a bill establishing a post office savings bank system similar to that of Great Britain and Canada.

The Earl of Ravenswood stated at a meeting of the Institute of Naval Architects that in the shipping interests of Great Britain there is invested £1,000,000 in money, and 200,000 men employed, who earned £10,000,000 annually. Besides this 100,000 men are employed in ship-building, marine factories, and engineers' works, earning £7,000,000 annually. The value of vessels built in Great Britain during 1890 was £7,000,000.

The Boston Commercial Bulletin points out that the principal sources of New England's greatness are its manufacturing industries. The six Eastern States, it says, produce one-half of the woollen goods, four-fifths of the cotton fabrics, and three-fourths of the boots and shoes made in the United States. Out of a total of 11,000,000 cotton spindles in the country, nearly 4,000,000 are in operation in Massachusetts and nearly 2,000,000 in Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

The last quarterly circular of DUN, WIMAN & Co. shows the following statement of the failures in the United States and Canada for the first quarter of the year named:

Table with columns for Year, No. of Failures, and Amount. It lists data for the United States and Canada from 1881 to 1893.

The aggregate pounds of hog product (bacon, pork and lard) exported from the United States to principal consuming countries compare as follows for three years, ending June 30:

Table showing the aggregate pounds of hog product exported from the United States to principal consuming countries for the years 1890, 1891, and 1892.

In another column will be found some comments made by speakers at a recent meeting of the Buffalo Board of Trade on the reciprocity question. The feeling of reciprocity seems to be growing among our neighbours. The Evening News says editorially: 'We are glad that President Garfield, of the Board of Trade, has called attention to the desirability of forming reciprocal relations with Canada. We are satisfied that there would have been a reciprocity treaty both in name and fact years ago had it not been for a feeling that was entertained by the majority of the people of the North that Canada did not treat the United States as our neighbour should treat another during our long war. But that feeling has in a great measure given way to one of a more friendly nature, and to-day we do not think that there is anything in the

way of obtaining a treaty that would be equally beneficial to the people of both countries.'

A RETURN was recently published showing the grants made from the Imperial Exchequer for the purpose named for the year ending 31st March, 1890. In aid of the local revenues of Heligoland, 1,589l.; Falkland Islands, 3,500l.; Leeward Islands, 3,000l.; West Coast of Africa steamer, 2,780l.; mail service to the Gambia, 1,200l. and to the Bahamas, 1,000l. Other grants were for the salaries and expenses of Governors and others—namely, Bermuda, 2,200l.; Bahamas, 1,200l.; Western Australia, 1,800l.; Western Coast of Africa, 2,500l.; South Africa, 2,500l.; Windward Islands, 8,740l.; Leeward Islands, 3,000l.; for the passage of Governors and other colonial officers, 4,690l.; the clergy in North America, 1,230l.; Newfoundland magistrates, 250l.; the High Commissioner in the Western Pacific (Fiji), 1,827l.; and supplementary allowances to the High Commissioner, northward and eastward of Natal and the Transvaal, to the Governor of those colonies, and to the General commanding Her Majesty's forces in South Africa, 6,285l.

DEATH OF LORD BEACONSFIELD

The cable brings us the news—not wholly unexpected, it must be admitted, but nevertheless deeply to be deplored—of the death of the leader of Her Majesty's Opposition in the British Parliament. Perhaps no crisis in the affairs of the empire has occurred in many years at which the loss of so great and experienced a statesman would have been more severely felt than the present. Possessing none of what may frankly be acknowledged to be the hereditary prejudices of the large landholders, the deceased Earl was at the same time safely conservative, not only upon the Irish question, but upon everything else affecting the stability of the Crown and of all these great institutions which are the inheritance of every freeborn subject of Her Majesty.

The event is one which will be the source of heartfelt regret wherever the flag waves to which he was so loyal and so faithful, and indeed throughout the whole civilized world.

