

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

Half a dozen letters or more have been, we are informed, received by the Editor of The Canadian Engineer, quoting the article on the Metric System which appeared in The Monetary Times of 24th May, and ordering copies of the Chart of that System published by Biggar, Samuel & Co. These were all Canadian letters; but now one comes from London, England, asking for a more expensive edition of the Chart. "If you have any other more expensive editions printed, I should be glad to receive a copy or two, as it is my intention to frame a copy, if possible, and present it to the library of the society of which I am an associate, viz., the Incorporated Accountants, England." In this gentleman's opinion, it is "high time that British traders and accountants awoke to the necessity of adopting decimal coinage and measures." He considers that a movement in Canada in favor of metric measures and decimal coinage will assist the efforts of those in Britain who are working to foster Inter-colonial and home-country trade, and lessen the tide of German competition. This competition he believes "is a danger to all the English-speaking countries, if Germany gets the upper hand (both politically and socially)". He assures the editor of the awakening of the British to their surrounding dangers of subsidized continental competition.

—A branch of the Dominion Bank has been opened in the town of Gravenhurst, with Mr. Chas. A. Gossage as acting manager.

—An important meeting of tanners was held in Toronto on Wednesday last to enquire into the present unprofitable condition of the leather trade. It was unanimously agreed that the prices at which leather has been selling for some time past have been too low, and a committee was appointed to revise the same.

—Admiral Sir John O. Hopkins, after describing Halifax as one of the "finest seaports in the world," and referring to its harbor as one in which a "whole mercantile navy could be accommodated with ease," says that while Nova Scotia coal has not been used on men-of-war owing to its inferiority to Welsh for this purpose, yet it will have to be reckoned with as a future source of supply, since coal measures elsewhere are diminishing or becoming prohibitive in price, owing to the deeper working necessary.

—We are told by a London accountant, Mr. Edmund Woodroffe, that one of the principal firms of New York public accountants, members of the body of Certified Public Accountants, has opened offices in the heart of the accountancy quarters in London, Eng., Coleman street, E.C., and, we learn, other American firms intend closing their London agencies and following the example. Might it not be worth the while of some of our leading Canadian accountants also to adopt the better method of being represented in England by partners instead of agents.

—Prosperous conditions show themselves in curious ways in the United States, according to the Iron Age. It is said on the authority of a large tinware manufacturing house in a western city that their trade in dinner-pails has for some time been running heavily to the five and six quart sizes of pail, which are the largest made. This is distinctly a new development. The dinner pails in ordinary use have been the three and four quart sizes. The inference seems unmistakable that working men are able now-a-days to supply themselves with more food and a greater variety of it for their mid-day lunches.

—A hundred fatal cases of heat prostration in New York and Brooklyn in a single day is a dreadful illustration of the conditions of life in some of the larger American cities. But it is not more dreadful than the death in seven days of last week's heat of 212 children below the age of five in Montreal. Among the causes alleged for this serious mortality are impure

water, tainted milk, privy pits in closely-built neighborhoods. It is hard, of course, to keep milk sweet in hot and thunderous weather; but it is to the shame of Montreal that poisonous privy pits abound, as they do, within her borders. Nor is there any good excuse for an impure water supply.

—It is stated that the attendance at the Glasgow Exhibition up to 19th June was 2,693,622, as compared with 1,389,532 in a similar period of the Glasgow Exhibition of 1888. At the same time we are told the total admission receipts were £32,431, as contrasted with £23,476 in the earlier year. If these figures are correct, it means that the average price of admission per person was over four shillings per head this year, as against less than three shillings to the 1888 Exhibition.

—Since the commencement of the present month, fire has caused the following destruction of property: Wm. Rutherford & Sons' lumber yards at Montreal, loss about \$30,000; Bain & Co.'s woolen mill at Elora, totally destroyed, with hardly any insurance; the steam barge "Victoria" burned in Chambly Basin, loss \$9,000, insured for \$3,000; thirty buildings, including the public school and town hall, destroyed at Cache Bay, 200 persons were rendered homeless, loss \$50,000; Montreal Pipe Foundry at Lachine, loss \$100,000, covered by insurance; the Montreal car wheel works were also damaged somewhat; the pipe foundry will be rebuilt.

THE CHEESE BOARDS.

The hot weather has affected both the quality and the demand for cheese to some extent, and prices on the boards this week were easier. In some cases buyers could not see their way clear to accept the views of holders, and the cheese failed to find purchasers, though it sometimes sold afterwards on the curb:

Place	No. of factories	No. of Cheese boarded	Number Sold	Price Realized
Napanee, July 3.....	..	1439	390	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Stirling, July 3.....	..	1085	985	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ —8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pictou, July 3.....	15	1615	1455	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Woodstock, July 3...	..	3303	....	..
Russell, July 3.....	..	420	....	..
Ingersoll, July 2.....	..	550	....	..
Campbellford, July 2 .	..	2250	1985	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ —8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cornwall, June 30	2107	all	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ —8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cowansville, June 29..	42	2541	1984	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ —8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bellville, June 29	1505	335	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
London, June 29.....	18	2391	....	..
South Finch, June 29..	..	7500	all	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ottawa, June 28.....	..	1051	635	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ —9
Winchester, June 28...	..	909	244	9
Kemptville, June 28...	..	999	....	..
Brighton, June 28... ..	15	1230	100	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Perth, June 28...	2100	all	9
Iroquois, June 28...	909	....	..
Brockville, June 27....	..	4600	....	..
Tweed, June 27....	795	all	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kingston.....	..	1900	970	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vankeek Hill.....	..	1133	400	9 $\frac{1}{2}$

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, July 4th, 1901, compared with those of the previous week :

CLEARINGS.	July 4th, 1901.	June 27th 1901.
Montreal.....	\$15,184,764	\$21,564,978
Toronto.....	11,692,174	11,513,545
Winnipeg .	2,050,299	1,875,191
Halifax ..	1,787,081	1,455,653
Hamilton ..	754,678	664,364
St. John ..	677,328	693,947
Vancouver ..	1,021,706	808,743
Victoria.....	437,513	604,151
Quebec.....	1,578,825	1,247,146
	\$35,184,368	\$40,427,718

Aggregate balances, this week, \$3,941,557; last week, \$5,172,976