

The Monetary Times

Trade Review and Insurance Chronicle

39th Year—No. 51.

Toronto, Canada, June 15, 1906.

\$2 A YEAR
IN ADVANCE.

CONTENTS

	Page		Page		Page
Fuel for Western Canada.....	1673	Our Agents Abroad	1674	Life and Fire Insurance Notes...	1686
East-Bound Traffic	1674	Sovereign Bank of Canada.....	1677	Fire and Marine Insurance.....	1686
Extraordinary Railroad Develop- ment in the West.....	1674	Canadian Woods in Liverpool....	1677	Dry Goods Notes	1686
Canadian Bacon in England.....	1675	Our Halifax Letter	1678	For Grocers and Provision Deal- ers	1686
The Dry Goods Trade.....	1675	Our Australian Letter	1682	Gold and Silver Goods	1695
European Reinsurance Companies on the San Francisco Disaster.	1676	A Suggestion for Country Labor.	1683	Markets	1696
		The Fire Waste	1683	Corporation Conscience	1699
		Answers to Enquirers	1684		

FUEL FOR WESTERN CANADA.

The Regina delegates to the Convention of Associated Boards of Trade of Western Canada held at Edmonton this week, raised a very important question when they introduced a resolution favoring the remission of taxes now collected upon denatured alcohol. The resolution calls attention to the seriousness of the fuel problem in the West, and points out that prices for wood, coal, coal-oil, gasoline and other materials which may serve as fuel, have been steadily rising during the past few years. It also mentions the recent action of the Congress of the United States in passing a law which frees from taxation denatured alcohol to be used for industrial purposes, a step which the British Government cannot ignore. The Germans have long recognized the importance of cheap alcohol for arts and manufactures.

The solution of the fuel problem in the West of Canada would be a boon, the effects of which it is difficult to estimate. Leaving aside the benefits which would be conferred upon individuals by the reduction in the cost of fuel for heating purposes in stoves and furnaces, there is the larger question of power production to be considered. A great handicap to the industrial development of the West along the line of manufacturing enterprises, has thus far been the lack of power. The production of power has always been an expensive undertaking on account of the scarcity of fuel. From Fort William to Calgary on the main line of the railways, and for a great distance to the north, little or no coal is mined, and there is an almost total absence of timber. At Banff, Lethbridge, Edmonton and other points in Alberta, and in a few districts near the United States boundary in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, coal mines are being worked, but the heavy charges for freight make the cost of delivery

at a given point in Manitoba or the new provinces very high.

The abolition of the inland revenue tax now collected upon denatured alcohol should enable this substance to be produced on a very extensive scale. It might almost be said that wood and coal would be supplanted. It has been calculated that if the tax on denatured alcohol were removed, an ordinary room could be heated with a spirit-burning stove at less cost than with an ordinary coal stove, which burns anthracite costing \$6 per ton. When it is considered that anthracite costs \$10 to \$14, according to quality, in the Province of Saskatchewan the annual saving even in the domestic fuel bills would be enormous. The most important feature of this subject as far as the West is concerned, is that the raw material for the manufacture of denatured alcohol can be produced in the three prairie provinces in practically unlimited quantities. An acre of land will produce 300 bushels of potatoes, and from that quantity say 250 gals. of commercial alcohol can be procured; but with the use of a special grade of white potato intended chiefly for the production of alcohol, it is alleged that the output could be increased to more than 500 gallons of alcohol per acre. Much depends, of course, on the proportion of starch in the wheat or potatoes. With the enormous areas of fertile land now under cultivation in the Canadian West it is difficult to imagine how much commercial alcohol could be produced. It is not out of the way to say, however, that it is possible to supply this fuel for power to much of Western Canada. This view does not take into consideration the fact that decayed, frozen, and other unmarketable kinds of potatoes can be used for the purpose.

The market for frozen and rejected grain will also be opened to the development of alcohol production. It is in this connection that the subject has come under the notice of the Department of Agriculture at Regina. The Deputy Commissioner of that Department made enquiries in 1904, and has given out the

Company

Assurance
Fund, of
paid up in
this paid
ers thus
of \$300,
portance,
conser-
Guaran-
By the
on, every
y in the
premiums
one vote
insurance
are thus
gement
short, it
American
a Stock
advan-

to, Ont

ed by
toria
Co.
r General
ecurity of

pay-
\$6,000.00
ock
iver
9-733-33
able
60,000.00
able
30,000.00
ay
55,000.00
res,
oba,
24,820.00
ay
50,000.00
ep-
1,000.00
\$250,533.33
et value of
A. F.S.S.
anager.

VE
FUL

Union Mu-
rative in
gressive in
be faith-

ordially

rance
l, Maine.
L. BATES,
resident.
r Canada,
ada,
Province
ly to
ger,
real,
ly to
nger
TO.

pany
N. Y.
Agents.

JAIC
, Toronto