Benjamin Disraeli, by which name the great statesman is best known, was the eldest son of Isaac Disraeli, and was born in London December 21st, 1804, and was therefore in his 86th year. Privately educated, his first literary attempt was a translation of "Adonais," one of the eulogues of Theocritus. He was articled, while only in his teens, to a solicitor, but the work proving irksome and injurious to his health he abandoned it, and, after extended travel, in the course of which he made the acquaintance of Lockhart, the son-in-law of Sir Walter Scott, and then editor of the Quarterly Review, he settled down to literary work. In 1827 he made his first successful hit in public with the brilliant and romantic novel, "Vivian Gray," which was followed by "The Wondrous Tale of Alroy," "The Young Duke," "Contarion Fleming," and "Henrietta Temple," all of which obtained for their author notoriety rather than fame. At the same time Disraeli prepared the way for his entrance into political life by publishing "Ixion," a vindication of the British constitution and a poem, the revolutionary epic, which nobody is supposed to have read. Again, he travelled this time in the East, and on returning plunged into the political strife that attended the great Reform agitation. He became in 1832 a candidate for the borough of Westminster, and as he was recommended by Buns and O'Connell it has been inferred that he began his political career as a Radical, though he has himself invariably affirmed that his conduct has been from first to last consistent. In 1835, when he contested Taunton unquestionably as a Tory, and under the auspices of Lyndhurst and Sir Robert Peel, he was beaten and came into collision with O'Connell and his son, the latter of whom he challenged to fight a duel. At last, in 1837, at the age of thirty-two, he was elected a member for Maidstone. In making his first speech in the House of Commons he was so disconcerted by the laughter which greeted his peculiar rhetoric and exaggerated gestures, that he sat down saying, however, before he did so, 'I will sit down now, but the time will come when you will hear me.' He then carefully studied both elocution and the temper of the House, and the result was soon seen in a marvellous parliamentary success. In 1841, he exchanged the constituency of Maidstone for that of Shrewsbury. Mainly by new novels containing fiction and politics, the chief of which were "Byzantium" and "Contagion," he became known as the chief of the "Young England Party." His fortune as a partisan was made when, on Sir Robert Peel becoming a convert to free trade doctrines, he attacked that great statesman with severely eloquent and persistent invective, justifying himself with the Protectionists. Lord Beaconsfield, who had exchanged Shrewsbury for Beckenham, became, in 1846, on the death of Lord Deilincourt, their acknowledged chief. In 1852, after

publishing a biography of Lord George Bentinck, he became Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Cabinet of Lord Derby. Since then his history may be said to be that of the Conservative party of England. In the three administrations of Lord Derby he held the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer, passing in the last, with the unwelcome assistance of the Liberal Opposition the Reform Act which was now law. When his chief resigned the Premiership in February, 1868, the deceased Earl succeeded to it. In the end of the same year, however, he resigned, the general election of the time returning a majority against him on the Irish Church question. In March, 1874, another general election occurred, giving his party a great majority. He was once more called to the post of First Lord of the Treasury. In 1876 he was created Earl of Beaconsfield. During 1877 his policy in respect of the Russo-Turkish war excited the most intense and unrelenting hostility on the part of Mr. Gladstone, and this hostility was extended to the policy that led to the Afghan war of 1878-79, which probably led to his defeat last year. In 1870 he wrote "Lothair." He also filled on various public offices; he was D.C.L. of Oxford and LL.D. of Edinburgh. In 1839 he married the widow of Mr. Wyndham Lewis, his former colleague in the representation of Maidstone. Mrs. Disraeli was in acknowledgment of her husband's political services, raised on November 22nd, 1868, to the peerage, under the title of Viscountess Beaconsfield. She died December 16th, 1872, at the age of 83, leaving no issue. No living, and hardly any dead, politician has been the subject of such varied and conflicting criticism. His sincerity and sagacity have been repeatedly challenged; his capacity for business seems to have been almost universally admitted; his serious eloquence excited no enthusiasm or admiration, yet his tact, audacity, ironical pleasantry, subtle manner and unflinching courage won him a personal popularity which his great rival could never secure, and which no modern statesman except Lord Palmerston has enjoyed in equal measure. His most recent triumph as a statesman was the negotiation of the treaty of Berlin, in consideration of which services he was decorated with the Star and Ribbon of the Order, one of the rarest and most coveted distinctions which could be conferred upon an English nobleman. After the death of his Government at the last general election he once more ventured in the field of literature by writing and publishing "Endymion," a novel, the name and incidents of which are now so familiar as household words, all the world over. He has led his party in Opposition for the past year with the rare skill for which his conduct of political affairs has always been noted, and although there are amongst the Conservative party men of the highest talent and great experience in politics—such for example as Lord Salisbury, his most probable successor, Lord Cairns, who is also said to aspire to the position, and Sir Stafford Northcote, who leads the Opposition in the House of Commons—it is very doubtful whether in this generation one will be found combining his ability as a statesman and a public speaker with the remarkable power of diagnosing human character and his consummate tact in the management of men.

