

The Millers Convention.

Toronto, Sept. 2.—There was a large attendance at the Dominion Millers' meeting this afternoon. A resolution by R. Neilson, of Ayr, and W. H. Meldrum, of Peterboro, was passed: "That a deputation representing the Dominion Millers' association wait upon the Dominion government to urge the desirability of making an effort to secure from the governments of the British West India Islands and British Guiana preferential duties on Canadian goods entering those colonies, in return for preferential duties to be granted by the government of Canada on goods imported into Canada from such colonies."

A resolution impressing on the Ontario standard board the importance of keeping the standard grades of No. 2 red, No. 2 white, No. 2 mixed, No. 2 spring and grades above free from sprouted wheat, when making the standard, and that two or three standard grades be made for sprouted wheat was passed unanimously.

The executive committee's report urged the government to prohibit the importation of flour adulterated with corn flour. The committee also stated "that since the opening of navigation there has been considerable complaint of the quality of No. 1 hard and we know several instances where millers got an allowance of two cents a bushel from the shippers, who acknowledged that the wheat was not what it ought to be.

One lot of No. 2 hard brought from Duluth in May was of such poor quality that competent judges stated it was only fair No. 3 hard. During July last there were considerable complaints of the quality of a lot which shippers claimed to be No. 1 hard loaded at Fort William. Various millers reported that it was not worth within two cents a bushel of No. 1 hard previously had, and, in fact, that they had received No. 2 hard of better quality than the No. 1 hard referred to. From this it would appear that the grade of No. 1 hard had gone down very decidedly at Fort William. This certainly appears to be the case with No. 2 hard, judging from reports received in August that No. 2 hard in elevator at Fort William was of such poor quality that the owners were afraid to ship it to Ontario millers, and were going to sell it for export instead.

Winnipeg millers have been asking for higher prices at Fort William for No. 1 hard from Ontario millers than for export. The above facts show plainly that there is something wrong about the present inspection of Manitoba wheat, and we believe the evils would be remedied if the government would appoint a chief inspector, selecting a man thoroughly posted in the grain business, one of strong force of character and of the highest integrity, as his decisions would have ten times more weight and influence on the commercial prosperity of the agricultural and milling interests of Canada than the decisions of a judge of the supreme court."

United States Trade Reports.

New York, Sept. 3.—R. G. Dun & Co's Weekly Review of Trade tomorrow will say: Failures in August were in number not only 17 per cent less than in August, 1896, but in amount of liabilities 70.8 per cent smaller. July and August show a lower average of liabilities per failure than has ever been known in any year or

even in any quarter of the twenty-three years. R. G. Dun & Co. have kept quarterly records. The improvement is also well distributed, extending to nearly every important branch of business. The ratio of defaulted liabilities to payments at clearing houses has been smaller in July and August than in any other month since early in 1893. August was the first month in which the daily average of settlements through clearing houses exceeded materially that of the corresponding month of 1892, the excess at the principal cities being 12.3 per cent.

The volume of business here has been distinctly larger in other than speculative lines than it was then, and in textile goods, phenomenally large, though slackening this week, buyers having nearly completed their initial purchases. With an extraordinary movement in grain, heavy real estate and building transactions, and increased business in iron products, the month was clearly the busiest August ever known. The first shipment of steel rails from this country to Australia was of 2,000 tons by the Lakkawanna company.

Failures for the past week have been 191 in the United States against 344 last year, and 25 against 31 in Canada.

BRADSTREETS' REVIEW.

New York, Sept. 3.—Bradstreets tomorrow will say: Previous activity in all lines of trade is maintained. There is a better tone to demand from jobbers and the volume of business in wool, leather, clothing, hats, groceries and light hardware has increased. There is a better request for woollen and cotton goods, jewelry and rubber goods, and for boots and shoes. Some wholesale merchants at western centres report the largest volume of August trade on record. There has been an increased consumption of cotton by southern mills. Western iron and steel mills have orders to keep them busy until January 1. In the central western states the bituminous coal strike has had a further depressing effect on the general industrial situation. At the northwest some commercial houses have had to work over time to meet the demand for goods, and the war weather is reported to have practically assured the Indian corn crop. On the Pacific coast wheat exports have been effected by inability to secure crews for vessels. Mercantile collections have greatly improved in some sections.

