

A POINT IN LIFE ASSURANCE.

The winding-up of the affairs of the Select Knights of Canada has raised some curious points. Some years ago Alfred Jones, of Morrisburg, took out a policy from the society for \$2,000 on his life, naming as his beneficiaries his daughter Alice and a Miss Gertrude Styles. Two years later Jones revoked that policy and diverted the two benefits to Mrs. Ellen Styles. The society has paid \$1,000 of the claim to Mrs. Styles, and the balance has been paid in to court, subject to its decision. The decision hinges on the question as to whether Miss Jones' rights have been annulled. Mr. Justice Robertson referred the question to the Master-in-Chancery.

—On Saturday evening last, says the Hamilton Times, a spurious \$5 bill was passed on Fred. Spicuzza, an Italian fruit dealer. It was given by a young man who bought 5c. worth of peanuts, and received \$4.95 in good money in change. The note was detected shortly afterwards, and handed to the police. It is poorly made and purports to be on the Bank of Brantford. There is no bank of Brantford.

—The will of the late Robert Hamilton was admitted to probate at the end of September. The total amount of property is \$2,027,240. His widow is left an annuity of \$12,000. The four daughters receive \$250,000 each, less donations; Mr. John Hamilton, \$500,000, less donations; the children of his daughter Jessie, \$221,000; the Bishop of Niagara, \$50,000; the nephews, Messrs. G. W. Charles and Robert C. Hamilton, \$20,000 apiece; the mission fund of the Quebec Church Society, \$45,000; the Bishop of Montreal, and the mission fund of the diocese of Ottawa, \$10,000 each.

—The first discoverer of aluminium had the reward of genius. Pliny tells us that in the reign of Tiberius (41 B.C. to 37 A.D.), a worker in metals presented a beautiful metal cup resembling silver, but lighter, to the Emperor, who questioned him, and learned that he had extracted the new metal from clay. The secret, he said, was known but to himself and the gods. The sage, Tiberius, reflecting that if this metal could be made from earth, it would lower the price of silver and gold, decapitated the artificer in order that his secret might remain with the gods, and so deprived the world of a most useful metal for eighteen centuries.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Oct. 6th, 1898.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—During the greater part of the week the weather has been warm and unfavorable to the offering of dressed hogs. However, the last two or three days of the cold weather have witnessed a marked improvement in this trade, and shipments from outside points have been larger. As was the case at the beginning of last season, heavy hogs form the bulk of arrivals, and dealers are making a discrimination in prices against them; from \$5.25 to \$5.50 is quoted for desirable weights. The colder weather has also witnessed a somewhat improved demand for smoked meats, which remain at previous quotations. American and without change, being affected somewhat by the yellow fever in the South. The world stock of lard is reported at 380,000 tierces or a decrease of 20,000 tierces during the month.

GRAIN.—There has been more wheat offered at country points this week, and so soon as the cold weather comes, free deliveries are expected. Quotations are

without change, and farmers complain that at present prices they are not getting back the cost of production. Barley is rather slow of sale, and is in only moderate demand. The corn market is firmer, with a fractionally higher quotation. For oats the demand is easy, and without vigor. Rye is quiet and unchanged.

GREEN FRUIT.—On the Scott street market and in the city generally trade has been rather quiet this week. The season of domestic green fruits will soon close, and decreased trade is to be expected. There are some fine late Valencia oranges in the market, quoted, 126 s, 150 s, 176 s, and 288 s at \$4 per box. For lemons the demand is somewhat limited, and the movement small. We quote: New lemons, Messina, 360's, \$5.50 to \$6; new lemons, Messina, 300's, \$6; few fancy Maiori lemons, \$8.50 per case. Pears, plums and peaches have been rather slow of sale. Ruminous prices have been realized for grapes, ten pound baskets selling for 15 to 17½c. For sundry fruits and vegetables, we quote: Sweet potatoes, per bbl., \$3 to \$3.25; bananas, fancy fruit, per bunch, \$1.25 to \$1.50; tomatoes, Canadian, per basket, 30c. to 35c.; dates, new Hallowee, 4½c. per lb.; dates, new Khadowee, 4c. per lb.; melons, Cantelopes, boxes, 60c. to 75c.; Spanish onions, \$1.25 per box; Canadian onions, 80 lbs., 90c. per bag.