PHOSPHATE NOTES

The Bookingham correspondent of the Hull Dispatch says:—Mr. L. P. Labouglie, our enterprising fellow citizen, has just returned from a five months' sojourn in France, and brings with him the glad tidings that he has succeeded in forming a French company with a paid up capital of 1,200,000 francs, and facilities for increasing said capital to 30,000,000 francs, to work the phosphate mines on the Du Lièvre. A Government engineer is now en route for this country, and so soon as he shall have reported on the mining lands active operations will immediately be proceeded with. The company intend purchasing all the phosphate land they can find in the Ottawa district, and will immediately construct a steamer and large to ply on the Du Lièvre and carry down the mineral. Mr. Labouglie states that a few samples taken to France by him were analyzed by some of the first chemists of the country and gave a splendid result, many of them giving as high as 93 per cent. And it was stated that the high percentage of phosphoric acid contained in our phosphate would be strong enough to destroy the "Phloxera," which is doing so much injury to the vineyards of Sunny France. Should the enterprise prove successful, and we know of no reason why it should not, times will be lively in Buckingham, and we may expect to see the village rise to an important position.

The failure returns just compiled by Dun, Wiman & Co. are satisfactory for Canada, but show an increase in the United States. For the first quarter of the past three years the figures have been: Canada—Number of failures last quarter, 1881, 160; liabilities, \$2,026,556; do. failures, 1880, 503; liabilities \$4,818,277; do. failures, 1879, 634; liabilities, \$11,648,097. In the United States the failures for the first quarter of 1891 number 1,761; liabilities, \$24,447,250; do. failures, 1888, 1,433; liabilities, \$12,717,074; failures 1879, 2,574; liabilities, \$45,712,663.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIES.

The INDUSTRIAL WORLD will be pleased to receive items of news from its readers in all parts of the country, for publication in these columns. It will take but a few minutes time and a postal card to acquaint us with what is going on in your neighbourhood, and we will always find room for all legitimate communications, which must be accompanied by the writer's name as a guarantee of good faith.

It is the intention of the G. M. Weber Piano Manufacturing Co., Kingston, to enlarge their premises by raising the roof of one of the outbuilding two stories. At present there are 32 men employed, but when the increased accommodation is provided in the neighbourhood of 60 will be employed.

It is said that a company will erect a potato-starch factory at Mount Stewart, P. E. Island, when a sufficient number of acres are subscribed by the farmers. A meeting was held in the hall in that place, when a committee was appointed to take the names of those willing to subscribe, and report at another meeting to be held in a few days.

The N. P. is ahead once more. Mr. T. Foster, of the axe factory, finding his present premises too small for his business, has decided to build a larger shop. The new building is being erected near the old Saw Mill, opposite the Grist Mill, by Mr. W. B. Atty, and when completed will form an important addition to the landscape on the side of the street where it is placed.—Pembroke Standard.

