OVER SIX MILLION DOLLARS have thus far been realized from the sale of pre-empted lands in the west under the act passed last session, allowing each homesteader to purchase at \$3 per acre an additional 120 acres of Dominion lands, thus obtaining a farm of 320 acres. The total number of acres taken up during the last quarter of 1908 was 2,009,139. When the bill was passed it was tacitly agreed by the Government that the first charge on this fund would be the cost of construction of the proposed Hudson's Bay Railway, for which the survey is now being made, though this understanding has not yet been formally incorporated in legislation. The estimated cost of the whole road is fifteen millions.

OUT OF NEARLY 2,500 MEN offered snow-shovelling work recently in Toronto by the superintendent of the free employment bureau, only about 1,600 called for their shovels. In other words, one-third of those representing themselves as out of work, apparently prefer that state of ease, even in zero weather.

THE OUTPUT OF NEW VESSELS in the United Kingdom during 1908 was about 1,050,000 tons as compared with 1,800,000 tons in 1907—the decrease amounting in value to somewhere between forty and fifty million dollars. In effect this falling-off is equal to the entire 1907 output of Germany and the United States togethr.

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Yours truly,

Charles N. Telly

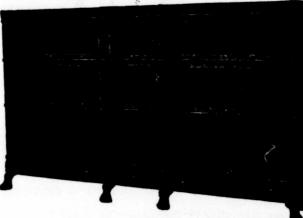
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