GROCERIES.—Trade has been bright during the past several weeks, and the autumn movement may now be said to have well opened. The principal interest is centred in new crop of trade fruits, which are beginning to come forward, and in a week or ten days, direct shipments of Mediterranean fruit may be expected. There seems to be much uncertainty as to the future of Greek currants, resulting from lack of knowledge whether the Russians will admit them free for wine-making purposes, or exact an increased duty. It is stated that consuming countries will have to face a crop of 160,000 tons, but it is not certain that all of this will be available for anything but wine-making purposes. In the tea trade there is little new. The Japan crop is somewhat later than usual in coming forward, and the season's movement is less than it should be at the present time. It is estimated that the world's supply of coffee increased 400,000 to 450,000 bags during September. From London advices state that in view of a short African crop, pepper is very firm. The local sugar trade is quiet, and the movement by no means satisfactory. Collections are good and as compared with a year ago show considerable improvement.

HIDES AND SKINS.—Trade remains almost as was reported a week ago. For green hides merchants are paying city butchers 8½c. per pound. For cured hides 9 to 9½c. per pound is quoted, with a bulk of the sales at the inside figure. Skins are quiet and unchanged. The tallow market shows few features of special interest. From Chicago, October 5th.—The market showed a good undertone. Offerings were not excessive, as the purchases made latterly have materially reduced packers' holdings. No changes were made in prices, with native steers at 11¼ to 12c., Texas at 10½ to 11c., butt brands at 10¼ to 10½c., Colorados at 9½ to 9¾c., Branded cows at 9¼ to 9½c., Native cows, at 11¼c. for all weights.

SEEDS.—Less alsike clover seed is coming forward this week, although prices are a point or two higher. The range is now \$2.50 to \$4.50, the latter figure being paid only for choice seed. For red clover, which is coming in small quantities, dealers pay \$3 to \$3.50. Timothy is quiet at \$1 to 1.25. From New York: September receipts here have

Fully half has been old seed. Shipments have been nearly as large as a year ago. October receipts are generally the largest of the season. What they will be next month will depend mostly upon the movement of old seed. They may increase a little over the receipts of this month. We quote: Common to fair clover at \$5.25 to \$6.25; good to fancy, \$6.50 to \$7; timothy, \$2.50 to \$3.50 in job lots for common to choice per 100 lbs. Flax, 95c. c.i.f. New York.

WOOL.—The local market remains very quiet, with no new features of interest to report. Buyers are still unwilling to pay more than 15c. per pound for the fleece wool offered and this wholesalers are naturally loth to accept. The situation has not improved with the advanced season, as was expected by some sanguine traders during the summer. It is estimated that at present nine-tenths of the domestic clip is held by owners, who regard it as an investment good enough to be carried until the importing-point price shall have been reached, but, owing to the great falling off in wool consumption, as indicated by the disappointingly light fall demand for woollens, this period seems to be growing more remote.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 5th Oct., 1898.

ASHES.—There has been further improvement in values since last week, due to a better English enquiry, and the very small stocks available. We quote \$4 to \$4.15 for No. 1 pots, and for a lot of extra good tares \$4.20 was paid the other day. Second quality pots are quoted at \$3.75 to \$3.85, and pearls at \$4.90 to \$5 per cental.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The manufacturing houses report some fair orders for the spring trade, in addition to those received last week. Also a good number of sorting orders, for fall, from both East and West. The city retail trade is comparatively quiet. Payments are moderately good.

CEMENTS AND FIREBRICKS.—This has been a rather quiet week in cements, as compared with recent weeks, and no important transactions are noted. Receipts have also been small, only 665 barrels of English, and no Belgian. Quotations rule very steady at \$1.90 to \$2.05 for Belgian, \$2.25 to \$2.35 for English, and \$2.35 to \$2.45 for German. Receipts of firebricks 44,000, and prices without change.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—Cheese shipments were heavy again last week, aggregating 110,698 boxes, being 17,000 boxes ahead of the same week last year, but there is still a deficiency of some 185,000 boxes shown, as compared with exports at corresponding date of 1897. The market is not as active as a week ago, buyers not being disposed to accept the values put upon September makes, by holders, and most of the trading being done is in earlier made goods, which quote at 8¾ to 9c. for fine Western, and 8¾ to 8½c. for Quebec; fine Septembers are quoted at 9¼ to 9½c. for Western, and Eastern 9 to 9½c. Butter has eased off a little, and the market may be called unsettled, with comparatively small business passing. The limit for finest creamery would now be 20c. per lb. in boxes, tubs, 19 to 19½c.; dairy, 14 to 15½c. Exports last week were 8,897 boxes.

DRY GOODS.—The abnormally warm weather at the close of last week, and the beginning of the present week, checked business somewhat, but trade on the whole may be called very fair. Fourth of October payments were well met as a rule. Further indications of the general stiffening in woolen values are apparent. Letters from English hosiery manufacturers give notice of an advance of 6c.