

During October there were 195 fires of a greater destructiveness than \$10,000 each. The fire loss of last month was thus some four and a half millions greater than the total for the same month of last year, and the 1899 record so far is about fifteen million dollars worse than for the same period of 1898, and twenty million dollars more severe than for the first ten months of 1897. "In view of the reduction in rates and the increasing of commission expenses in the West," comments *The Journal*, "the heavy fire loss is a serious matter for the fire underwriters. It means for many companies poor statements in January beyond doubt."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. E. C., Kentville, N.S.—Thanks for your letter and enclosure. We accept your correction that the place to be credited with the new board of trade is not Springfield, but Springhill. There are, we think, more than a hundred in Canada, altogether. The *Monetary Times* list of Canadian boards of trade, compiled in November, 1896, numbered 103. Some have lapsed since then, but more have come into existence.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

STATISTICAL YEAR BOOK OF CANADA.—The present, the fourteenth issue of the Year Book, is for the year 1898, and consists, as formerly, of a record of the history, constitution and government of Canada, its physical features, etc., and an Abstract, containing statistics of trade, of agriculture, mines, banking, insurance, railways, marine, and other matters for a series of years. The work is a wonderful mine of information on Canadian matters, political, industrial, commercial, financial, nor has even the social aspect of our country been left out. Its condensation and arrangement reflect great credit on the statistician, Mr. George Johnson, F.S.S., and his assistants.

A HISTORY OF BANKING IN CANADA, by B. E. Walker, general manager, Canadian Bank of Commerce.—This volume of 110 pages contains an epitome of historical and political occurrences connected with the development of banking in this country. Beginning with the card money of Intendant Meules in New France two hundred years ago, the ordonnances of Bigot, seventy years later, the importation of Mexican dollars under the succeeding British administration, and the army bills of 1812, are mentioned. Next the Nova Scotia currency issues of the fifty years before Confederation, and in due time the chartering of the Bank of Montreal, and the Quebec Bank, as well as the Bank of Upper Canada, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Halifax Banking Company, and the Bank of New Brunswick. Chapter III., which deals with the period, 1841-1867, is perhaps the most interesting to the average reader, at any rate it is the most novel, dealing as it does with a period much of which is beyond the memory of people now living, and yet not remote enough to have lost immediate interest. The remaining chapters are upon the present Bank Act, Land Banks, Loan Companies, etc. Mr. Walker is master of his subject and expounds its branches with lucidity. The book, which is thoroughly indexed, is a worthy compendium on the subject of which it treats. It was first printed in New York in 1896, as part of the History of Banking in all Nations.

SCOTTISH FOLK-LORE, by Duncan Anderson.—These reminiscences of a quiet Aberdeenshire parish are dedicated to the Earl of Aberdeen, and have the advantage of an introduction from Professor Clark, of Trinity College. Quaint characters and queer incidents are described in the book, which is published by Morang.

STALKY & CO., by Rudyard Kipling.—This book, among the latest of Kipling's productions, is sure of a great sale, for it tells of the doings, in school and out of school, of a group of pupils who will be admired or wondered at—according to the temperament and age of the reader—but are bound to be laughed at. The last chapter, however, about warfare in India, thrills the reader with something deeper than amusement. There is a good deal of mischief in school-boys; but we must decline to believe that even the scholars of Biddeford United Service College, North Devon, to whose head-master the book is dedicated, were possessed of such super-juvenile cleverness and deviltry as is

here attributed to "Stalky," "Beetle," and McTurk. The book is issued by G. N. Morang & Co., Ltd., Toronto. Its typography and illustrations are admirable.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Christmas trade preparations are beginning to occupy the attention of grocers.

Mayor Smith has invited Mr. Stewart, the sugar beet expert of Glasgow, Scotland, to visit Chatham.

Cape Breton herring were selling in Quebec on Saturday last at \$5.25 to \$5.50 per barrel, while Labrador herring brought \$5.75 to \$6 the barrel.

One man in Hullett township, according to *The Huron Expositor*, packed and shipped 2,500 barrels of apples during the past autumn, and got them successfully shipped to England.

It is predicted that in less than five years the sturgeon will become practically extinct in the Great Lakes and on the Atlantic coast, unless their existence be maintained by artificial propagation.

It is surprising the quantity of apples that have been brought in this neighborhood this fall. Mr. Duncan McLean has shipped 5,508 barrels, eighteen car loads being shipped from Strathroy, eleven from Kenwood and three from Caradoc.—Strathroy Despatch.

Contrary to the predictions made last summer the crop of onions this year in the United States has been abundant. In Eastern Massachusetts, according to the *New England Homestead*, they are selling at 35 to 50c. per bushel, where last year they brought 50 to 75 cents.

Men from the Gloucester fishing vessels now at the bar for shelter say that they will share about \$600 or \$700 apiece for the season's fishing, while the captains will clear in the neighborhood of \$1,000. From this, says the *Yarmouth, N.S., Times*, an idea of what the decline of the fishing industry has meant to Yarmouth may be gathered.

A curious accident happened at Boissevain, Manitoba, to a threshing gang. The frugal housewife appears to have put arsenic in the tea instead of soda to make it "draw," and it drew to good purpose. Everybody was sick and emetics were administered, but that sort of tea does not refresh harvest men, and the day's record was not in evidence.

From an array of official figures relating to the trade of France, which we find in *Le Prix Courant*, we gather that the importations of France from 1st January to 30th September this year, were 3,144,823,000 francs in value, as against the sum of 3,417,363,000 francs in the corresponding period of 1898. As to exports, the value of them for the nine months mentioned, was 2,840,031 francs, against 2,544,342,000 francs.

It is stated in a recent bulletin of the French Chamber of Commerce in Montreal that the caviar made by the Americans from the roe of sturgeon caught at the mouth of the River Delaware is inferior to the article made by Canadians from sturgeon roe taken on the Great Lakes Huron, Erie, Ontario and on Lake Winnipeg. There is a caviar factory on the Lake of the Woods, which turns out about 30,000 pounds per year, valued at \$20,000. There is an establishment of the kind at Norman, on the Lake of the Woods.

M. Theo. Kearny, president of the California Raisin Growers' Association, made the following announcement on Nov. 2nd: "Owing to the urgent demand from the trade, which we are unable to fill promptly with raisins of 'standard' grades, we find it necessary to name the prices for 'Pacific' and 'Oriental' brands. We have therefore fixed prices upon the following grades, to take effect immediately: Two-crown loose muscatels, eleven Pacific brands, per pound, 5¼c.; 3-crown loose muscatels, Pacific brand, per lb., 6c.; 4-crown loose muscatels, Pacific brand, per lb., 6½c.; seedless loose muscatels, Pacific brand, per lb., 4¾c.; 2-crown loose muscatels, Oriental brand, per lb., 4¾c.; 3-crown loose muscatels, Oriental brand, per lb., 5½c.; 4-crown loose muscatels, Oriental brand, per lb., 6c. There will be no seedless of the Oriental brand. Cash discount and terms of payment as named for standard raisins. We give the usual guaranty that we will not sell any of the above grades of raisins up to next harvest time at any less price than herein quoted."