Last week's general and unprecedented expansion of prices for staples is continued, cotton, wool and woollen fabrics, hides, leather, white pine, lumber, sashes and doors, iron and steel bars, billets and rods, wire nails, barbed wire and southern foundry iron, wheat, corn, lard and sugar having advanced and higher prices being expected for boots and shoes. Lower prices are recorded for cotton, wheat, flour and coffee, while those for oats, pork, print cloths, petroleum and coal are unchanged.

MONEY RATES.

New York, Sept. 3.—3 p.m.—Money on call easy at 11-4 to 11-2 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 31-2 to 41-2 per cent. Sterling exchange strong, with actual business in bankers bills at \$4.85 7-8 to \$4.86 1-8 for demand and at \$4.83 3-4 to \$4.84 for sixty days. Posted rates, \$4.84 1-2 to \$4.85 1-2 and \$4.86 1-2 to \$4.87. Commercial rates, \$4.82 1-2. Bar silver, 52. Mexican dollars, 41 7-8. Government bonds, strong.

British Columbia Business Notes

E. J. Schagel, has opened in lumber at Fort Steel.

The Boundary Creek Milling and Lumber Co., Greenwood, advertise dissolution.

P. J. Russell, commission, etc., Nelson, is applying for a saloon license, F. A. Tamlyn, is applying for a hotel license, at Nelson.

McLennan & Black, hotel, New Denver, are reported out of business.

A. E. Beck has been appointed official liquidator of the Vancouver Biscuit Company.

James Freel, boots and shoes, Victoria and Vancouver, has arranged a settlement and will continue business.

Hugh McDonald is opening an hotel at Whitewater.

R. Dockstader is opening an hotel at Waterloo.

The New Westminster Gas Co., Ltd., winding up order granted. Alex. Ewen appointed provisional liquidator.

The Merchants Bank of Halifax, is reported to be opening a branch at Rossland.

The following have opened business at Silvertown: F. W. Powell, boots and shoes; F. F. Liebscher, tailor; S. Grossman, men's furnishings; S. La'gie, blacksmith; Grant & McRea, hotel; G. Burd, & Co., hotel.

E. Parris & Co., flour, feed, etc., Sloan City, is dead.

L. G. D. Berg, hotel and cigars, Trail, advertises his cigar business for sale.

The Hill Syrup Co., of Seattle, Wash., has been incorporated at Vancouver.

Alberta.

McCarthy & Bangs, barristers, of Calgary, have dissolved partnership. Each will continue alone.

T. L. Johnson, manager, and T. O. Dowsett, accountant of the Calgary Hardware Co., have resigned their positions with the company and will open in the hardware trade at Nelson, B. C.

About forty-five miles of grade on the Crow's Nest Pass road is ready for the track. Track-laying west from Macleod will commence at once.

Miss McLeay has succeeded Mrs. Campbell in fancy goods at Lethbridge.

The London and Liverpool Clothing Company has opened business at Macleod.

Northwest Ontario.

James Weldman announces his retirement from the management of the Rat Portage Miner newspaper. J. B. Earngey, of Brampton, Ont., is the new proprietor.

Mr. Kingdom, a new resident of Rat Portage, is preparing to establish a brewery there.

George Barnes, Rat Portage, has sold out of the K. furniture company, and Horne and Taylor have taken the business over.

J. H. Smith is opening at Morden, Man., in books.

The U. S. visible supply, Aug. 30th: Wheat, decrease, 1,256,000; corn, increased, 5,917,000; oats, increase, 1,245,000. Total amount visible: Wheat, 15,494,000; corn, 27,872,000; oats, 9,737,000.

The world's shipments during past week were, 7,400,000; wheat on passage, increase, 1,944,000 bushels. Liverpool imports amounted to 816,000 bushels, all American.