

—The timber-carrying trade on the ocean, so long done exclusively by sailing vessels, finds steamers catering for it at different points. At St. John, steamers are "making inroads" in this direction, and at Mobile, Alabama the steamer "Sculptor" has been chartered to take a load of timber to Liverpool. She is the first steam vessel to enter that port for timber, though Pensacola has shipped several cargoes to the other side by steam. "The presence here," says the *Mercury*, "is due to the fact that she can find no better freight and takes the timber as a last resort. The advantage possessed by the steam vessels over sailing craft is the greater capacity, a sailing vessel carrying 700 superficial feet to the ton, while a steamer carries from 900 to 1,000 to the ton."

—The Quebec Supervisor of Cullers gives the following comparative statement of timber, masts, bowsprits, spars, staves, &c., measured and culled to 31st July at that port:—

	1883.	1884.	1885.
Waney white pine .....	1,430,020	1,104,142	1,093,761
White pine.....	1,396,359	1,113,623	1,004,803
Red pine.....	131,191	189,931	43,313
Oak .....	999,071	480,478	998,529
Elm .....	242,609	599,341	636,157
Ash .....	147,133	355,370	178,838
Basswood ....	1,337	4,415	47
Butternut ....	835	1,088	3,018
Tamarac.....	2,765	17,685	1,983
Birch & maple	136,494	185,111	305,502
Spars .....	—pcs	32 pcs	17 pcs
Std. staves....	366,83.9	16.6.2.22	39.8.3.21
W. I. staves..	371.7.1.21	69.8.1.23	67.7.2.04
Brl. staves ....	87.1.1.27	0.6.2.13	48.5.3.07

—A circular has been issued by the City and District Savings Bank, Montreal, to its depositors, stating that from 30th ult. no interest will be allowed any depositor on an amount over \$4,000. This is "in consequence of the unprecedentedly large amount now on deposit in this bank, and the difficulty of loaning the same on proper security." The *Star* has it that the Bank of Montreal proposes to do likewise, making the limit of deposit \$3,000.

—According to recent advices the harvest throughout France, under the prolonged fineness of the weather, will be above the average, and the wine harvest, where the vines have been spared by the phylloxera, will be excellent in quality.

#### CUSTOMS AND EXCISE RETURNS.

CITY.	July, 85	July, '84	Inc or Dec
Montreal customs..	\$804,576	\$857,546	52,970D
do. excise ..	123,701	120,708	2,993 I
Toronto customs..	322,836	356,566	33,730D
do. excise ..	22,460	85,938	63,478D
Hamilton customs..	40,870	45,364	4,494D
do. excise ..	14,413	24,346	9,933D
Halifax customs..	91,484	97,287	5,803D
do. excise ..	9,698	13,684	4,086D
St. John customs..	59,412	58,742	670 I
do. excise ..	15,100	17,710	2,610D
London customs..	.....	45,376	.....
do. excise ..	12,966	24,686	11,720D
Winnipeg customs..	47,859	53,593	5,736D
do. excise ..	5,372	.....	.....
Kingston customs..	18,616	22,638	4,022D
do. excise ..	6,953	.....	.....
Ottawa customs..	16,073	17,490	1,417D
do. excise ..	.....	14,768	.....
Brantford customs..	5,108	.....	.....
do. excise ..	4,400	.....	.....
Guelph customs..	5,087	5,887	800D
do. excise ..	.....	.....	.....
Belleville customs..	3,275	3,325	50 I
do. excise ..	.....	.....	.....
Moncton customs..	19,609	35,155	15,546D
do. excise ..	.....	.....	.....

#### ITALIAN TRADE WITH HALIFAX.

The King of Italy has consented to the transfer of the royal Italy consulate in the Dominion of Canada from Montreal to Halifax, as being the most eligible residence and the principal Atlantic winter port of Canada. William Wingfield Bonny, C. E., of this city, has been appointed royal Italian consul in the Dominion of Canada, with jurisdiction and authority over the vice-consuls and consular agents and delegates at Gaspé Basin, St. John's Nfld., Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, and St. John. N. B. It is stated that the above appointment is likely to be the harbinger of a greater commercial intercourse with the kingdom of Italy, and that in January last Mr. Bonny opened negotiations with Florio Rubattino & Co., (the Italian Royal Mail Steam Navigation Co.) at Genoa and Palermo, now trading between the Mediterranean ports and New York, to call monthly or bi-monthly at Halifax, and with shipowners at Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Messina and Palermo to ply sailing vessels bringing Italian produce, viz., hemp, olive oil, Italian soup paste, macaroni, liquorice, green and candied fruit, marble in blocks and slabs, vinegar, madder root, sumac, boracic acid, &c., and taking fish and minerals from Newfoundland, and dry codfish, herring, West India molasses and sugars, refined sugar, hides, wool, lumber, fish oils, etc., from Canada via Halifax. The realization of such an advent may indeed prove of great benefit to Halifax, the acknowledged winter port of the Dominion, and it appears that Italy is determined to be in the foreground and her flag in this city and port as the pioneer of a Mediterranean trade will be welcomed.—*Halifax Herald*.

#### THE POETS AND THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

According to the *Publishers' Weekly* the following advertisement of a dry-goods shop, from a paper at Los Angeles, California, is an example of the saddest fate the much abused poets have yet encountered:—

"The greatest triumph in modern merchandising is the placing on our counters of 1000 volumes of the Red Line edition of the Poets. They are handsomely bound in cloth, bevel boards, gold edges, profusely illustrated, and printed on the finest quality of paper. These books are sold all over the city for \$1.25, and no one sells them for less. Over fifty authors' works will be found in this collection, and we will sell the choice next Saturday for 25 cents each.

