Que., last week, which destroyed the dwelling of Mr. Thomas Marks, did slight damage to two other dwellings, and caused in all a loss of $3,000. "With even a half supply of water from the mains it could easily have been saved." What will the people of Richmond do about it? Anything?

Since our paragraph last week about Mr. Hyde's death was written and in type, we have learned that, as was expected, at a meeting of the board of directors of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, held late last week, James W. Alexander was elected president in place of the late Henry B. Hyde, and James H. Hyde was elected vice-president, Gage E. Tarbell second vice-president, and George T. Wilson third vice-president. Mr. James H. Hyde is a son of the lamented former president, and a graduate of Harvard University.

Converting the figures into Canadian currency, the totals of the business of the Standard Life for last year make an interesting comparison with those of 1897. While the number of new policies issued was not quite so great as in the previous twelve months, the aggregate insurance in force reaches the great total of $123,108,140. This is an increase of six and a half millions. And the death claims and claims under endowments, which were under three millions in the year previous, amounted last year to $3,544,940, or nearly $10,000 every day distributed among beneficiaries. The accumulated funds are increased to the great sum of $45,902,000. This is a gratifying showing to be made by this fine company, and we may be sure, although the figures are not yet public, that the Canadian branch has added its quota to the handsome total.

## AN AUSTRALIAN VISITOR.

Speaking on the subject of Canadian-Australian trade, Mr. Littlejohn, of Sydney, N.S.W., tells The Monetary Times this week that Canada loses trade from the circumstance that American firms buy Canadian lumber, manufacture it into doors and other things, and undersell Canadian firms in the Australian market. The present unusual conditions of the steamer freight market from United States ports to Australia and New Zealand undoubtedly favor American trade with those countries. There are now no fewer than four lines of steamers, two English and two American, plying from New York to Victoria and New South Wales and New Zealand ports,, and this competition has reduced prices of freight to one-third of what they were, and much less than by our Pacific Coast route. This of course stimulates an export trade, and so much merchandise is going forward from the States that a glut of some kinds of American goods is feared. Mr. Littlejohn was in Montreal last week, and in Toronto this week, and succeeded in interviewing a number of firms, some of whose wares he will introduce to the Australian continent. He strongly favors Canadian vessels from our Atlantic Coast to Australia, and it appears that so long as our goods go mainly from New York and by Canadian steamers we are handicapped. What he says of the disposition of the traders of New South Wales is, that other things being equal, they will give Canada the preference. He goes hence to Winnipeg and probably from that city to the Coast.

## WITH THE FOOTWEAR MERCHANTS.

A number of Ontario jobbers are in Montreal and Quebec this week.

The cold weather of the past few days has somewhat interfered with seasonable trade in retail circles.

The shoe manufacturing industry is being driven out of London as it has been driven from other parts of the province of Ontario by labor difficulties.

The Victoria, B.C., Shoe Company will apply to the Lieut. Governor-in-Council to change the name of the firm to the Patterson Shoe Company, Limited.

There is a considerable increase in the importation of American sole leather into Canada this spring. For the month of March, 1899, the imports of it were 103,670 pounds, and in March, 1898, only 23,030 pounds.

The Manufactured Rubber Company was incorporated at Trenton, N.J., May 12, with $6,000,000 capitalization. The stock is divided into 120,000 shares at $50 each, 20,000 of which is preferred stock bearing a cumulative dividend of 8 per cent. The incorporators are Josiah H. Dubois, William J. Jackson, A. Thompson Dukes and Crayton E. Platt, of Camden, N.J.

The strike of twenty-five cutters employed at Messrs. Seguin & Latimer's boot and shoe factory, St. Hyacinthe, Que., terminated this week unexpectedly. The reason given by the men for their unexpected move is that instructions have been received from the Montreal branch of the union not to persist in their determination to have a foreman reinstated in his position.

Letters patent are issued incorporating Max Lewis Schloman, merchant; Henry Schloman, merchant; John Goodenough Lynn, merchant; Robert Thomas Mullin, student-at-law; Bernard Rousenfield, accountant, of Montreal; for the purpose of the manufacture, sale and general dealing in boots and shoes, by the name of "Lynn Shoe Company," with a capital stock of $30,000.

The Shoe and Leather Record, London, Eng., in its issue of April 28 has this to say concerning American boots and shoes: That we should import boots and shoes at the rate of over $5,000 every week from America is inexplicable on any hypothesis except that the goods thus shipped possess advantages over and above those offered by English producers. But it is satisfactory to know that the best features of American goods are now being reproduced by a number of English manufacturers, who, it may be hoped, will ere long pass their New England competitors in the race for supremacy. The Yankees are, however, pushing the trade more vigorously than ever, and it will require all the efforts our own producers can put forth to prevent our market being flooded with American footwear.

## FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS

The Wholesale Grocers' Exchange met in Victoria on the 8th inst.

A Montreal alderman will press a notice of motion that bakers make all loaves at a uniform weight, namely, five pounds.

Great quantities of herring were taken in the Bras d'Or Lake last week, one schooner securing about four hundred barrels.—Bras d'Or Gazette.

T. S. Simms & Co., St. John, N.B., recently made by the steamer "Duart Castle" their second shipment of 1,200 dozen brooms to the West Indies.

The cargo of Messina, Palermo and Sorrento lemons and oranges from the steamship "St. Marnock," was sold at the Montreal Fruit Auction on the 10th inst. The cargo was in fair condition, only so that the prices realized were not exceptionally high. The prices realized were: For fancy lemons, from $2.25 to $2.75; for first choice, $1.75 to $2.15, and for fair and weak lots, 60c. to $1.50. For oranges: For half boxes, 25c. to $1.75, and for boxes, $1 to $3.50, were the ruling prices.

There is a warning to business men in the recent sudden death of Roswell P. Flower, ex-Governor of New York State. It has been stated in newspapers that his death was immediately due to overwork and anxiety about his many interests. But his doctor says that the cause of death was indiscretion in eating a hearty meal of indigestible food and drinking copious draughts of ice-water when overheated. This prevalent American habit, the drinking of iced water, causes more illness and deaths than the public dream of.

Dr. Kendall, of Cape Breton, who is working up cold storage, tells The Montreal Herald that he has found in Chicago proof positive that a combination is being formed to control the fish trade of all America. The Booth Packing Company of that city had combined, and he hears they had at their disposal a capital of $5,500,000. Already agencies are at work to gather in the fish supply of the Georgian Bay, Lake Winnipegosis and Lake Winnipeg, and agencies have been established at Richibucto, N.B., Portland, Boston, New York and other points along the Atlantic. A number of the men in the business in