

are very wide of the mark, and are not calculated to do the country any good.

Because these big firming companies will always prove failures in the past, it is perhaps not a reason why they should always fail in the future, but it does not tend to create a hopeful outlook for this latest proposal in the stock farming line. The general feeling throughout the West is certainly not favorable to such concerns, either as regards the prospects for the success of such enterprises or their general influence upon the country.

PRESERVE THE FORESTS.

While there are enormous areas of very fertile land awaiting occupation by the settler in different parts of the Dominion, there are also large districts which are unfit for agricultural settlement, but which, if held by the country as timbered lands, may be made to yield large and constant revenues. The natural and common sense view that the country should endeavor to make the best use of the land it possesses in its landed property, by directing the settlement of its best agricultural holdings where such is possible, and retaining the poorer classes of land for timber-growing, has not until recent years been the possession of the public mind. The wholesale destruction of forest property by a lack of management has become a national evil, and has attracted public attention and the wisdom of a policy which has become apparent to the tide of public sentiment has set strongly in its favor. Hence, governments now have the backing of a large majority of intelligent people in every movement they make towards a rational policy in the treatment of this important part of the country's wealth, which may with the best handling be made to yield a large annual income.

Non-agricultural lands should be retained as forest reserves, and no effort should be made to protect the timber from destruction by fire. By cutting these forests, and if these forests may be preserved for all time. Efforts should also be made to re-forest some districts where the timber has been destroyed, or which are only lightly timbered, such, for instance as the sand hill districts in Manitoba. There are other forest areas which should be preserved on account of their value as water-catchers in the flood-waters back, and for their influence upon the climate of the country. The destruction of such forests would be nothing less than a calamity to the country. The effect of the destruction of such forests would be to cause alternate floods and drought.

SIBERIA'S FUR INDUSTRY.
(London Standard.)

Olesca, December 18.—The chief centre of the Siberian fur trade, including that of the peninsula of Kamtschka, is Irkutsk. The greater part of the fells here collected from hunters and trappers are bear, sables, lynx, elk, reindeer, stag, musk-deer, fox, marten, mink, ermine, polecat, squirrel, Alpine wolf, blue and silver fox, and one or two kinds of the most indigenous to Kamtschka. The Siberian black bear is not so often found on the Irkutsk market. All kinds of furred skins have advanced in value during the last few years. A blue fox fur now brings 90 rubles at Irkutsk, and that figure is enhanced when a pair of perfect skins are offered, the price running up to as much as 300 rubles for the two fells. From Irkutsk the furs are in the first instance, chiefly distributed between the two fairs at Kirovsk and Vercholsensk, and thence they find their way to the principal fairs in western Europe. Many of the English, French and German furriers send buyers to Irkutsk. It has lately been shown, however, that one seldom buys at first hand even in that Siberian centre. The most valuable furs at Irkutsk are those of the merchants who profess to retain their own hunters and trappers, have, as a matter of fact, come through two or three pairs of bartering hands. It is not a very difficult matter for the western buyers who travel all the way to Irkutsk to go a little further, and establish trading rela-

tions at first hand with the trappers and trapping syndicates. An enormous economy would be effected by such direct trading. The fur trade of Siberia, to which the civilized world has long looked as one of the two chief sources of the world's supply of pelts, is beginning to show signs of a serious output no to-day, to find that the income of the fur skins has advanced in price. The Russian Government and the tundra of Siberia offered an ample supply of skins of the best quality, but the Russian Government, the Ukra, brought with him, but afterwards, the demand fell away.

Communication has become easier, towns have sprung up, markets have been opened, and the Cosaks have begun to traverse regions where once the Samoyede, Ostiak, or Tungus wandered undisturbed, and skins are freely exchanged for sundry luxuries from the White Coats land. The usual result has followed, and in almost every part of Siberia—as in North America—the other great fur producing region—skins and furs are becoming perceptibly rarer. Moreover, the task of collecting furs for the market is more than ever a lonely task. Irkutsk is the chief centre of the trade, but that is now a flourishing town with over fifty thousand inhabitants on the long line of the trans-Siberian railway, we may be sure, will not make any hunting can be done in a little profitable league of it. In fact, the enormous area of Siberia has hitherto made inland transport a necessity, and if they become exorbitant in their demands, it may be worth while to establish direct dealing with the hunter. Another centre is situated in the northeast, the chief place of the province almost as large as Europe, excluding Russia, is thinly populated that twenty years ago, each person might have been appointed seven square miles.

