

can apply to this company, giving an option of purchase on the claim. Free of cost to the claim owner, the company's experts will make a superficial examination of the claim, and reject or accept as the case may be. Should the claim be accepted a further option on terms to be agreed upon will be arranged, and the company will go to the expense of sinking a shaft or other necessary work, and if results are satisfactory the company will take over the claim and pay the price agreed to the former owner. The claim can then be sold or developed as the company deems advisable.

The Bullion Mining Company has commenced by securing a directorate of well known practical business men, whose names are a guarantee that its affairs will be conducted upon honorable business principles, and that its obligations will be carried out without failure. Its first stock holders are all men having something at stake in the country, and who are consequently interested in building up the mining industry of the country, and building it up as an industry and not for purely speculative purposes.

The first issue of the company's stock is now being made, and is only open to subscribers to the 30th of this month. Stock will be issued only as the demands of the company's business dictate, but there can be little fear but the business will soon assume large proportions. In short we have no hesitation in asserting our belief that the Bullion Mining Company will prove a profitable institution to its shareholders, and a great and valuable power in developing mining as an industry in the Lake of the Woods district.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE COMMERCIAL has several times referred to the misleading nature of most crop reports. The last official United States crop report may be taken as a sample. The average condition of winter and spring wheat is placed at 83.4, on July 1, as compared with 76.2 for the same date last year. This would indicate a larger crop this year than last, the area being practically the same in each year. Every one familiar at all with crop conditions in the United States, however, expects a considerably smaller crop this year than was harvested in 1895, estimates ranging from 30,000,000 to 60,000,000 bushels less than last year.

A PASTEUR Institute professor is visiting the United States with the object of exterminating rodents. Gophers, prairie dogs, squirrels and jack rabbits have become a pest in some of the western states, and have proved very destructive to crops. The professor proposes to inoculate the rodents with the virus of some deadly disease which will be quickly communicated from one to another. In France this plan has been successfully tried to exterminate field rats. The professor claims that the virus will not be injurious to human beings or domestic animals. It is used on the same principle as poison. The virus is used in liquid form, and in it bits of bread or grain can be soaked, and then scattered about the haunts of the animals. Like poison, it kills the animals

which eat it, but it works slowly, giving time to impart the infection to others of the same species. As gophers have proved somewhat destructive in some of our western prairie sections, their experiment in disposing of rodents in the western states will be watched with interest here.

THE WINNIPEG Free Press has several times of late vigorously advocated the grievance of our wheat at home, and having it exported in the form of flour. This would undoubtedly be to the advantage of this country, if it could be profitably carried out. There are obstacles, however, in the way of doing a profitable export flour trade. In fact leading millers in Canada and the United States claim that there is no money in the export trade, and they say that much of it is carried on at a loss. Their profit is in the domestic trade, and the surplus production which is exported, if often sold at a loss. This can readily be believed when prices are looked into, as it is not an unusual thing to note the sale of American flour in British markets at lower prices than are current at the point of production. Some argue from this that millers are getting exorbitant profits at home. This, however, is by no means certain. There is no industry in which competition is keener than in flour milling, and there is no reason to believe that profits are excessive. In fact it would seem that even in the domestic trade, the profits are often cut exceedingly fine. In Minneapolis, at the present time, a movement is on foot among the millers to secure a differential in freight rates to the seaboard, on flour for export, of 2½¢ per 100 pounds. This claim is made on the ground that millers are meeting with heavy losses on their export business. If the Free Press could induce the railway companies to guarantee a considerable differential in freight rates on flour for export, from Manitoba points, then there would be some hope for the establishment of a large export trade in flour.

A GREAT deal has been written on the question of immigration but it is seldom that anything new is said on this subject. C. A. Magrath, a member of the territorial legislature, however, is out with a new proposal in the matter of immigration. His proposal is as follows: "I would," he says, "endorse our Government going to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and trying to arrange such terms as would enable the latter to put into operation for a term of years, say fifteen, the lowest freight and passenger rates that obtain in the most thickly settled portions of Eastern Canada; the Government to make good in some manner to be mutually satisfactory, the difference caused by this minimum rate. These low rates should act as a stimulus to our growth, and in arriving at a basis of settlement, of course it would be remembered that the increased business following the adoption of low rates would of itself bring a reduction on the rates now in existence. It would therefore be erroneous to suppose that the government would be called upon to make up—or partially make up—during the fifteen years, the difference that exists between the rates now in operation and

those that such an arrangement would produce. Another fact must not be lost sight of, viz., the deep interest that the railway company has in the country would doubtless bring a large scheme like this within the range of possibilities, which under other circumstances would make it absolutely impossible. If it should be too large to be practicable, then could it not be modified so as to apply to, say, wheat and other farm produce." It has often been said that a contented settler is the best immigration agent, and a large reduction in freight rates would have a tendency in that direction. Mr. Magrath's idea, if it could be carried into effect, would no doubt be beneficial, and it would not interfere with any other efforts in the interest of immigration. Immigration is a very important matter, but what is of more importance is the contentment and prosperity of the people already in the country. Mr. Magrath's plan would work beneficially in regard to each of these interests.

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat.—No. 1 hard, Fort William, afloat irregular, and about nominal at 78 to 80c.

Flour.—Local price, per sack, Patents, \$2.05; Bakers, \$1.55.

Bran.—Per ton, \$11.

Shorts.—Per ton, \$18.

Oats.—Per bushel, car lots, local freights, 88 to 89½c.

Barley.—Per bushel, about 40c local freights.

Flax Seed.—Small sales retail at \$1.50 per bushel.

Butter.—Dairy 8 to 10c. Creamery, 14 to 14½c.

Cheese.—6c.

Eggs.—Fresh, 10c net, jobbing 11 to 12c.

Beef.—City dressed, 4½ to 5½c.

Mutton.—Fresh, 7c; lamb, 7c.

Hogs.—Dressed, 5½c to 6c.

Cattle.—Butchers' 2½ to 2¾c. Export 8 to 8½c.

Hogs.—Live, off cars, 4c.

Sheep.—8 to 8½c; lambs, \$1 to \$2.75 each.

Seneca Root.—Dry 16 to 19c lb.

Poultry.—Chickens, 40 to 45c per pair, turkeys, 8c lb., live weight.

Hides.—No. 1 cows, good salted 7½c.

Wool.—Unwashed fleece, 9 to 10½c.

Potatoes.—New, 50c per bushel.

Hay.—\$4.50 to \$5.00 per ton, car lots.

Grocery Trade Notes.

A prominent Maine sardine packer says that it was now almost certain that by Aug. 1st the new Maine trust would be in control of the situation. No fish, he said, were coming into Eastport or Lubec, and that admitting, for the sake of argument, the combination would prove a failure, the supply of fish would be a powerful factor in regulating the market. The pack so far is 200,000 cases short of last season, and he believed it would be impossible to make up this deficiency.—N. Y. Commercial Bulletin.

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