

C. B., Winnipeg.—The list is nearly ready and will probably appear next week. Much obliged for your suggestive remarks.

MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings for week ended July 28th, \$12,053,778. Balances, \$2,081,832.

TORONTO CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances of this clearing house (of which the Bank of Toronto is not a member) for the week ended July 28th, 1892, are as under:—

	Clearings.	Balances.
July 22	\$1,020,390	\$194,299
" 23	864,823	165,367
" 25	829,929	118,818
" 26	1,094,401	237,106
" 27	944,175	130,727
" 28	862,520	161,367
Total	\$5,616,238	\$1,007,684

HALIFAX CLEARING-HOUSE.

Bank clearings for week ending July 23rd, 1892, were as follows, viz.:

Monday, July 18	\$200,194 63
Wednesday, " 20	290,863 30
Thursday, " 21	241,239 25
Friday, " 22	211,413 40
Saturday, " 23	180,230 84
Total	\$1,123,941 42

—The Canadian sole leather tanners, feeling that overproduction is one of the causes of an unsatisfactory state of the market, began last month to debate the possibility of reducing the output by "shutting down" for a time. Various propositions have been made, but a want of harmony has prevented the adoption of any. There are two large concerns whose views do not appear to harmonize with those of the others. It would seem that the export trade, which some regard as a sort of balance-wheel that the trade needed, has not regulated the market as was expected. It is just possible that an agreement may be reached that will enable tanners to begin the month of August under it, and so reduce the proportion of hides wetted, but it is by no means certain.

—According to the *Glasgow Herald* of 11th instant, fifteen English provincial banks have already declared dividends for the past six months, and in every instance the rate is identical with that of a year ago. The London banks, however, have not been doing so well, there being greater competition in, and lower returns on, money in the metropolis than in the provinces; and of six institutions which have declared dividends, three have had to break on last year's rates by from 2½ per cent. to 3 per cent.

—We find in several Western Ontario journals mention made by correspondents and others of the satisfactory condition of the flax crop in Huron and Perth counties. At Hensall, says the *Expositor*, flax-pulling is the order of the day, and the manager of the Seaforth flax mills reports the best and largest crop of flax he has had since he opened. At Exeter in Huron and at several places in Waterloo county, the new crop of flax is very satisfactory.

—At a meeting of boiler-makers held in New York city one week ago twenty-two

manufacturers were present. They are said to control \$35,000,000 of the \$40,000,000 invested in the business, which is terribly depressed by overproduction. Sixty in every hundred of those engaged in the business could readily do it all, and they were endeavoring in some way to limit the output, but no agreement was arrived at.

THREE HUNDRED MILLIONS.

An American theorist some weeks ago was airing his schemes for utilizing the rapids above the Niagara Falls for motive power. He had better halt, for if a proposed scheme is ever utilized, Niagara with its unlimited power is *non est*, and some of us may live to see the ideas actually realized. Besides, is not Sir Edward Watkin proposing a tunnel under St. Patrick's channel, from Ireland to Scotland, and a ship canal through the Emerald Isle?

It is a known fact, that in the æons of ages past, before the upheaval that formed our present lakes and mountains, a mighty river and valley wended its way across from the States, where Lake Erie now is, through Dundas Valley to Lake Ontario. This valley has been traced by scientific geologists, and is earthy, not rocky. The simple, natural proposition is, to construct a large syphon, say 10 feet in diameter, place one end in Lake Erie, the lower end at the head of the gorge, former valley, west of Dundas; then get the water flowing, and this great syphon current, with over 175 feet head or fall, will wear and carry away the loose disintegrated soil, receding toward the fountain head at the rate of 2½ miles per month, and will eventually drain the lake, reclaim 14,000 square miles, or 9,000,000 acres of the finest alluvial land in the world, which can be at once valued at over \$300,000,000.

The removed debris of the new river channel will fill up the low parts of Dundas Valley and Hamilton Bay, and by proper guidance of the new stream along the south shore of the bay from Dundas, Hamilton will ever have a deep, noble, navigable river, where the lake commerce of the great North-West world will pass its doors. Canal locks and unlimited electric power stations can be built at convenient points from where old Erie was, to Hamilton, that could be utilized by the M.C.R., G.T.R., C.P.R., and T., H. & B. Railway. Buffalo, Erie, Cleveland, Sandusky, Toledo, etc., would become inland cities, and their immense iron and other trades must of a necessity be removed to the water-front of Dundas and Hamilton valleys. Niagara Falls will then lose its wide-world prestige, and be a mere strippling continuation of Chippewa Creek, and the proposed Monument City at Queenston will be a misty myth of the past.

