

The amount of securities deposited with the Government of the Dominion by the Royal Victoria Life Insurance Company is now \$155,899. This is the figure of accepted value by the Treasury Board.

We find on our table, as we have frequently done before about this time of the year, a portfolio containing a calendar for 1902, from the office in Montreal of the Atlas Assurance Company, of which Mr. Matthew C. Hinshaw is branch manager. According to the picture on the cover, the particular globe which Atlas is carrying is that of 1808, the year from which the company dates. Science has made the globe lighter since then, let us hope, and so the burden of Atlas may be expected to be lightened.

The Equitable Life's new calendar, showing in a series of water color productions lovely women all the way from cherries-are-ripe girlhood to the fetching maturity of white hair, toque bonnets and gracefully borne lognettes, is a clever, artistic thing, and I miss my guess if young Mr. Hyde had not some hand in the preparation of it. I have become so accustomed to expecting as a calendar, a steel engraving of an Alabama coon, a row of Boston terriers, an Indian massacre, a Paul Revere long distance race, or a Boston tea fight, that a change like the one above noted is most acceptable.—*N. Y. Chronicle*.

The Scientific American, speaking of the use of automobile fire engines in Boston, says they are handled and placed in position more readily than a horse engine. They answer second alarms from dangerous districts and are considered more reliable as hill climbers than horses, indeed, they force their way through snow that would stop a horse drawn engine. The "autos" are always first at a fire. The expense of keeping up steam is considerable, but the New Orleans officials declare that an engine of this class costs only half one drawn by horses. Their extraordinary power and capacity to travel rapidly through snow seem features that render an automobile fire engine peculiarly valuable.

Who works his brain from morn till night, and oft from night till morn, and eats a lunch and wears a coat that any clerk might scorn—the president. Who wrestles with the digits nine till figures fag his brain, to furnish estimates and such and make the reason plain—the actuary. Who ploughs around the field all day and hustles for his pie, and never to temptation yields to rebate, twist or lie—the agent. Who struts about and smokes cheroots as if he owned the place, is up on sports, knows all the ropes, and shows it in his face—the office boy. Who wears a giddy pompadour, and shirtwaists rare displays, and strews the mother tongue about in many curious ways—the typewriter lady.—George W. Hatch in Insurance Age.

FOR DRY GOODS MEN.

The North American Commercial Company's sealing operations on Pribyloff Islands, resulted in a catch this past season of 22,672 fur seal skins, which is 202 more than the number taken last year.

The T. Eaton Company, of Toronto, are making arrangements to move their cloak factory, and perhaps other departments, to Hamilton. It is said that the cause for the proposed removal is the grievance entertained by the company against the Toronto Assessment Department.

The Montreal Wholesale Dry Goods Association met on Friday last, and elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Mr. A. W. D. Howell; vice-president, Mr. George Sumner; treasurer, Mr. R. L. Gaunt; directors, Messrs. Geo. B. Fraser, P. P. Martin, A. Racine and R. N. Smith.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

According to a circular of W. Weddell & Co., London, dated 6th inst., the demand for Canadian cheese was slowly improving, and under a steady growth prices have advanced to 48s. for "choicest" September goods, there being little difference in value between white and colored. Earlier arrivals have also shown an increase in value to the extent of about 1s. to 2s. per cwt. Canadian butter was in somewhat less brisk demand, but was selling at equal prices to the Australians.

We remember an old woman in a country village whose son emigrated to Canada and afterwards made his way to New York. Nothing could persuade the old lady that the lad was not in Canada, and every letter she sent him was duly addressed "New York, Canada." Some such confusion of terms, remarks *Commercial Intelligence*, seems to be prevalent in Liverpool, for it appears that curiosity as to what becomes of the extensive quantities of Canadian beef, cheese, butter, &c., which reach that port weekly, according to the bill of entry, induced an inquisitive correspondent to make enquiries. Much to his disgust he discovered that all these commodities are simply sold as American. One large wholesale man admitted that his "finest American" was really Canadian. This is certainly very unfair to Canada, and is but one other illustration of the importance of arriving at some clearly understood distinction between the adjectives used as descriptive of the two countries, Canada and the United States.

