

ber of stores and amassed a large fortune in the business, used to sell large quantities of the following blend of tea:  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. Oolong,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. Souchong,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. gunpowder,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. Young Hyson. This was sometimes varied by the substitution of Japan for the gunpowder.—*National Grocer*.

Tea in 1588 had its virtues presented by the good Father Giovanni Pietro Maffei, who, writing of his travels in China, declared that the use of it caused the Chinese "to live a long and happy life, without pain or infirmity of any sort." In the time of Charles II. (1660) an effort was made to impose a tax of 8d. on every gallon of tea made. It was found impossible to watch teapots, so, in William and Mary's time, a duty of 1s. a pound was levied on tea. England is the country with reputation for making the worst coffee in the known world.—*From Drinks of the World*.

Customer—Mr. Spicer, your black tea is just full of dead flies. Grocer—My, my! and I told that boy to put them in the spice box.—*Boston Gazette*.

A man in trade who is continually trying to undersell his neighbors by cutting prices on standard goods below the established market rates, is unworthy the name of merchant. Hucksters would be a more appropriate title for one stooping to such small business. Any man has an undoubted right to buy cheap and sell cheap if he is able to do so, and manufacturers do not object, provided he can do so without injury to the trade at large, but a freebooter ought to be freely booted out of the ranks of lawful tradesmen.—*Detroit Herald of Commerce*.

In making tea a sufficient quantity should be made at the first drawing. The custom of filling the tea-pot the second time is not right, as the theine, which is easily soluble in hot water, will be in the first drawing, but will not be in the second, and those supplied from the second drawing will not get the most beneficial part of the tea, but will have a decoction composed chiefly of tannin.—*Spice Mill*.

A correspondent of the St. Louis *Grocer* says: "It is impossible to get good prices out of a dirty store. I would rather have a thousand-dollar stock clean, neat, new and attractively arranged, than to have a two thousand-dollar stock scattered anywhere and everywhere to suit the convenience of the merchant. We make a great mistake when we assume that our customers do not notice the way we display our goods. In an experience covering some twelve or fifteen years, I have learned that our buyers regard the neatness of a store almost as highly as they do the actual value of the goods. Nearly all purchasers of groceries are women. Neat by instinct and nature, they will instinctively hunt up the store where everything is set forth in an attractive form."

The travel-stained strawberry that visits us these days has not had time to get the cinder out of its eye since its long journey.—*Minneapolis Journal*.

"Since eggs are sold by the pound the farmers will devise many schemes to make big weight. Some of our rural friends have been boiling their eggs before marketing them."—*Blyth Standard*.

#### SHOE AND LEATHER NOTES.

A pneumatic inner sole for boots and shoes has recently appeared in London. It is inflated with air or gas under pressure, the external protective covering being canvas, linen, or some other suitable material that can withstand the pressure.

There are retail stores, particularly in London, Eng., where 7's to 10's nailed shoes can be had at thirty-four cents per pair, and men's nailed goods, tipped toe and heel, at not very much more. How such goods can be sold for the money is a marvel.—*Dry Goods Bulletin*.

Italian boot factories are manufacturing boots of a singular pattern. The heels and soles are not sewn on, but rivetted to the uppers in such a way that if the heels are worn down on one side they can be taken off and turned round; worn soles can be removed in the same way and new ones put on.

Ponsonby.—What do you mean, sir, by saying that you have been at the feet of hundreds of pretty women and were never repulsed?

Gilkins.—I'm a shoe clerk in a fashionable store.—*Shoe and Leather Reporter*.

No material that is healthful and comfortable for the feet can ever withstand the strain exerted by the powerful ball joint of the foot. Consequently, there must be, sooner or later, some wrinkle appearing at this joint, just as necessarily as those produced by age upon the face. With the flexible sole and medium weight uppers of the best quality these furrows have been reduced to a minimum. Some abhor the slightest corrugation at this point; others will have it, even artificially. There are as many individual whims about the feet as at any other point.—*Shoe and Leather Review*.

The *Shoe and Leather Reporter* cites the following as an instance of dishonesty in the maker of a contract: A salesman sold a wholesale dealer lines of shoes of seven styles. They were minutely described in the agreement; there was no room for misunderstanding. He returned home and set to work to produce the shoes called for. After awhile he received a letter from the buyer that he might send three of the lines ordered. He wrote back, recapitulating the conditions of the contract, and asking an explanation. An answer came that his correspondent did not propose to be bulldozed into buying goods he did not want. It turned out some other salesman had sold the man the goods at a little less price.

