

### QUERIES' COLUMN.

In order to furnish our readers with information we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondents. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRONICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise his own discretion.

1512.—W. J. B., Ottawa.—The number of bales of United States cotton, of five hundred pounds each, ginned in the season of 1904-05, was 13,342,515. The estimated value of the crop was \$633,600,000, and the estimated value of the season's cotton exports was \$402,840,000.

1513.—B. T. I., Montreal.—The works of the Canadian Westinghouse Company are in Hamilton, Ont. The last statement of the company is for the year ending 31st December, 1904. The company was organized on 1st November, 1903.

1514.—H. J. A., Toronto.—The Montreal Street Railway Company sell tickets good anytime between 5 a.m., and midnight at 25 for a dollar or 6 for twenty-five cents, tickets good between 6 and 8 a.m., and 5 and 7 p.m., 8 for twenty-five cents, tickets for children 10 for twenty-five cents.

### PROMINENT TOPICS.

THE RUSSIAN SITUATION.—So far as the news from Russia is reliable it seems as though the forces of anarchy are not as yet exhausted. In Moscow a battle has been fought between the insurgents who had built barricades, Paris fashion, and the Czar's troops. The conflict ended by 5,000 being killed and 14,000 wounded. This is called "civil war!" The troops used machine guns, artillery as well as rifles.

The intense hate engendered by such sanguinary scenes will be a disturbing element in Russia for generations. There are no signs of the revolt being organized, the outbreaks are spasmodic, fitful, unconnected with any general movement. The insurgents appear to have no programme common to them all. They are fighting aimlessly against the established order of things, they aim at destroying the Government, they are wreaking vengeance against the authorities by whom they have been held in check, but beyond these wild, semi-savage aims the insurgents appear to have no constructive ideas. They are throwing Russia into chaos out of which order and system will have to be evolved by military force. While machine guns are pouring showers of grape and canister into barricades and citizens the work of political reform must be suspended. Dis-

cussion cannot proceed until cannon and rifles are silenced.

Russia needs some strong man to bring the insurgents into unity so that they can be dealt with rationally. Violence is needed to stop violence, but violence will not remove the popular discontent. Two parties are required to effect this, on one side there must be statesmanship of the highest order, and on the other side there must be intelligent consideration given to what is proposed. The storm in Russia will not subside until these conditions are established.

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THE UNEMPLOYED PROBLEM IN LONDON.—In response to the appeal of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, several hundred of thousands of dollars have been raised to relieve the unemployed. Charity needs no defence, as a rule, but, in this case it seems to call for apology. It is found already that there is nothing in almsgiving calculated to remedy the evil of unemployment. The late Government was appealed to find work, but Mr. Balfour's response gave the men no hopes of this being provided. The new Government has also been interviewed with a like result. Indeed, it was pointed out by Mr. Morley that work found for mere relief purposes "only extended pauperism and increased non-employment by driving out the employers of labour because their burdens are too heavy."

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THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE TARIFF.—It is very significant that the "London Times" which has been so staunch a supporter of Free Trade, or Free Imports, has this to say in favour of another line of tariff policy.

"There is, indeed, no panacea, at least for the problem that confronts us in London; but it is to be noted that the Liberal party have estopped themselves from the only change of policy which is likely to bring about a mitigation. They will not concede the principle that the State may help the worker by keeping open a market for his labour. They thereby leave our huge industrial population defenceless against the unfair operation of foreign tariffs. It is true that many other factors besides these tariffs are at work to produce our existing unemployment, but it is equally certain that the unemployment due to the tariffs will increase to a dangerous extent unless means are taken to deal with them."

That is a clear avowal in favour of a protective policy, the significance of which, coming from the "London Times," is very great.

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THE PULP INDUSTRY.—At the Forestry Convention to be held next month, considerable attention will be devoted to the pulp-wood industry. There are conditions existing relative to the supplies of raw material which call for measures intended to prevent the enormous waste caused by fires, and the