

**Wolverhampton Exhibition.** Visitors to England this season would find time well spent at Wolverhampton. This town of industry is on the verge of the Black Country, Birmingham being at the other end. Here is a statue to Prince Albert which Queen Victoria unveiled in 1865, when a million of people gave Her welcome. Within half an hour's ride more varied industries are established than in any area of the size in the world. One village is devoted to rat and mice traps, a small town, Willenhall, is famed for its locks, some so cheap that a local saying is, if a workman lets one drop he cannot waste time in picking it up. Bilston, a mile away, is a japan-ware centre. Wednesbury and Darlaston, are famed for heavy iron work, as girders, etc., a few miles off are villages where nails are made, Walsall, hard by, is a saddlery town; further south are plate glass works, Southwick has anchor works, and Birmingham, only 10 miles from Wolverhampton, is "the workshop of the world," where everything made of metals is manufactured from pins, jewellery, both genuine and sham, to guns, anchors and shafting for steamers. All the way from Wolverhampton to Birmingham are towns that make an unbroken series of buildings, indeed for over 16 miles a drive in a straight line can be taken all the way lighted by lamps and by the intermittent flashes of fire from huge iron smelting furnaces, rolling mills, and thousands of hearths and cupolas. Wolverhampton is on the summit of the ridge between London and Liverpool, near by is the highest cultivated land in England, where is the watershed of the Stour running south and the Derwent running north, that have their origin within a few inches of each other. Near Wolverhampton is the oak which is alleged to have sheltered King Charles, and the house where he was concealed. Who knows not this vast hive of British industrial enterprise knows not England. The Canadian exhibit at the Wolverhampton should certainly be visited by Canadians.

**The Actuaries  
and  
Small-pox**

At the last meeting of the Institute of Actuaries, Mr. Burridge F. I. A., read a paper on "Vaccination and the Act of 1898," of which a synopsis is given in "The Insurance Observer." He demonstrated by means of diagrams that in countries where compulsory vaccination had been enforced—England and Wales, Scotland, Sweden and Prussia—there was a relatively high but fluctuating mortality up to 1870; a sharp rise during the years immediately succeeding, caused by the epidemic which spread over Europe, and a mortality rate for the last quarter of a century which, in the light of

previous records, might be regarded as insignificant, and which had in the cases of Scotland, Sweden and Prussia become practically extinct. He gave an analysis of the mortality from small-pox as affecting the population of England and Wales divided into age groups. The curve for the period of 0 to 5 years showed a downward inclination. As they passed along the periods of life the decline in the curve lost its acuteness, and it would appear that the immunity from small-pox had mainly affected children, the intensity of such relief varying inversely to the age. It had been suggested that improved sanitation had accounted for the diminution in small-pox mortality, but if that were the case they would expect to find an equal improvement in the death-rates of other febrile diseases. If they compared those diseases with small-pox they would find that there must be some other cause in addition to sanitation which had favourably affected small-pox mortality. After referring to the experience of vaccination gained in armies and the protection conferred by re-vaccination, he urged the necessity for universal application and efficient performance of vaccination by which small-pox might be practically exterminated.

**Recent  
British Returns.**

The imports into the United Kingdom in March last were \$204,489,000, and exports, \$111,086,000 of domestic and \$21,572,000 foreign goods, making the total exports, \$132,658,000.

At end of March the British Government Savings Banks held \$208,274,000 of deposits, and the Post Office Savings Banks, \$715,836,800, a total of \$924,110,800 of public deposits in the Government Savings Banks of Great Britain. Since March, 1901, these deposits have increased to extent of \$26,710,000.

**Fire Protection in  
Small Towns.**

A visitor last week to St. Anne de Bellevue, on making enquiry as to the fire protection of the town, was informed that, practically, no such protection was provided, what existed being so useless. Quite recently a fire occurred in the centre of the town which caused great alarm. Help was sought in vain from Lachine and this city, but, after burning six to seven houses, the fire was extinguished. The building, as is the whole town, was within a stone's throw of the water. The local authorities of St. Anne's are highly blameable for leaving the town in so exposed a condition. It is true there is no water service to the houses or to hydrants, owing, we understand, to