

Mercantile Summary.

THE gold output of India during July aggregated 32,276 ounces, against 32,008 ounces in June and 26,119 ounces in July, 1896. The total output for the first seven months of 1897 was 218,947 ounces.

THE blue berry crop is a failure in the Lake of the Woods district. In previous seasons several tons of the fruit were shipped into Winnipeg, but this year only a few small shipments have been received.

THE St. John *Gazette* says forty cases of smuggled whiskey were found beneath the floor of Hebert's hotel, Kingston, Kent Co, recently, by collector Johnston of Richibucto. The whiskey is said to be part of a quantity recently smuggled into port by a schooner.

THE Quebec Central Railway Company are about to commence to relay a considerable portion of their main line between Sherbrooke and Quebec with new seventy pound steel rails. The Carnegie Steel Company are supplying the rails, the quantity being between two and three thousand tons.

SALES of about 3,000 boxes of Prince Edward Island cheese have been made to a firm here at 8c. f.o.b., at the Island, costing 8½c. laid down here. Some of the factories on the Island are selling their cheese direct to English houses through the former Government inspector, who has no connection with the Government now. Altogether about 7,000 boxes of P.E.I. cheese have been sold, leaving the factory men with only their August cheese on hand. It is estimated that P.E.I. make will be about 35,000 boxes this season.—*St. John, N.B., Sun.*

THE authorities of the Grand Trunk Railway are considerably exercised over the fact that many counterfeit tickets have been issued in connection with the camp of the Grand Army Veterans by Chicago brokers, and have notified all the conductors to be on the *qui vive*. They have been informed that tickets issued by the company at places west of the river bear the word "Perfect" in the form of a water mark, and that any ticket without this is not genuine.

THE return of shipments of iron and steel for July from Middlesbrough, England, just issued, says the shipments of pig iron were the smallest which have appeared since February, being 99,830 tons, as against 114,310 tons in June; 41,532 tons were sent coastwise, as against 50,193 tons in June, and 55,298 tons to foreign ports, against 64,117 tons. This shows a decline of 17,480 tons in the total upon June, the deficiency being nearly evenly distributed between home and foreign deliveries.

T. R. E. McINNES, son of Senator McInnes, and one of the customs officers sent north by the Dominion Government, sends to the *Victoria, B.C., Colonist* a graphic description of the difficulties of travel of the Chilkooot Pass from Dyea, and the White Pass from Skagway. While the White Pass is hard to get over, horses cannot recover the summit of the Chilkooot at all. It is 1,700 feet higher than the White Pass. White Pass trail is dotted with goods which are being packed over. He advises the intending miners coming in spring to have their outfit, as far as practicable, packed in fifty pound packages for easier handling, and not to bring boats at all, as they can be bought at the lakes. Boats taken from coast towns have had to be left behind and sold as lumber, as it is impossible to pack them over the trails.

THE New York *World* says that a steel company in Cleveland has just received orders for 20,000 tons of rails for electric roads in Ireland. In securing this contract, the English mills were underbid. And yet the Dingley law contains a duty of \$7 a ton on steel rails to "protect us from the pauper labor of England!"

FROM recent interviews with grain men the Winnipeg *Free Press* learns that while the prevailing price for spot wheat, No. 1 hard, is about 85 cents on track, on the basis of Brandon freight, wheat for future delivery, say first of October, is considerably less. The impression seems to prevail that wheat for October shipment is worth as much as spot wheat, but there is a difference of from 8 to 10 cents per bushel. New wheat for shipment in Duluth is quoted at 13 cents less than old wheat.

THE Chatham *Planet* discussing a proposition from a company to provide the city with gas service, says: "It is always a foolish thing to enter into an agreement that has no period of termination. In that respect there is one objectionable feature in the offer of the Standard Natural Gas Company. It proposes that in event of the council expropriating the city system that the city bind itself to take natural gas from the company at a specified rate for all time to come. Chatham would be insane to make any such bargain. The company has the right, in consideration of the large outlay it proposes to make, to ask for a monopoly for a settled number of years, but in no case should the term exceed twenty. Fancy what a position the city might be placed in by an indefinite agreement. Twenty, fifty or one hundred years hence someone might have gas wells around here from which it would pay to supply gas at two cents per 1000.

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