

During the season of 1899 there were 34 cheese factories in operation in Prince Edward Island, at which 38,936,975 pounds of milk were received, and 3,746,168 pounds of cheese produced. The value of the cheese was, in gross, \$376,060. During the same time six creameries produced 437,276 pounds of butter of a gross value of \$83,358.

At a meeting of Toronto Retail Grocers' and Provision Dealers' Association held Monday night the following resolution was passed unanimously: "We, the members of the above association, while we are against the early closing by-law in its present shape, yet, as an association, have resolved that no employee shall work more than ten hours per day."

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

We have received, and with welcome, the March number of *Current History*, which, after being published nine years as a quarterly in Boston, Mass., now makes its appearance as a monthly. The character and scope of the work undergo no change, and the literary and historical standard is fully maintained, for, indeed, we understand the editors remain the same. As a summary of contemporary history its value has always been great, and will now be greater, because more frequent. And we may, from the looks of this issue, expect more portraits, cuts and maps. The yearly subscription price remains the same, \$1.50; the price of single numbers is reduced from 40 cents to 15 cents.

REPORT ON AGRICULTURE for the Province of New Brunswick for 1899: Printed by authority of the Legislature, Frederick Labllois, commissioner, reports that last year was one of the most prosperous in the history of the province for farmers, both because of good weather and because of the increased interest the farmers took in their work. The demand for Farmers' Institute meetings is much more brisk, and nine gentlemen from Nova Scotia, Ontario and New Brunswick lectured to more than fifty places on dairying, beef-raising, soils, fruit-culture and mixed farming. The encouragement given by Government to wheat-growing, and the building of twelve modern roller mills in seven counties has done much to stimulate wheat growing as a matter of loyal endeavor. Something like 150,000 bushels more wheat was grown off the same or a lesser acreage than in 1898, and the average yield was 18.1 bushels, which beats that of Manitoba. Oats produced 5,147,600 bushels, off 179,540 acres—a bigger yield off less ground than 1898. Potatoes, 4,071,200 bushels, off 39,501 acres. There is much information of interest about dairying and fruit. The book is a credit to the department, being well printed and well illustrated.

NEW YORK INSURANCE REPORTS, Condensed Edition, by William Barnes, Superintendent Insurance Department State of New York; vol. 3; years 1864 to 1870.—The work of compiling a condensed edition of these reports for the years named was placed by Superintendent Payn in the very competent hands of Hon. W. Barnes, who was the first to occupy the post of Insurance Superintendent in the State. Mr. Barnes had already prepared similar reports for the years 1830 to 1863. The preface to this third volume, read in the light of to-day, is interesting reading.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

Speaking recently of insurance premium rates, A. F. Dean said, pithily: "It is evident that on this narrow margin of underwriting profit anything that adds to the cost of the business must either be added to the rate or subtracted from the assets of the companies."

"It would be well for large insurers all over the country to scrutinize their policies closely. The wildcat is reported very hungry and vigorous just now." The *New York Chronicle*, from which we cut the foregoing, might have added that the undergrounder is also busy burrowing.

The brother officers of Mr. J. W. Kerr, cashier, at Toronto, of the Standard Life Assurance Company, presented him with a handsome silver service as a testimonial of their good-will upon the occasion of his approaching marriage. Mr. Hunter, chief agent for Ontario, and Mr. George M. Hunt, representing the field staff, made brief

addresses on the interesting occasion, and Mr. Kerr made an appropriate reply.

In reply to H. D., Montreal, who asks the name of the new insurance body formed in Toronto the other day, we may say there have been two formed, the Insurance Institute, of which Mr. J. J. Kenny is president, Mr. Henry Sutherland vice, and the Life Underwriters' Association of Ontario. We have an idea it is the latter our correspondent means. Its officers are: President, Robert Lovell, North American Life; first vice-president, W. H. Orr, *Ætna* Life; second vice-president, Colin Harbottle, London and Lancashire Life; secretary-treasurer, W. H. Holland, Insurance Corporation of Ontario.

The announcement is made that Mr. W. M. Ramsay, general manager for Canada for the Standard Life Insurance Company, will retire from that position in April of next year, to be succeeded by Mr. David M. McGoun, who will meantime be assistant manager. Mr. Ramsay is now we believe in his fiftieth year of service with the Standard Life, and the large share he has had in popularizing the company here and building up its extensive Canadian business is well known. It is pleasing to be told that he will retain a seat on the board of directors, where his long experience and sound judgment will be retained for the benefit of the company, and for the pleasure of his many admirers, who will be glad to see him among them for many a day.

—A sensible and suggestive use of money has been made in the setting aside by Mr. J. W. Flavelle of some thousands of dollars towards a travelling fellowship for students of the University of Toronto, and we see that the University has accepted the offer made by this liberal gentleman. The intention is that the scholarship shall go to the candidate proving best fitted for entering public life in Canada. First-class honors in either classics or English history are a requisite to qualify the candidate. Mr. Flavelle considers that the student who takes the highest place in the subject of history should be given the fellowship. When appointed, he is to go to the University of Oxford, and there for two years to devote himself to the study of modern history.

—The Provincial Trust Company of Ontario has held its second annual meeting, and has elected twenty Ontario gentlemen, most of them well known to the directorate, indeed they were nearly all re-elected from the previous year. The company has been handicapped in the race for trusts by a variety of circumstances, but it has now secured the nucleus of a good business. The shareholders appear to have taken a cheerful view of the outlook, and are determined to put their shoulders to the wheel, so that this year's business, which has begun well, may be satisfactorily rounded out.

—A resolution of the council of the Toronto Board of Trade recognizes the necessity for addressing package freight with a name in full instead of by numbers and initials, and recommends this course to all shippers. This, in order to assure its prompt and safe carriage to its destination by the transportation company to whom it is intrusted. There is a meeting of the freight rates committee of the board this week to receive information which is to assist the committee to effect more equitable freight rates in the interest of Toronto.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, April 5th, 1900, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	April 5, 1900.	March 29, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$13,047,061	\$11,670,063
Toronto.....	10,780,911	8,587,256
Winnipeg.....	1,799,723	1,509,937
Halifax.....	1,463,227	1,220,305
Hamilton.....	747,017	655,741
St. John.....		544,773
Vancouver.....	770,309	815,059
Victoria.....		575,204
		\$25,578,338

Aggregate balances, this week, \$.....; last week, \$3,486,031.