

After the close of the international tournament of firemen in London, the Canadian firemen who were attending the tournament visited Paris to see the brilliant French metropolis. This causes the *Hamilton Spectator* to say: "Imagine our own Big Aleck in a boulevard cafe, with a diminutive cigaret stuck into his massive countenance, and a glass of absinthe at his elbow. Then imagine that stentorian voice directed at a waiter: 'Garsong! importe ici quelquechose a feller can drink. Ne pas de imperial absence; mais some Kuntz on a petit verre d' whiskee de la Walkaire, avec plus beaucoup de l' eau de la Bai de Borlintonne! D'Y'hear?'"

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

**STATISTICS OF JAPAN.**—Through the courtesy of the Consul General for the Empire of Japan, resident in British Columbia, we have received a copy of the tenth yearly statistical report of the extent, schools, banks, commerce, and production of that country, containing as well various matters, municipal and political. Most of the tables are for the year 1894 and some of the figures for a more recent period. The book is one of 150 pages and contains colored diagrams illustrating postal affairs and telegrams, and is in two languages, Japanese and French, in adjoining columns of the same page. It is to be noted, says the preface, that the French spelling of geographical names and of certain Japanese words adopted in previous compilations of the same kind "has been abandoned in favor of the English spelling of the same, which is better suited to our use." The work is issued under the authority of M. Motozama, chief of statistics, and secretary of the Imperial Cabinet, and printed at Tokio in February (or Meiji), 1896. We discover, in looking over the agricultural tables, that the total production of tea in Japan has gone up gradually from less than 7,000,000 kwan—a kwan is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. avordupois—in 1890 to 7,211,000 kwan in 1892; 7,640,000 in 1893, and 7,883,000 kwan, equal to 65 million pounds, in 1894. It would appear from this book that, as we were informed not long ago by a Japanese authority, the Empire is increasing its growth and use of what they call "European food." There was raised in Japan only 53 million bushels of barley, wheat and rye in 1890, but by 1894 the production of these grains has gone up to 99 million bushels, in the proportion of 42 millions of barley, 36 millions of rye, 20 millions of wheat. In the same period rice production varied from 215 million bushels in 1890 to 206 millions in 1892; 186 millions in 1893 and 209 millions in 1894.

**JULIAN'S INTEREST BOOK.**—We acknowledge the receipt from the publisher, William Bryce, Toronto, of a copy of a new edition of "Julian's Interest Book and Sansum's Exchange Tables" (combined), which will be mailed to any address on receipt of price, 50 cents. The Interest Tables run from 4 to 10 per cent., and those of exchange on London from  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to 12 per cent. advance. The book is compact and the type distinct.

**BILLS, NOTES AND CHEQUES.**—This is a second edition of a volume\* which has commended itself to business and professional men. Some new features have been added. For example, decisions in the Australasian colonies on the Imperial Act of 1882; the two Dominion Statutes of 1893 and 1894, making changes in the holidays for bills and notes, have been incorporated in the Act; and about 250 new cases have been added.

**AN ARMY WIFE**—This is an exciting story of frontier military life in the far south-west, told with the freshness and breeziness that Captain King knows how to put into his narratives. There is a semi-tragic situation within the first forty pages. Eastern life contrasts sharply with frontier life; speculation and change, Mexican robbers, happiness and hate, love-making, fighting and jealousy come into the kaleidoscope; and a touch which reveals the close observation of the author is the part the enslaving use of opium, by a bright, young American matron, plays in her life. The book is prettily gotten up, with numerous line illustrations, by F. Tennyson Neely, publisher, New York. The Toronto News Company, agents, Toronto.

—A Canadian who did good work for his country passed away when Sir Leonard Tilley died in St. John last week. Before he became a statesman at Ottawa, Mr. Tilley was a well-known and respected politician in his native New Brunswick. Warmly espousing the idea of union, he worked with voice and pen to bring his province into Confederation, and succeeded. It was he who attempted the heavy undertaking of framing the first protective tariff of the Dominion, and it must be confessed that he performed his arduous task as well as it could have been done. He had great industry and decided talent as an administrator, was prompt in debate, a winning speaker, and with a great fund of good nature. These qualities and his strong integrity made him beloved and respected by a host of Canadians, who will warmly cherish his memory.