DE JAY.

NOTES RESPECTING THE ST. JOHN'S FIRE.

The competition for business premises is so great that two shops were put up to tender to be rented—those of Mr. L. White and Mr. Furlong. Rent has gone up 120 per cent. Premises that could be had before the fire for \$200 cannot now be rented for \$600.

The safe of J. E. Peters, when recovered, was found to contain nothing but melted gold and silver, the paper money and books, &c., being burnt completely. Many of the safes have not stood the test. [We have shown that the Canadian safes were not those that proved worthless.—Ed. M.T.] Several firms who had placed their books and money in them have lost all. It is feared that some of the insurance companies have had their papers destroyed.

Water street firms are clearing away the ruins of their premises, with the intention of going right ahead with the work of rebuilding. The only difficulty is with the English landlords. The holders have given the landlords nine days to consider what course they will pursue. In the meantime the work of clearing away the debris is being attended to. Mr. G. Knowling, it is said, has ordered an iron shed, 100 by 60 feet, for temporary use. Clift, Wood & Co. have men at work and have marked out their premises. Job Bros. & Co. are also clearing away the ruins.—*Harbor Grace, N.E., Standard.*

A GROUP OF GOOD THINGS.

It is a good thing to wear clothes that feel comfortable as well as look stylish.

To change the socks from one foot to the other—unless you wear anatomical socks.

To keep more umbrellas on hand than just barely enough.

To dress your boy as comfortably as you dress yourself.

To wear as high-grade underclothes as you can afford to.

To respect the rights of your feet.

To have a pair or two of fresh gloves in reserve.

To find the collar that suits you and then buy a dozen or two of that kind.

To turn the points of your collars (if you wear that sort) as soon as they come home from the laundry—as it may save time some morning when you are in a hurry.

To wear what is becoming to you, irrespective of whether it would beautify any other human being.

To have night garments that will insure the utmost degree of repose—provided, of course, that bedding and ventilation are also properly arranged.

To keep the head moist while exposed to the sun on hot days. "A cabbage leaf in the hat," was the old-time prescription, and it was a good one, but our gilded youth can substitute rose leaves and do as well, if only they have enough of them.

To have all the clothing loose and light under the fervent heats of summer.

To walk slowly, keep in the shade, carry a sun umbrella, avoid exciting drinks and heated discussions—all on ninety-degree days.—*Men's Outfitter.*

COTTON STATISTICS.

The firm of Macdonald & Co., cotton buyers and commission merchants, Main St., St. Louis, forwards a copy of their circular respecting the United States cotton trade, dated July 23rd, 1892. In this is given the receipts, shipments and stock of cotton at St. Louis, from September 1st, 1891, till July 22nd, 1892.

The receipts were between those dates 729,235 bales, while in 1890-91 they had been 695,507 bales. The shipments in 1891-92 were 685,479 bales, and in 1890-91 only 674,143 bales. The stock in July, 1892, was 54,491 bales, and in July, 1891, only 21,938 bales.

The cotton market for the week ended with 22nd July was quiet and steady, with receipts of 1,539 bales, sales of 1,895 bales and shipments of 4,993 bales. Receipts of cotton at all United States ports since Sept. 1st were 7,031,376 bales against for the same period of 1890-91 only 6,878,080 bales.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

Advisory instructions have just been issued by the Michigan Inspection Bureau at Detroit, stating that all ratings will hereafter be conditioned upon the 80 per cent. co-insurance clause being adopted upon manufacturing buildings and their contents, and upon the contents of mercantile buildings, and the 70 per cent. clause upon all mercantile buildings located in the city of Detroit and suburbs, with the following exceptions: Policies covering on leasehold interests where co-insurance clauses higher than those prescribed are already in use; grain in elevators; mercantile buildings valued at less than \$15,000; mercantile stocks valued at less than \$20,000; vessels, steam and sail, and household furniture. The Michigan standard form of policy is to be invariably used.—*Com. Bulletin.*

—It is estimated that at least 28,000,000 individuals will enter the World's Fair gates next year, and that 7,000,000 will spend five cents each for pop corn. If these figures are correct, \$350,000 will be expended for pop corn by those who visit the Fair. This will net the Exposition Company \$210,000, says a Chicago paper.

—Since the opening of navigation there have been, says the *Gazette*, about 52,872 head of cattle and 11,705 sheep shipped from Montreal, compared with 46,253 cattle and 18,072 sheep during the corresponding period last year.