

good profit. What, then, would constitute return cargoes? The island exports principally sugar, not only raw brown but vacuum-pan crystals ready for the table; also molasses, rum, logwood, pimento, limes, cocoa nuts, yams, nutmegs, sulphur, walking sticks, and umbrella handles. There is scrap iron, too, in plenty on various islands, the accumulation of many years.

"We have no manufactures," says the letter, a sentence which deserves to attract the attention of Canadian manufacturers. "Our clothes come from England, fancy goods from France, while all our food, beyond fresh meat and vegetables, is imported from the United States." Even their white pine lumber is taken thither from Maine. The list of imports includes flour, butter, lard, cheese, pork, and beef. Indian corn, oats, and beans are further articles, and the manufactures they take from Brother Jonathan are furniture, watches, trunks, clocks, plated ware. Let any Canadian examine this list and see if he can find on it a single article that Canada could not supply. True, St. Lucia already gets our codfish, but at second-hand from the neighboring island of Barbadoes. Some day soon, we hope, there will be shipments of this and of other articles direct to St. Lucia.

An exhibit of her products is being prepared by the authorities of the island for display at the Jamaica Exhibition next year. The same exhibit, we are told, is intended to be forwarded to the Industrial Exhibition of 1891 at Toronto. We learn that a handbook of St. Lucia is in course of preparation by Mr. McHugh, which will show the products and the attractions of the island. This will be ready for publication in a few months. It is further of interest to learn that St. Lucia boasts a feature which should especially attract the notice of invalids. Situated in the healthiest quarter of the island are sulphur springs, taking their rise in the crater of an active volcano. The water of these springs is a specific cure for rheumatism and disorders of that character. They are but a few minutes' walk from the town of Soufriere, which is two hours' sail from the capital. In the time of the French occupation of the island these baths were much frequented, the climate of the island and the qualities of the waters attracting them.

There is, we are told, a warm desire on the part of mercantile people on the island to obtain larger commerce with Canada. The visits of the steamer "Portia" and succeeding ships of the line we have named are stimulating this, and correspondence between Canadian merchants and points on this and adjoining islands shows already a gratifying growth.

ELECTRIC LIGHT APPLIANCES.

Loud boasts appear from time to time in American journals of what is being done in United States cities in the way of extensions of electric light plant, and new inventions in connection therewith. This is all very well, and no one expects our American neighbors to hide their light under a bushel—it is not usually their way. And truly this is a wonderful age for electric invention in both Europe and America. But we do not need to go from home

to look for marvels in this direction. Anyone who pays a visit to the electric light works on the Esplanade at the foot of Scott street in this city, as we did last week, will find enough to surprise and gratify him, be he scientist or lounge.

It is only seven years since the incorporation of the Toronto Electric Light Company. And for the first year or two its arc lights were rare novelties at the hotels or here and there in the larger business places. To-day we find them illuminating the streets of the city, and becoming nearly as common as plate glass windows in the shops. From West Toronto Junction all the way to the Woodbine track on the Kingston road, and beyond, we can trace their mellow radiance. The company has, we are told, 175 miles of copper wire, No. 6 gauge, throughout the city. There are 550 street lights under contract with the municipality; from 250 to 300 commercial arc lights and 220 incandescent lamps. The staff of this one company now consists of about ninety men in various capacities: lamp-trimmers, patrolmen, linemen, to keep this network of lamps in order, and machinists, engineers, firemen to regulate the power at its central station.

It has steam power enough and dynamos enough for 900 arc lights and 1,000 incandescent lamps; and, what will be news to nine out of ten business men in Toronto, most of the 37 dynamos have been manufactured in the shops of the company. Lathes, planers, drills, machines for making "carbon feeds," and even a delicate and ingenious contrivance for insulating wire by wrapping it with cotton, chemically prepared—all these may be seen at work in the company's workshops, where they do their own manufacturing and repairing.

In the zinc-covered building which projects into the bay are ten multitubular boilers of 100 hundred horse-power each. These drive two pairs of coupled Brown-Corliss steam engines of 500 h.p. each, with cylinders 18 by 42 inches revolving at a speed of 82 revolutions per minute, and one Armstrong & Sims high-speed engine of 50 horse-power. The engines are in a separate building, and by means of enormous belts revolve the dynamos, which are placed upon two separate floors or platforms.