General activity is observable among the St. Catharines manufacturers. MacDonald's pulp mill is undergoing extensive alterations, and new machinery is being added. Phelps & Co.'s hammer works, a new industry brought into life by the N. P., is having a new firm added and a water wheel. Battle & Co.'s pulp mill, at Thorold, is being improved with a new vialcut. All the mills and other industrial establishments along the line of the canal are undergoing a general refitting for the business of the coming season, which promises to be unusually good.

It appears that Mr. J. H. Parks has addressed the Portland, St. John, Council on the subject of a cotton mill, in which English capitalists propose to take stock. We have a strong belief that Moncton has impressed the representative of the English capitalists most favourably, and we have reason to believe a cotton factory here is one of the probabilities of the near future. A cotton mill that will employ twice or three times the number of hands at work in the I. C. R. shops is worth making an effort to secure. So has mill in two or three years would about double the population of the town.—Moncton Times.

The Montreal boot and shoemaking is giving evidence of prosperity, and of confidence in the future. The east side of Victoria square is now occupied by three or four large establishments in that line, and it is probable that further building operations in that locality will be commenced ere long. The property on the corner of Craig and St. Francis Xavier streets, in the same block with the St. Lawrence Hall, has been secured by the old established and leading boot and shoe firm of Cox, Brown, Cassis & Co., who have just completed arrangements for the erection thereon of an elegant six-story cut-stone building 110x50 feet, which they anticipate will be ready for occupancy in November.—Journal of Commerce.

A bonus of \$10,000 to the merchants' Manufacturing Company has been voted by the St. Henri Council. The conditions of the grant are that the company erect their factory within the limits of the town within a specified time, and employ at least 300 hands for the first three years. The by-law will be voted on by the electors on May 4th. The company have just completed the purchase of the land on which to erect their factory. The ground is situated on St. Ambrose street in the municipality and on the canal, and consists of 240,000 feet. The purchase was made from Messrs. Belque and others, and the price paid was ten cents per foot, or \$24,000. The corporation exempt the company from municipal but not from school taxes for twenty years. The factory will be commenced at once.

A meeting of the provisional directors of the Kingston Cotton Company was held recently. There was a full attendance. The business transacted was of a semi-private character. Among the matters ordered was the appointment of a committee to see to the incorporation of the company. A committee, consisting of Messrs. G. A. Kirkpatrick, M.P., J. Hadden, W. Nickle and J. Richardson were appointed to go to Ottawa and interview the Government regarding the use or purchase of a property which is regarded as a good site for the factory. It was thought that the plans, prepared by Messrs. Bullough and Leigh, would be here-to-day, but they did not arrive. On the 1st of May 5 per cent. of the subscribed stock will be called in. Messrs. Bullough and Leigh are now in Montreal. They are expected here presently. The amount of stock subscribed reaches nearly \$185,000.

In an article on "The Fruits of the National Policy," the Halifax Evening Mail says a pulp mill is to be established at Liverpool, and a glass factory at New Glasgow that will employ 150 hands. This enterprise will consume quantities of coal, and the proprietor, a Mr. Booth, from Ontario, has contracted with the

mines for a supply of coal at fifty cents per ton. Hantsport is going into the manufacture of agricultural implements on a scale that promises to drive both American and Ontario manufacturers out of the Maritime Province market. Windsor is subscribing a capital for a cotton factory. Wolfville is increasing its bootery work-shops. Kentville, Amherst, Truro, and Annapolis are entering upon new lines of manufacture hitherto unknown in Nova Scotia. The Pitou and Cape Breton coal mines and the London-derry iron works are doing a tremendous business. The Amherst boot and shoefactory is being greatly enlarged.