Yakutsk is the coldest spot on earth, for its geographical position. In the winter it is so cold that about two months an average temperature of quite 90 degrees of frost. But people get used to many things, and included, and Dr. Landell says that, with 23 degrees of frost, children may be seen running about in the open air, stark naked. It is also famed for its furs, and the blackest caught in the Vitim and Olenka forests are reckoned the finest, bluest, and smallest valuable. Its squirrels, therefore, the most prized, and are hunted only in winter, when the fur is sometimes black, sometimes dark gray, in summer it is red and in poor condition. Another important centre of the fur trade is the district of the Lower Amur, where sable skins coming even from Southern Manchuria. Fine skins were sold annually at Khabarovka some quarter of a century ago. Time is ironical in the changes it brings; the coat of the primal man when first wandered away from climate where clothing was needless, has become the decoration of rank and luxury of the wealthy. In early days the skins of the bear were chiefly valued; the sable or the ermine, probably, were classed with the rabbits and the foxes. And the "wrap Baby Bunting in," and the same irony is seen in the furs themselves. The skins which were reserved for royalty, is only the homely stout, excoriated by the gamekeeper, which in arctic climates, with the proper or predatory purposes, has turned white all but the tip of its tail. The blue and other furs, whose value is so high a price, are either identical with the cheaply allied to the familiar blue and other furs, whose value a few very years ago, were sometimes as high as 50 even in Khabarovka and Yakutsk, the fur trade rare excellence have realized ten times that sum, is not one a relation to the furs market of Europe, but now naturalists have doubted whether they can be distinguished.

Be Courteous.

A young lawyer of brilliant prospects, located in a certain city, began his practice of his profession. One day soon after he had opened new offices in the city, he was in a street car, when an influential business man noticed him, and thinking it would be well to make a personal introduction, he moved across to the other side of the car, by the side of the young lawyer, and said, "And

what is your name?" "My name is mud," answered the young man curtly. "Oh," said the other, "excuse me for interrupting you," and he moved on.

The year's went by and the young lawyer was successful, and finally applied to a certain politician as being a politician. The politician said to him, "if you can secure the votes of the men working in the mine you will secure my election." He visited the mine, asked for the superintendent, who soon came into his presence. When the superintendent asked the young lawyer said, "My name is mud." "Ah," said the mine superintendent, "when did you change your name?" "I change my name," replied the politician, "I have not changed my name." "Oh, yes you have, for you told me that," "No," said the superintendent, harshly, "your name is mud at this mine for any favor whatsoever."

The election came off, and the young lawyer was defeated by just seventeen votes, and these votes were cast by men at the mine. It is hard to be courteous, to act the gentleman anywhere everywhere. Christian Standard.

Sugar Factories in France.

Thornwell Haynes, consul at Rouen, writes that there are at present in France 233 sugar factories distributed in 25 departments. The most important—about twelve—produce annually 100,000 sacks each. Four produce more than 200,000 sacks each. A sack contains 100 kilograms (220.46 pounds). These four largest sugar factories are situated at Pont d'Arche, d'Escandevroux, near Cambrai, and at Villersot, near Meaux. All the factories of France manufactured, from 1900 to 1901, over 1,100,000 tons of sugar. This necessitated 8,700,000 tons of beet roots, occupying for cultivation more than 300,000 hectares (741,300 acres).

As to the harvest of 1902-03, although there is a considerable diminution in the weight of the beet roots and the yield of sugar, there is a considerable augmentation in the yield of refined sugar.

The duration of fabrication is only two months, or two months and a half at most, on account of the difficulty experienced in preserving the beet roots, the factories opening in October and closing in December. Because of this necessity, the importance of a factory depends upon the quantity of beets it can produce daily by land of beets it can procure daily by land and water transport. To increase this supply, the beets are now graded not only at the factory, but also in special establishments erected where the beets are raised, where the juice is conducted through underground pipes to the factory. Some French factories are fed by as many as fifteen of these establishments, situated within a radius of half a mile to two miles.

U.S. Liquor Statistics.

The New York Tribune is authority for stating that the liquor costs more every year than the whole civil service, army and congress, including the river and harbor and post office bills, all that is paid for local government, all national, state and county debts, and all the schools in the country. "In fact," says the Tribune, "this country pays more for liquor than for every function of every kind of government."

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