

Iron in House Construction.

The *North-west Lumberman* contains a description of a house which will be constructed entirely of iron. This material is now extensively used in the construction of mills where inflammable material is in use of manufacture but hitherto the only attempt that we have heard of of using iron for house building purposes was made by Dundas S. Porteous, a celebrated Scotch engineer who built himself a subterranean house of iron which was to be his burying place and in which he nearly lost his life through failing to provide means for opening the door from the inside. The following is the description of the house which Mr. George L. Huston of Parkersburg, Pa., is credited with intending to build: "The floors of the hall, vestibule and library will be laid with polished cast-iron tiles, in which different qualities of iron will be used to produce the same variety of color as in ordinary tile flooring. All the other floors of the house will be of stout iron plates firmly bolted to the iron joists. The outside walls and inside partitions will be composed of two courses of iron plates firmly bolted together, so as to be airtight. These hollow iron walls and partitions will be used instead of chimneys and for conveying heat to different parts of the house, and for ventilation. The hot smoke and gases from the furnaces passing through the sides of the rooms in this way will, it is claimed, be almost sufficient to keep the house comfortable in the coldest weather, so that the heating can be done with about one-half of the fuel required in ordinary houses. All the doors and window sashes will also be iron, but will be constructed in such a light way and so nicely balanced upon hinges and weights as to open and shut as easily as those made of wood. In the parlor will be a mantle of polished steel handsomely ornamented. There will be a similar one in the dining-room, upon which will be engraved hunting scenes. In the library will be a massive mantel, so constructed that it will look as if it were made of pig iron fused together. Mr. Huston admits that his house may cost him twice or three times as much as an ordinary house, but claims with a little attention it will last for centuries without repairs, and will never cost a cent for insurance. The foundation of the house will be solid rock."

A New Building Material.

Terra Cotta Lumber is the name of a new building material a description of which is given in the *Freeman's Journal*. "It is made by mixing the kaolinite or 'top' clay, which is found in immense quantities throughout Middlesex County, with sawdust until the consistency of dough is obtained, when it is cast in large square blocks and burned in kilns, in a manner similar to that of ordinary brick. This results in a peculiar terra cotta ware possessing peculiar properties. It has no fibrous texture like wood, the strength of the material arising from incipient vitrification, obtained in firing, and half-inch boards made of it, smoothly planed and joined, show greater strength and tenacity than dry oak of equal thickness. Every shape which can be given to wood by edged tools can

be given to terra cotta lumber. It is as easily worked as pine or spruce, is half the weight of building brick, and tightly retains plastering without the aid of lathing. In order to display the resistant qualities of terra cotta lumber to fire and water, an experiment was made with it. A furnace tender, with a long pair of steel tongs, took from the centre of the furnace a small block of the ware which had attained a white heat and plunged it into a pail of water. After cooling it was placed on a forge, and the water with which it was saturated expelled in the form of steam; petroleum was next poured over it, and afterwards ignited, the block continuing to burn with a steady flame for several minutes. Subsequent examination of the block by sawing it in two showed no difference in appearance from other material which had not been submitted to so severe a test." With such vast quantities of scrub wood as exist in the disputed territory where clay also abounds the manufacture of terra cotta lumber possessing as it does such desirable qualities may be regarded prospectively as a North-west industry.

Mining Statistics.

The following is a summary of mining dividends paid in 1882:—

Arizona	\$2,262,500
Colorado	2,326,650
California	4,407,047
Dakota	1,110,000
Montana	221,516
Michigan	2,730,000
Nevada	693,262
Utah	2,129,600
Miscellaneous	1,370,000

Grand Total . . . \$14,219,975

This is the amount of dividend paid by sixty-five mines, and by no means represents all the dividends paid; and yet there are journals which say that it is questionable if mining pays any country. The bullion product of Colorado alone in 1882 was \$26,750,898.

D. R. O'Neil, from Paris, Ont., is about to open up business in Regina, as a dealer in grain and provisions.

The iron work for the Broadway bridge having arrived, the work of construction will be proceeded with without further delay.

The new C. P. R. depot being covered in the work of plastering inside has commenced, and by the first of March it is expected the building will be fit for use.

On Sunday the several railway blocks, south, east and west, were practically removed, and on Monday it was announced that the C.P.R. track was clear over all its main line and branches.

The Hudson's Bay Company are going to build a bridge across the river at Qu'Appelle, on the town site. Mr. T. W. Jackson will also build one on his town site to cross the river. The public will be well supplied next summer.

Dun, Wiman & Co. have issued the first number of their Mercantile Test and Legal Record for the North-west. The publication will in future appear semi-monthly, and will no doubt

prove a very useful institution in business circles.

The one train a day to and from the south is beginning to be felt an annoyance by some business men. The C. P. R. can probably do all the traffic with one train, but Winnipeg people having been accustomed to two are probably spoiled a little.

There was some chance of a slight scarcity of wood early in the week, but considerably over 100 cars have arrived during the past few days, and the mild weather having lessened the demand, a scarcity is no longer probable. The railway yards at Selkirk are almost blockaded with cord wood, awaiting transit to Winnipeg.

There are threats of no less than eight of the past elections being contested, and terribly dark insinuations of personal bribery are abundant. Considering the crowd on both sides who appealed to the electors of Manitoba, it might be well to let matters rest as they are. It is just possible that the electoral purity of the Province would not shine out brightly if close investigation of all the elections was made.

Before Chief Justice Wallbridge yesterday a case was tried which tested the validity of a chattel mortgage. Townsend & Co., druggists, Winnipeg, gave a chattel mortgage on their stock to one Perkins, and Bleasdel & Co. of Toronto sought to set aside the same on the ground that they (Townsend & Co.) were insolvent when the same was given. His Lordship, after hearing the evidence declared the mortgage null and void.

Mr. S. McIlvanie's paper mill at Portage la Prairie is at last in full swing, and running day and night. Some two weeks ago a full and inexhaustible supply of water was secured, and matters were at once got into running order, and on Wednesday the mill commenced running to stop only for the rest of Sunday. The proprietor has now more orders for building and tar paper than he can fill by night and day running for two months. As soon as these are filled he will commence to wrapping paper, for the manufacture of which he has already two car loads of waste paper in waiting. It is more than likely that during the summer the manufacture of print paper will be reached, and in that case there are numbers of Winnipeg houses ready to use up all the mills can turn out.

The Pride of the West rooms on Post Office Street are to be turned into a hotel and restaurant during the next two weeks, and will be conducted by ——— Keefer. The new hotel will be called the Board of Trade House, and will be a kind of commercial rendezvous. The proprietor will have in the reading room the leading commercial journals of Canada, the United States and Great Britain, so that his patrons can know the trade events of the continents of America and Europe. It is his intention also to erect a bulletin board, and make arrangements to have telegrams each day of the leading stock and grain markets of America. The Board of Trade House will be quite a novelty in the hotel line, and will be well patronized, as it certainly ought to be by business men generally. We wish Mr. Keefer every success in connection with his new undertaking.