"Also 1,000 volumes of standard novels, printed on extra heavy paper, bound in cloth, and books that sell everywhere for \$1 per volume. Our price for next Saturday, 10 cents. These books are now on exhibition in our muslin underwear department, and the public is cordially invited to call and see them. These books are sold in connection with other goods.

"All day Saturday we will sell 4-button gloves at \$1, 5-hooks at \$1.25, 7-hooks at \$1.50, and 10-hooks at \$2, and by paying 25 cents extra you may select any book in the collection.

"By purchasing 6 pairs Lisle thread hose at 49 cents per pair, you may by paying 10 cents extra, have the choice out of our entire stock of novels, or by paying 25 cents the choice out of the poetical works.

"Between 10 and 12 we will sell ten yards of our Calliop brand of bleached muslin for \$1, and by paying 10 cents you may have the choice of novels, or 25 cents extra the choice of the poetical works. If our prints arrive in time, and we think they will, we will give one of the biggest and most progressive sales of prints ever known. They are now on the way, and we surely expect them.

"All day Saturday we will sell all 40, 35 and 33 cent towels for 25 cents.

"To-morrow we will tell you all about our table linen sale for Saturday, and also our dress goods sale. We intend, Saturday, to wake them all up. We intend the crowd shall come. They will be out in full force. To any one purchasing one of these books at 10 cents or 25 cents, if before leaving the store they wish goods for it out of any department in the house we will allow three times the purchase price for the book.

"We will also place on sale 1,000 Oriental lace collars at 49 cents each, and to every pur-

chaser of two of these collars we will sell for ten cents additional a handsome work-box worth \$1.

"If you can't come, send your regrets or some one to represent you by proxy.

#### A BIG FIRE.

TORONTO, Aug. 3.—A great fire swept the Esplanade from Princess street westward to Scott street, leaving scarcely anything standing south of the railway tracks. The tall brick building of the Toronto Grape Sugar Co. is destroyed; the company have insurance on building and plant: \$49,000 in Canadian and English Companies, and in American \$16,000. On stock and supplies \$2500 in Imperial, the remainder, \$17,125, in American companies. The building and plant cost present owners about \$94,000, and the stock contained in it was valued at \$31,000. The following parties are burned out: Jas. Adamson, wharfinger, insured for small amount; J. R. Bailey & Co., coal, \$25,000; Beard's wharf, uninsured; S. Crane & Son, coal, &c., \$900; Currie, Martin & Co., boiler mkr., \$1000; John Gunsell and S. R. Heakes, boats, &c., insurance not known; Wm. Polson & Co., machinists, insured \$16,500, loss heavy; Thomas Poole, machinist, not insured; John Symington, m'r. cigar boxes; J. A. Wharin, boats, \$500; C. Wilson & Son, scales, \$5000, loss heavy; Thos. Sauter, boats, \$300; Chapman's elevator, \$12,000; Neil Currie, \$600. The following sustained damage by fire: J. C. Graham, Ice, &c.; Reid & Son, lumber; Elias Rogers & Co., coal and wood dealers, lose at one wharf; W. P. Howland & Co., and McLaughlin & Moore had grain in Adamson's warehouse insured for \$18,000. The Toronto Brewing and Malting Co. had \$12,500 insured on grain in the same warehouse.

The losses to shipping are stated as follows: Schooner "Theresa," \$5,000, no insurance; schooner "Mazeppa," \$9,000, insured in the Commercial Union for \$3,000; "Annie Craig," \$4,000, covered by insurance in the Royal Canadian; "Ontario," \$8,000, uninsured; steamer "Annie Mulvey," owner Ald. Hall, \$4,000, uninsured, cargo of coal, \$3,000; schooner "Madeline," damaged to the extent of about \$1,000, no insurance; stone hooker "Mary Ann," damage \$500. The following yachts were also destroyed:—"Minden," value \$500; new yacht not yet named, cost over \$1,000; "Veronica," \$2,000; "Flight," \$350.

After having made many efforts to ascertain with accuracy the losses to insurance companies, we are compelled to postpone until next week any statement of them.

—The following is the British revenue statement for the fiscal years 1884 and 1885:—

	Year ended June 30, 1885.	Year ended June 30, 1884.
	£	£
Customs .....	20,918,000	19,589,000
Excise .....	26,260,000	26,967,000
Stamps .....	11,920,000	11,550,000
Land Tax .....	1,065,000	1,060,000
House duty .....	1,840,000	1,845,000
Property and income tax.....	12,130,000	10,403,000
Post office .....	7,965,000	7,530,000
Telegraph service.	1,765,000	1,750,000
Crown lands ...	380,000	380,000
Interest on advances .....	1,029,238	1,094,842
Miscellaneous ...	2,963,195	4,082,057

Totals .....

88,233,433

86,350,849

Omitting the items which cannot be called

taxes, such as post office and telegraph service,

the people pay \$370,000,000, something over

\$10 per head.

—Tenders are called for by the local govern-

ment of Nova Scotia, for the building of several

bridges in Pictou county. Iron bridges are

to be built at Black river, five miles from

River John, and at Barry's Mills, near the

new Cemetery, Pictou. There are also to be

Iron bridges at Big Gut, four miles from New

Glasgow, Bridgeville, and Bailey's Brook near

Avondale station, and wooden bridges at the

Garden of Eden and at Gunns, St. Marys.

All of these bridges are to be completed before

the 12th of November next.