

THE BANK THIEF BANWELL.

The misguided bank clerk Banwell, of Toronto, has been traced by detectives to various United States cities, then to Cuba, and was last week arrested in Jamaica. Some \$36,000 out of the \$40,000 he stole has, it seems, been recovered. The young woman whom he took away, and who is said to have been married to him in Buffalo, was found with him in Jamaica, and will be brought back to Toronto. Appearances indicate that she was not particeps criminis, but was shamefully deceived. Whatever punishment the law may mete out to him, the suffering of his companion must be lasting. The bank has spared no effort or expense to trace him by the employment of both Canadian and American detectives. And it is well that such bold thieves should know that they will be relentlessly pursued wherever they may strive to hide. The case suggests that it would be a proper thing for the banks of the city to unite in an arrangement by which the heavy cost of pursuing and punishing bank thieves who get away with their temporary gains should be paid out of a fund to be contributed to by all the banks. We commend this suggestion to the consideration of the chairman of the Bankers' Section of the Board of Trade or to the president of the Clearing House. The American Bankers' Association have an arrangement of the kind for helping to catch counterfeiters, and it has worked wonders.

CANADIAN LOBSTERS.

The lobster season has been open for a month on the Atlantic shores of Canada, and fair catches are being made. The year 1905 was one of the most successful in the history of the lobster fishing business on our Atlantic coast. The world's lobster packing is, if we do not mistake, confined nearly altogether to the Maritime Provinces of Canada and Newfoundland, for in no other part of the world are these crustaceans found in quantities great enough to warrant canning them.

For ten years previous to 1898, there was a constant diminution in the supply of lobsters in Canada, and fears for the extermination of the crustacean were entertained. But wise enactments for the preservation of the animal and their propagation have about restored the condition to normal. The value of the lobster fisheries of Nova Scotia in the year 1905 was \$2,116,000, representing a catch of about 33,700,000 lobsters. The prices realized that year were the highest, it is said, in the history of the trade.

An indication of the value of this portion of our sea coast wealth may be found in the exports for the fiscal year, 1st July, 1904, to 1st July, 1905. During those twelve months the United States took 32,886 barrels of fresh lobsters, valued at \$376,336, and 4,514,000 pounds of canned lobsters, valued at \$1,059,761; Great Britain took 4,022,000 pounds tinned, valued at \$889,608; France, 2,342,000 pounds, valued at \$589,392. Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Holland, and nine other countries bought the remainder of our exports of canned lobsters, which amounted last year in all to \$2,754,598 in value.

FREDERICTON BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the Board of Trade of Fredericton, N.B., took place on the 8th inst., with Mr. J. J. Weddall, the president, in the chair. This gentleman's address referred to the good work that had been done through the board's efforts in the previous year, and to the improvement in the city in several directions. He also referred to the question of bonusing manufacturing industries upon the propriety of which opinions were divided. However, the city would appear to be in an encouraging mood respecting the location of new industries within its boundaries, more particularly carriage and machine factories. The question which brought forth the most discussion was in respect to fire in-

surance, and the attitude of the insurance companies came in for some very harsh strictures. The demand by the latter for the purchase of a chemical engine was looked upon by some members of the board as an "excuse to raise rates." It is a curious thing that a lot of business men, sensible and calm upon most other subjects of discussion, are so apt to lose their heads when fire insurance rates are discussed. The old topic under such circumstances of "municipal" insurance came to the fore, but those present were not so foolish as to adopt that will-o-the-wisp. A happy feature of the meeting was the report of the chairman of the New Brunswick Tourist Association, which spoke of the successful work which had been done for the province by means of advertising through postal cards and in the United States papers and magazines. One regrettable point was the decrease in the numbers of incoming sportsmen, owing to the increased fee imposed. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—

President, J. Weddall; vice-president, George W. Hodge; secretary, J. W. McCready; treasurer, M. Tennant; council, C. F. Chestnut, J. S. Neill, J. D. Phinney, J. E. Palmer, A. H. Randolph, J. H. Randolph, J. H. Barry, J. M. Wiley, F. B. Edgecombe, Geo. Y. Dibblee, J. D. McKay, W. L. McFarlane; tourist committee, C. F. Chestnut, F. B. Edgecombe, J. S. Neill, J. W. McCready, R. P. Allen.

BERLIN BOARD OF TRADE.

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Board of Trade for Berlin, Ont., took place on the evening of the 11th inst., and was a great success in every way, no less than a hundred members being present and taking a keen interest in the proceedings. The fact indicates a creditable commercial spirit in the place. Mr. C. H. Mills, the president, acted as chairman and referred in enthusiastic vein to the progress made by the town. He also expressed the opinion that Berlin would reach a population of 15,000 in probably less than three years, and thought it would be as well to wait until that time before applying for incorporation as a city.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, D. B. Detwiler; vice-president, H. J. Sims; secretary, J. A. Scellen; treasurer, W. H. Schmalz; council, L. D. Merrick, C. A. Ahrens, G. M. Debus, W. M. O. Lochead, L. J. Breithaupt, R. Reid, C. H. Mills, Dr. J. F. Honsberger, C. Kranz, M. M. Donald, C. K. Hagedorn, W. H. Leeson, E. P. Gower, Ed. Smyth, W. J. Moody.

—At a meeting of the share and debenture holders of the Chignecto Marine Transport Railway Company in London, Eng., last month it was decided to extend the trust until January, 1911, in order to secure a continuance of negotiations with the Dominion Government looking to a settlement of the company's claims. It will be remembered that the company never fulfilled its part of the terms under which a subsidy was to have been paid it by the Government, though the company claims it was harshly treated by the Government in not renewing the offer after a certain date at which, the former claims; it was ready to proceed with the work.

—The Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, announces that it will receive applications for space for Canadian exhibits at the New Zealand International Exposition, to be held at Christchurch, New Zealand, November, 1906, to April, 1907. The Dominion Government will erect a special building, to be devoted exclusively to the accommodation of exhibits illustrating the natural and manufactured products of Canada; and offers to pay transportation charges, one way only, on all exhibits which are accepted. Space, installation and maintenance will also be provided free of charge. Mr. William A. Burns, of the Department of Agriculture, has the arrangements in hand.

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