

—It is interesting to notice the quantity of Canadian fruit from the Niagara District that comes to Toronto. In one month, September last, the total received by rail and water was 1,373 tons. Translated into pounds, this means not far from three million pounds. Of the total, 628 tons came by boat and 745 tons, or 87,566 packages, by train. Of these receipts and of fruit previously stored in Toronto eighty-nine carloads, or 1,135 tons, were shipped out by the wholesale houses to the Provincial trade. This fruit consisted of grapes, peaches, plums, and apples, the heaviest item among the lot being peaches.

—“This has been the dullest week of the season in fire insurance circles,” was the reply of a Toronto agent to an enquiry about the condition of business. The lumber-cut is small this year, and so we are not getting the risks we are accustomed to look for from the lumbermen at this time. And then the Western grain is not moving in any great quantity yet. My experience in this respect seems to be general among the offices. But we are not discouraged by the general position or outlook. Canadian losses have not been excessive, although the general fire loss figures for this continent did not make a good showing in September. We shall have a fairly good year if fires grow no worse from now forward to the new year.

—Mr. J. Henniker Heaton, a member of the British Parliament, makes a powerful plea in a recent issue of the Times for universal penny postage. The present postage rate, he claims, is excessive, and is a serious handicap on commerce, “an embargo on neighborly amenities, and an impediment to free intercourse between the Mother Country and her sons and daughters over the sea. He claims there is an absolute certainty that within three or four years the several Governments would be receiving quite as satisfactory returns from foreign postage as they do now, owing to the development of correspondence under the lower rate. Mr. Heaton submits a long list of promi-

nent men of all classes who have enrolled themselves as members of a universal penny postage league.

—The establishment of the direct steamship line from Canada to South Africa two or three years ago has resulted in a considerable development of trade between the two countries, says Mr. C. Kittson, Canadian commercial agent at Cape Town the following figures illustrating this: In 1896 the total of the Canadian sales in South Africa amounted to £17,963. In 1902 the value of Canadian exports had increased to £299,674. Last year the total had reached £1,907,962. Mr. Kittson says the Cape colonists are not yet able to produce enough cereals to supply the wants of the population, and this year flour, meal, etc., will be imported to the value of four million dollars. Australia is endeavoring to capture this trade from the United States, and Mr. Kittson thinks the Canadian producer should also be a little more active.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian Clearing Houses for the week ended with Thursday, October 12th, 1905, as compared with those of the previous week:

	Oct. 12.	Oct. 5.
Montreal	\$31,031,868	\$30,130,530
Toronto	23,929,081	24,337,256
Winnipeg	10,288,067	8,850,664
Halifax	1,859,261	1,820,312
Hamilton	1,528,900	1,584,759
St. John	1,149,480	1,073,947
Vancouver	1,776,274	2,120,744
Victoria	797,207	660,380
Quebec	1,617,962	1,862,416
Ottawa	2,347,936	2,827,430
London	994,720	1,150,944
Total	\$77,320,756	\$76,419,382

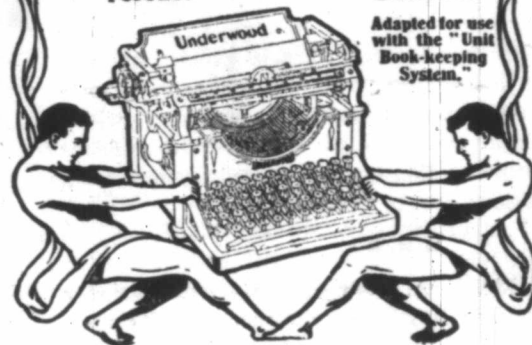
The Dominion Atlantic Railway took possession on Saturday night last of the Midland Railway running from Truro to Windsor, Nova Scotia, connecting with the D. A. R. System at the latter town. The purchase of this road was completed several months ago, but the actual change was not made until now. The acquisition of this road gives the Dominion Atlantic direct communication between the western counties and the centre of Nova Scotia. The Dominion Atlantic have now three hundred miles of railway, and have their steamship service from Yarmouth to Boston and New York.

The Montreal firm of Markus & Sisinwain, wholesalers of woollens, trimmings, etc., and also manufacturers of umbrellas under the style of the Standard Umbrella Co., have made an abandonment of their estate, on demand, and a meeting of their creditors is ordered by the Court for the purpose of appointing a curator. The list of creditors is a very long one, numbering some 110 in all, comprising about 25 European firms, some of whom are interested for fairly large amounts. Their direct indebtedness is figured at from \$85,000 to \$90,000, with indirect liabilities of \$40,000. A considerable proportion of the stock is said to be under advance, and the estate is expected to pan out poorly.

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