A large deputation of Ontario and Quebec millers waited upon Sir Leonard Tilley and the Hon. Mr. Bowell with a view of having some change effected in the bonding system of American wheat. They ask that the word 'product' should be changed to 'equivalent.' Under the existing regulations for every four and a half bushels of American wheat imported they enter into bond for export a barrel of flour. Owing to the softness of Canadian wheat they are unable to produce strong bakers' flour and to compete successfully with American flour. With a view, therefore, to overcome this difficulty, they claim that they should be allowed to mix Canadian with American wheat in equal proportions for home consumption, or export, as the case may be. The honorable gentlemen listened attentively to the representations made by the deputation, and promised to lay the matter before their colleagues at an early day.

At the Halifax Sugar Refinery all the past week has been occupied in testing the pipes, boilers and machinery. Water was injected into the melting pan and passed through all the processes of sugar refining. This answered the double purpose of testing the tightness of joints, etc., and washing out pipes and tanks. All leaks having been repaired, on Thursday the first batch of sugar was melted and slowly put through the various processes and any needed repairs were made. On Saturday what on Thursday was ordinary raw sugar in the store was turned out of the centrifugal pure white sugar of the first quality. The trial working turned out about 60 barrels of sugar. For this result to be attained so soon from the first melting is considered very rapid work, and attests to the comparative thoroughness of the work done here. This morning the works will be started in earnest with the full complement of workmen. The Nova Scotia Sugar Refinery is no longer a thing to be gabbled about on the hustings, but is a living, throbbing industry.—Halifax Chronicle.

At the meeting recently held at the offices of Messrs. Cantile, Kwan & Co., to organize the Merchants' Manufacturing Company, there were present among others Messrs. G. Cheney, Jonathan Hodgson, J. P. Cleghorn, A. A. Ayer, Andrew Allan, John Crawford, Jesse Joseph, Charles Gault, Robert Mackay, and other prominent merchants. The provisional directors presented their report, which was adopted. It was stated during the meeting also that the stock had been freely taken up by about one hundred shareholders, who hold on an average about \$4,000 each. The only cost incurred in regard to this matter was about \$300 for printing and advertising. Several applications for stock had been refused, the books having been closed. The following gentlemen were elected directors: G. Cheney, J. K. Ward, Robert Mackay, J. P. Cleghorn, Jonathan Hodgson, J. S. McLachlan and A. A. Ayer. At a subsequent meeting of the Board, Mr. Cheney was elected President and Mr. J. K. Ward, Vice-President. As far as can be learned the site for the factory has not been definitely fixed yet, but will be in a day or two, when building operations will at once be undertaken.—Montreal Witness.

The meeting held at Prescott last week, in connection with the proposal to build an elevator and marine railway at this place, was a very satisfactory one. Mr. Gunn, who represents a member of Canadian and American capitalists, was met by the Mayor and members of the leading citizens. Mr. Gunn informed the meeting that the proposed company would have a capital of \$2,500,000 with which they would build ten first class propellers, 20 grain barges of a capacity of 25,000 bushels and 30 river barges of a capacity of 35,000 each. 6 lifts and 10 floating elevators for use here and at Montreal or Quebec; a stationary elevator (here) of a capacity of 500,000 bushels, and a marine railway. On behalf of the citizens the Mayor agreed that Prescott would present the company with sufficient water frontage, and for the construction of the docks, elevator, and marine railway, and exempt the company from taxation for a period of twenty years. The opinion was also expressed that local capitalists would subscribe from \$50,000 to \$100,000 worth of stock. Mr. Gunn inspected several portions of the water frontage of the town and expressed the opinion that Prescott is admirably adapted for the scheme proposed. Mr. Gunn returned to Montreal that evening and has since met the capitalists of that city interested in the scheme, and everything points to the conclusion that it will soon be an accomplished fact.—Telegraph.

A Chicago despatch says seven columns of report from Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, Kansas, Kentucky, etc., say that the wheat crop will not be less than last year.