

360,562 feet. Besides this there was shipped 3,567 tons of birch and 15 tons of pine, compared with 4,489 tons of birch and 48 tons of pine in 1903. W. C. Malcolm Mackay was the heaviest individual shipper in each year, while the other large shippers were George McKean and the A. Gibson Railway and Manufacturing Company. Liverpool, Bristol, Manchester and Glasgow are the chief deal ports, and it is noticeable that the shipments to Liverpool fell off five million feet and to Glasgow two million feet, while the shipments to Bristol increased by two million feet and to Manchester by nearly six million, probably a result of the energetic efforts of the Manchester ship canal people. A recapitulation of the shipments from all New Brunswick ports outside of St. John for the year shows that 365 vessels of 641,711 tons carried 358,881,893 superficial feet of deals. In 1903 361 vessels of 602,892 tons took away 388,361,705 superficial feet of deals.

Messrs. Raymond & Doherty, proprietors of the Royal Hotel, in this city, have just purchased a large building on Germain street, near the hotel, and will remodel and greatly enlarge it. The new property is to be fitted up for sample rooms for this popular hotel.

Albert Mowry, a workman in the employ of the Maritime Nail Works, has invented and patented a nut lock that has been purchased by H. R. McLellan, Hon. H. A. McKeown, and others, for \$14,000. The new nut lock has been tried on the Canadian Pacific Railway with satisfactory results, and will be given a trial on the Intercolonial.

The annual auction sale of the harbor fisheries of St. John took place to-day, and the city realized therefrom \$1,340 more than in 1904, and \$2,779.43 more than in 1902. The net revenue from this sale was \$5,191.05. The privileges sold are for the right to build weirs. Drift fishing in the harbor is carried on by all the fishermen, but there is no civic control of this.

During the six months ending December 31st, the sum of \$386,662.65 was deposited in the Dominion savings bank branch in St. John, and \$403,763.49 taken out. For the six months just closed, the withdrawals are usually in excess of the deposits, and the figures given are not much of an indication of how the account will stand on the 30th of June next, the end of the fiscal year.

Messrs. Baird & Peters, wholesale grocers, have been compelled, because of the growth of their tea business, to separate it entirely from the other departments of their wholesale grocery business. Hereafter, the tea business will be managed by the Vim Tea Company. This firm is one of the most energetic and enterprising in the province.

There were forty mercantile failures in New Brunswick during 1904, an increase of eight over 1903. The assets of the bankrupts were valued at \$234,025, and the liabilities reached \$413,143. In 1903 the assets of failed traders were \$69,425, and their liabilities \$172,200.

The year just closed has been a good one so far as New Brunswick was concerned, and in some lines, particularly wholesale groceries, a record trade has been done. The lumber business has had its ups and downs, but now the outlook is improving, and generally the prospects seem good for 1905.

St. John, N.B., 3rd Jan., 1905.

—The Similkameen district of British Columbia is very much to the fore just now, not only as a mining, but as a fruit-growing and agricultural centre. It is said by some that, even without railroads, mining has made greater progress there during the year just closed than at any other period in its history. Were transportation facilities available, several properties could start shipping and continue indefinitely the sending out of ore. It is impossible to ship, however, when everything has to be hauled on wagons at a cost of from \$20 to \$30 a ton, according to the distance from Penticton, the Similkameen port at the southern end of Okanagan Lake. We may mention that the district which goes under the name of the Similkameen stretches from Fairview, on the east, to Penticton, on the west, a distance of seventy miles, and from the boundary line northward, a distance of fifty miles.

—A judgment of considerable interest to foreign patentees was handed down last week in the United States Circuit Court at Boston. The United States Shoe Machinery Company brought action against J. C. Desautels and the Duplessis Independent Shoe Machinery Company for alleged infringement of patent. Desautels pleaded that he was a resident of St. Hyacinthe, Que., and a subject of Great Britain, and had never had an established place of business in the United States. The court held that an alien may be sued for infringement of a patent wherever in the United States he may be found, and ordered the plea of the defendant overruled, with costs for the complainant.

—News comes of important strikes of ore made last week on the La France group of mines, La France Creek, a little east of Kootenay Lake, owned by a Chicago syndicate. An ore shoot from two to three feet wide has been, it is declared, already proven for a distance of 100 feet, giving values ranging from 160 to 240 ounces silver, and from \$10 to \$60 gold and 3 per cent. copper per ton. The other strike was on Bald Mountain, near by. Here "the lead on the surface is from 40 to 50 feet wide and can be traced up the hillside and over the apex to the other slope." The country formation consists of shales, lime and quartzites. The gangue is quartz and the ore is composed of galena and gray copper, the latter carrying both copper and gold. Apart from the rich ore shoot in the workings a large part of the vein is composed of mineral, which, it is said, can be easily concentrated.

—There have been many conjectures as to the point, in the Crow's Nest Pass of British Columbia, where should be placed the zinc smelter, spoken of for months. Other places had hopes, but most opinions favored either Fernie or Frank. It is stated by the Nelson News, on the authority of a Christmas telegram from C. Fernau, promoter of the undertaking, that it will be placed at Frank. The site selected is on the Old Man river, just east of the big slide. The ground was owned by the Canadian-American Coal and Coke Company and was, it is stated, donated to the smelter company. Work upon it is to be carried on all winter, and the basis is 1,000 retorts. While its principal business is expected to be to treat ores for zinc, it will also treat silver and lead ores. The idea is that the mines of British Columbia shipping zinc ores will concentrate at the various concentrating plants now in operation or being built, and the ores be shipped to the Frank smelter in the form of concentrates. As the smelter will likely use 15 tons of coal to one of concentrates, the advantage of being located near the coal is obvious.

—It transpires that the \$5,000,000 worth of Canadian Northern Railway bonds, which were recently reported as having been disposed of in the New York Market, were sold to J. P. Morgan & Company. These bonds are on the company's lines within the province of Manitoba, and are at the rate of \$10,000 per mile, bear 4 per cent. interest, and are guaranteed by the Manitoba Government. At a special session of the Legislature a few weeks back, the consolidation of the bonds on the different branches was authorized, so as to bring them all on to the one standard of \$10,000 per mile. The total mileage within the province authorizes guaranteed bonds to the amount of about \$7,500,000, of which about \$2,500,000 were sold some five years ago. The company have completed in all about 600 miles of railway this year, including branches, and now have their bonds all placed. The earnings of the line show rapid increases, that for the last week reported being about 50 per cent. over the previous year. In addition to the lines constructed by the C.N.R., that company is lessee of the Northern Pacific lines in Manitoba, for which a yearly rental of \$21,000 is now being paid, to be increased later. The lines are bonded for \$6,930,000, and the C.N.R., through the Manitoba Government, has an option to purchase them at the expiry of the lease in 1929, for \$7,000,000.