

livelihood, and must have money enough to buy food and supplies, so that when he comes to tie up a prospect in a bond, though perfectly willing to 'stand in with the capitalist on the gamble,' still he must have enough cash to enable him to get out into the mountains again to discover new properties. The demand for a small cash payment is thus not as unreasonable as it at first seems."

It is pleasing to learn that there seems to be a decidedly better mutual understanding coming about between capitalist and prospector in this regard, and the Mineralogist thinks the effect of this should before long be felt in greater development.

MANITOBA AND THE WEST.

According to the Manitoba crop bulletin for June, the area sown this year is 2,449,000 acres, where last year it was 2,210,000 acres. The increase, which is nearly ten per cent., is partly due to established farmers adding to their crop acreage, and partly to the influx of newcomers. It is said that there are 2,500 more farmers operating in the province this year than last. In five months, ended with May, 20,778 settlers passed through Winnipeg district for points in Manitoba and the Territories. For the month of May, 5,960 registered at the Immigration Hall in that city. A paper on the subject in the Winnipeg Commercial figures the total number who took up land in the west during the past five months at 30,000. The Commissioner estimates that by the end of the next three months the figures will reach 50,000 or 60,000. Last year the total number of immigrants was 28,000. A large proportion of the settlers who have arrived are Germans from Austria and from Russia. English immigration has been very fair this year, and a better class has come out than in previous years, being mostly young men anxious to make a start in Canada, and others who have had some knowledge of farm life. The Doukhobors are giving a satisfactory account of themselves; hundreds are already working on the railways.

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS' BANK.

This bank has for a long period shown a good scale of earnings, and the surplus of these has year by year been applied to form a reserve fund, which now amounts to more than 56 per cent. of capital. For the last four years its average net profits have been more than 10 per cent., but the present year's are somewhat less, being at the rate of 9.28, on a paid capital of \$1,500,000, but it has paid its shareholders 7 per cent., put \$15,000 to Rest, and carried forward some \$42,000 at credit of Profit and Loss. While the management admit that this is not so good a showing as was expected, the fact does not arise from any decline in the business of the bank, whose totals show an increase of nearly half a million in assets, but mainly from competition, which tends to lessen the scale of earnings.

Among the elements in the business activity, which during 1898-99 characterized the business of the bank, are not only agriculture, stock-raising, and wholesale and retail trade, but manufactures, mining and lumbering in the shape of pulp wood. As showing how the East and West are knitted together by financial interest

it is worthy to note that this bank, hitherto not intimately known outside Quebec province, has established a branch in West Kootenay, B.C., at a point where smelting works are about to be established. The general business of the Eastern Townships' of Quebec has been active and profitable, as we learn from the report. In this respect the locality in question has only been sharing in the prosperity which the past twelve-month has brought to Canada generally, and which bids fair to continue.

MISUSE OF THE COMMON SCHOOLS.

A correspondent, dating from a town in Western Nova Scotia, sends us proof that the system of using the primary Public schools as academies, where future teachers are trained, and where all the "ologies" and the "higher education" rather than the three R's are taught, is not confined to Ontario. This gentleman, who writes from Annapolis County, says:

"Your columns have, during the last few months, contained several very instructive references to the question of Public School Education, more particularly in Ontario, but the remarks are equally applicable to this province. It would seem to be useless to urge reforms in the methods of teaching adopted, while we have persons in authority willing to commit themselves to such a statement as our superintendent is reported to have made."

The reference is to an address made by the Superintendent of Schools for Nova Scotia, before a Teachers' Institute, at Weymouth, on 25th May. The evening meeting was a public one, and the hall, we are told by the Halifax papers, was crowded to the doors. Said the Superintendent:

"Our Public School System is the result of a compromise; therefore poorer than the best teachers would have it, but better than the poorest would make it. We need not be ashamed of our schools, nor of the work done in them. True, we are handicapped by losing two years of school life in learning spelling when it ought to be learned in a week. So also a vast amount of time is thrown away on reduction tables, which will be saved when the metric system becomes imperative."

Evidently, then, this official is no less contemptuous of spelling, as a subject of school tuition, than a certain Toronto teacher cited in this journal last month was of both penmanship and spelling. The scholars of the Toronto teacher in question, by the way, were taught (highest Fifth form), Algebra, Euclid, Physics and Botany for 275 minutes each week, but spelling only 15 minutes, and penmanship did not appear on the time-table at all. Several of the local clergy were present, it seems, at this Weymouth lecture, and one at least, Father Sullivan, put himself on record as "satisfied with the Public School System of Nova Scotia." So, however, was not Professor Russell, of the Normal School, who was by no means in love with the method of teaching Science in the majority of schools, but, indeed, expressed dislike of the Geology text-book. Says our correspondent:

"I think it is generally understood that the whole system here is framed and conducted with the object of making teachers, and not for the benefit directly of the majority of the pupils. I was present at a large public meeting not long ago and heard the