The company has in use a complete system of signal telegraph for the use of its patrolmen, who are stationed in various parts of the city from the time the lights are started till they are extinguished at daylight. By means of these constant communication is kept up with the works. We understand that the company is now engaged in re-insulating the lines in different parts of the city, and in running protecting wires over the various lines, so as to avoid contact with wires of telephone or telegraph companies or other systems which might break and otherwise come into contact and cause trouble. Mr. Wright, the manager, tells us that the company's lines are tested once every hour during the day in various ways—for continuity, insulation, and contact with other wires, or the ground. Breaks in the circuits, or "crosses," as they are called, are thus discovered and invariably removed before the time of starting the lights in the evening. So far as we can judge, the lines are well-built, the manager is a thoroughly competent electrician, and it is greatly to the credit of the company that it is so favorably spoken of by the fire-underwriters.

—The annual meeting of the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Company was to be held yesterday, in the Town Hall, Waterloo, Ontario.

GROCERY FACTS AND STORIES.

The well known firm of W. K. Lewis & Bro., Boston, have withdrawn from the market on 1890-pack lobster. They state that Halifax commission firms are over-bidding United States buyers, and that the pack will be very short from Maine to Labrador.

After a recent analysis of certain sugars taken for test, the following report was made by Dr. Cassal, Public Analyst for Kensington, Eng.:—"Seven samples were certified as adulterated. They consisted of sugar crystals which had been dyed of a bright yellow color by means of an artificial organic coloring matter, belonging to the class of so-called aniline dyes, and no doubt consisting chiefly of one of the so-called 'Azo-dyes,' known under the generic name of 'Tropæoline oranges.' It is evident that great quantities of the dyed sugars are sold in London and elsewhere. Purchasers are under the impression that they are being supplied with genuine cane sugar (such as 'Demerara'), whereas they are in reality getting sugar crystals which have been artificially dyed. In this way beet-root sugar can be colored and sold as 'Demerara,' which it does not equal in sweetness."

So bold and so clever have the makers of spurious goods become that we hear of imitation coffee beans, green as well as roasted, but what they are made of we are not told. A Chicago journal says that coffee has been offered there which contains 20 or 25 per cent. of the artificial bean. These beans sell at 20 cents per pound, it seems.

"Three-and-one-half pounds granulated sugar for 10 cents with tea or coffee." How does that strike you? This, says the *Grocers' Advocate*, of New York, is the newest fake-prize chromo-scheme. You buy a half pound of tea for 30 cents, and you get the three-and-one-half pounds of sugar for 10 cents. The bait thrown out finds plenty of people who bite, and the grocer who makes this magnificent offer is kept busy. I understand that the tea cost this grocer about 18 cents per pound. He gives one-half pound, costing 9 cents, with sugar costing 22 cents; total, 31 cents—for which he receives 40 cents, making a profit of 9 cents on each sale, or nearly 30 per cent.

A Liverpool grocer was fined at the Police Court for selling cheese made from skim milk, and upwards of 8 per cent. of beef fats had been added to conceal the inferior quality of the cheese.

The Maryland paper cigarette law went into force May 1st, and now the dealer must pay a special license of \$50, and take oath that the cigarettes contain no narcotic or injurious substance. This is practically prohibition, says *Tobacco*. Last year the State sold 70,000,000 cigarettes, and it will be interesting to see the record under the new law.

New leaf Japan teas were put on the market at Yokohama last month, some ten days earlier than usual, and the demand for them was very keen. In twelve days ending with 26th April 3,560 piculs were sold at an average of \$28 to \$29, which is rather lower than opening prices last year. There is, however, on the other hand, a heavy rise in exchange, so that the actual cost to lay down does not materially differ. It is manifest that this year's crop is an inferior one; the proportion of lower-class leaf already forward is large.

—How would it answer if retail dealers who cannot collect from certain of their credit customers oftener than once a year should charge these persons interest? Assuredly the dealers have to pay interest on their accounts. The