\* THE BILLS OF EXCHANGE ACT, 1890, CANADA, and amending Acts, with notes and illustrations. By J. J. MacLaren, Q.C., D.C.L., LL.D., second edition, Toronto: The Carswell Co., Ltd., 1896.

#### CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.\*

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing-houses for the week ended with Thursday, July 2nd, 1896, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	July 2.	June 25.
Montreal .....	\$6,897,401	\$8,918,810
Toronto .....	4,767,457	5,979,408
Halifax .....	894,914	921,742
Winnipeg .....	894,112	835,190
Hamilton .....	510,910	675,305
St. John .....	426,207	584,733
	<b>\$14,391,001</b>	<b>\$17,915,188</b>

Aggregate balances this week, \$2,129,048; last week, \$3,059,462.

\* 1st July was a bank holiday.

#### DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES.

The terrible bridge accident in Victoria, which occasioned the loss of so many lives, and which threatens with very heavy damage claims, raised by the representatives of victims of the disaster, both that city's council and the Consolidated Railway Co., has had a very unfortunate effect in preventing desirable and profitable extensions of the company's system in and about Vancouver and New Westminster. Thus the proposal to build a branch electric railway from New Westminster to the cannery centre, Steveston, is for the time being abandoned. So, too, the use of water power for electric development purposes at Seymour Creek, North Vancouver. The company has further been compelled to give up for the present its proposal to provide a large public recreation ground in Stanley Park, Vancouver, in connection with an extension thither of the local line and service. Claims, in respect of the bridge disaster, involving, with costs, at least \$300,000—perhaps more—are practically certain to come before the courts at an early date. In these it is expected that the Victoria city council and the Consolidated Railway Company will be made co-defendants, whilst it is probable that special efforts will naturally be made to fix the main money obligation on the city, the liability of which, should the plaintiffs succeed in their cases, is of course secured by large ratable values. It appears not unlikely—from advance notes already sounded—that the City of Victoria may, if ultimately held liable, ask the Provincial Legislature to render substantial assistance in the matter.

—*Dun's Review*, in noting the results of last week's business in the States and discussing the outlook, says: "There are continued signs that a gain in business has begun. Stocks have gone higher than they were before the artificial break ten days ago, wheat and cotton are in better demand, there is more confidence in monetary circles, and the tendency toward shrinkage in great industries seems in some measure, at least, to be checked. While the outcome of the Democratic convention is uncertain, and the great crops are not yet wholly beyond danger, a sure and strong improvement could hardly be expected, but the tone in business circles has grown distinctly more hopeful. Clearing house exchanges for the past week are 3.4 per cent. less than last year's and only 5.2 per cent. less than in 1893. June failures have been neither as numerous nor as large as last year or in 1894. Beyond the influence of this general hopefulness, nothing appeared to justify the advance of half a cent. in wheat,  $\frac{3}{4}$  in corn and 5-16 in cotton, and reaction started in all these with taking of profits on Thursday."

—In his concluding words at the London Chambers of Commerce Congress, the chairman, Sir Albert Rollit, said, replying to a vote of thanks: "For my own part, no pride could have been greater than that of presiding over this congress. . . . This is the greatest source of gratification connected with what we believe to be a great imperial undertaking—that our Mother Country and our colonies, to borrow the parallel from commerce, may be said to be as the woof and the warp; while our ships are gigantic shuttles, to use the simile of a great statesman, which are going backwards and forwards, and weaving them into one harmonious whole."

—At a meeting of the Hamilton Board of Trade, held on Monday, 29th June, Mr. W. A. Robinson was elected president and W. F. Findlay vice-president, both by acclamation. Nomination was made of C. R. Smith and John Bell for the position of secretary-treasurer. Several members of the council and four members of the board of arbitration are to be elected at another meeting on Monday next.

—The death is announced of the president of the Commercial Bank of Windsor, Mr. Godfrey P. Payzant. He was one of the wealthy men of Nova Scotia, and had reached the great age of 84. The illness which carried him off was of very brief duration, and he breathed his last on Dominion Day.