Many of our readers will learn with interest of the poultry show to be held in Montreal next month. This will be the annual exhibition of the Montreal Poultry Association, and is to be held January 6-10, 1902, in the Drill Hall, Craig street, entries closing Thursday, December 26. In addition to the usual cash and special prizes there will be a number of competitions for valuable cups and prizes, which it is considered should bring out the best birds in the country. The judges will be Hon. D. A. Nichols, of Sheldon, Ct.; Mr. L. G. Jarvis, of Montreal, and Mr. Chas. Massie, of Port Hope, the superintending committee being Messrs. W. C. Fyfe, D. P. Roy, and A. F. Dawes. Among the trophies is the Lady Aberdeen cup; Sir Donald A. Smith cup for American birds, the Black Minorca, the Asiatic, and others. The president is Mr. W. C. Fyfe; the honorary secretary, Mr. J. H. Cayford; the secretary-treasurer, Mr. J. P. Cullen, 214 St. James st.

—The monthly dinner of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association last night in this city was an interesting occasion and the address of Mr. Wm. Robins, of Walkerville, on "Imperialism" was its special feature. A full day's session had been previously held at which there was a large attendance. As we have to go to press we are obliged to postpone any comments until next week.

—A bystander was remarking the other day in our hearing that the reason the metric system of weights and measures did not make more progress in the United Kingdom, was because of the ineradicable contempt of the average Britisher for anything French in its origin. This is a strong saying; overstrong, no doubt. But such a reason cannot exist in the United States, which is also backward in adopting the metric system. The following is about as clean-cut an illustration of the value of the system as we have seen. It is from U. S. Consul Hill, at Amsterdam: "The necessity for United States manufacturers to adopt the metric system in foreign trade becomes daily more imperative. A firm in Holland received this week a cable offer from New York for 2,000 barrels of potatoes. As this was a new business, the question at once arose how many pounds were there in a barrel of potatoes—American pounds, too, as the Dutch pound differs from ours. A whole day was lost before the answer could be wired. Had the offer been made in kilograms, every business man in the commercial world from Vladivostock to Mauritius would have understood it instantly.

—Among a number of communications received as the result of our article on the Canada Cycle and Motor Company last week, is one from a gentleman in Toronto, who makes the following suggestion: "I know of several cases," he says, "in which persons have subscribed shares in that company on the strength of the names of the directors. Two or three of them have spoken to me about it, and I hear of others. The result has been that their investments, mostly small ones, are locked up for an indefinite time. Now this is very hard on such people as widows and ministers. The directors of the Cycle and Motor Company are mostly rich men; some of them are kindly men. Have they not a duty towards these unfortunate people? Could they not make some such settlement with them as to pay them 60 cents or 70 cents on the dollar to relieve them of their shares and save part of their loss? I leave it to you to make the suggestion to the board through your paper." We happen to know that something of the sort as is suggested by our correspondent has been done already by at least one among the directors. It is possible that others have taken like steps in cases of needy persons with whom they were acquainted. Of course it must be understood that any such act is purely voluntary, and done in pursuance of what is felt to be a moral obligation, since it would not be easy to attach legal responsibility under the circumstances. While we have no sympathy with speculators, we can quite believe that among the 400 stockholders in this concern, there are not a few who have been innocently led to invest because they considered it "a good thing, in good hands." Such persons might properly be objects of kindly consideration by the directors.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, December 19th, 1901, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS	December 19, 1901.	December 12, 1901.
Montreal.....	\$18,250,151	\$19,313,692
Toronto.....	15,016,448	15,572,573
Winnipeg.....	4,287,197	4,820,389
Halifax.....	2,254,061	2,026,516
Hamilton.....	834,875	922,229
St. John.....	784,848	871,890
Vancouver.....	854,321	905,578
Victoria.....	518,866	576,355
Quebec.....	1,364,574	1,586,153
Ottawa.....	1,665,669	1,795,140
	\$45,831,009	\$48,390,515

Aggregate balances this week \$6,921,379; last week \$.....