#### INSURANCE NOTES.

Insurance men in Victoria, B.C., are talking a great deal just now about the \$300 annual tax imposed upon their business. They are considering steps to have it removed.

A hotel-keeper at Springfield, Mass., gives a queer excuse for not having a fire-escape from a bedroom in the second storey. He says that he had one placed there a year ago, but the first two weeks three boarders skipped their bills by this means, and then he had it taken out.—*Fireman's Herald*.

It is stated that Mr. A. C. Edwards, of Halifax, long and favorably known in connection with insurance in that city, has been appointed manager for the United States of the London Guarantee and Accident Company. The *Halifax Herald* understands that Mr. Edwards' headquarters will be Chicago, and there are branches all over the Union. Mr. A. W. Masters, who has been inspector for the Equitable Life, will, it is said, accept the inspectorship of the London Guarantee and Accident for the United States, with headquarters at Chicago. F. W. Lawson, who has been on the clerical staff of the Equitable in Halifax, will also go west.

Hamilton has a good supply of water for domestic and manufacturing purposes. The weak point in the system, says the *Times*, is the fire pressure, which varies constantly, and

in the nature of things tends to diminish. A steam fire engine has to be maintained to reinforce the hydrant pressure, but that is not enough. Hamilton depended upon one 18-inch main for the twenty years preceding 1879, when the MacInnes fire brought its lesson. In 1880 an additional 20-inch main was laid. A third main is talked of, but, according to the journal quoted, it is hard to get the citizens to consent to an extra expenditure of \$100,000 until the necessity is forced upon them.

#### TORONTO CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances of this clearing-house (of which the Bank of Toronto is not a member) for the week ended May 26th, 1892, are as under:—

	Clearings.	Balances.
May 20 .....	\$1,068,262	\$196,555
" 22 .....	748,452	67,074
" 23 .....	973,426	230,943
" 24 .....	.....	.....
" 25 .....	837,003	74,442
" 26 .....	848,978	93,576
Total .....	\$4,476,121	\$662,590

#### HALIFAX CLEARING-HOUSE.

Bank clearings for week ending May 21st, 1892, were as follows, viz.:

Monday, May 16 .....	\$154,372 98
Tuesday, " 17 .....	230,203 42
Wednesday, " 18 .....	198,508 44
Thursday, " 19 .....	170,667 14
Friday, " 20 .....	143,963 22
Saturday, " 21 .....	164,233 81
Total .....	\$1,061,949 01

#### Meetings.

##### DOMINION BANK.

The annual general meeting of the Dominion Bank was held at the head office, Toronto, on Wednesday the 25th instant.

Among those present were Messrs. James Austin, Hon. Frank Smith, Major Mason, William Ince, James Scott, R. S. Cassels, Wilmot D. Matthews, R. H. Bethune, E. Leadlay, Aaron Ross, E. B. Osler, W. J. Baines, John Scott, John Stewart, W. T. Kiely, S. Risley, David McGee, G. W. Lewis, John Scott, Gardiner Boyd, G. Robinson, etc., etc. It was moved by Mr. W. D. Matthews, seconded by Mr. James Scott, that Mr. James Austin do take the chair.

Mr. W. J. Baines moved, seconded by Mr. E. B. Osler, and it was resolved, that Mr. R. H. Bethune do act as secretary.

Messrs. R. S. Cassels and Walter S. Lee were appointed scrutineers.

The secretary read the report of the directors to the shareholders, and submitted the annual statement of the affairs of the bank, which is as follows:

Balance of profit and loss account, 30th April, 1891 .....	\$ 6,676 98
Profit for the year ending 30th April, 1892, after deducting charges of management, etc., and making full provisions for all bad and doubtful debts .....	220,261 02
	\$226,938 00
Dividend 5 per cent., paid 1st November, 1891 .....	\$75,000 00
Dividend 5 per cent., payable 2nd May, 1892 .....	75,000 00
Bonus 1 per cent., payable 2nd May, 1892 .....	15,000 00
Amount voted to pension and guarantee fund ..	5,000 00
	\$170,000 00
	\$56,938 00
Carried to reserve fund .....	50,000 00
Balance of profit and loss carried forward .....	\$ 6,938 00