

Free Lands at Rainy River.

It is officially announced that sixty thousand acres of the free grant lands in the Rainy river district have been surveyed and are now available for settlement.

The general provisions of the free Grants and Homesteads Act apply also to free grants in the Rainy river district, which will soon be traversed by the Canadian Northern railway, with these differences:

The limit of a Rainy river free grant is 160 acres. The male head of a family or the sole female head of a family having a child or children under eighteen residing with him or her may locate for 160 acres, and may also purchase an additional 80 acres at \$1 an acre.

The settlement duties are: (1) To have at least fifteen acres cleared and had under cultivation, of which two acres at least are to be cleared and cultivated annually during the three years; (2) To have built habitable house, at least 16 by 20 feet size; (3) And to have actually and continuously resided upon and cultivated the land for three years after location.

A locatee who purchases an additional 80 acres must, within three years, clear fifteen acres and cultivate the same. Patents may issue at the expiration of three years from the date of purchase, or sooner if the settlement duties have been performed. Pine trees and minerals are reserved from the sale. The locatee may cut and use such pine trees as he requires for building, fencing and fuel on his land, and may also cut and dispose of any pine required to be removed in the process of clearing; but he must pay timber dues on pine so disposed of. Trees remaining on the land at the time the patent issues pass to the patentee.

The following townships are now open for location under the Rainy River Free Grants and Homesteads Act: Curran, Atwood, Blue, Worthington, Nelles, Carpenter, Dilke, Patullo, Morley, S. of Morley, Tait, Shenston, Rosebery, Barwick, Lash, Aylsworth, Devlin, Woodyatt, Crozier, Roddick, Doble.

The agents for the sale and location of the lands are: Wm. Campbell, Rainy River P. O., agent for the townships of Rosebery, Shenston, Tait, Patullo, Morley, Dilke, Nelles, Blue, Worthington, Curran and Atwood; William Stephenson, Big Forks P. O., agent for the townships of Barwick, Lash, Aylsworth, Devlin, Woodyatt, Crozier, Roddick, Carpenter and Doble; E. A. Chapman, Rat Portage, who will furnish intending settlers with the number of lots open for location.

The Rainy river block comprises the only agricultural land along the line of the Canadian Northern in Ontario.

The property of the Pioneer Steam Navigation Co., of Wabigoon, Ontario, (in liquidation) consisting of the steamers "Galatea" and "Wm. Whyte," with their equipment and two barges as they now lie at the dock at Wabigoon, and the steamer "Wm. Cross," with her equipment, and one barge as she now lies at the dock at Gold Rock, Ontario, and also a freight shed 20x24 at Gold Rock, and a stopping place at Pickle Rapids is being offered for sale by tender. Tenders for all of the above mentioned property may be made in two ways: First, en bloc as a going concern; secondly, for any portion or portions in place. Tenders will be received up to Monday, the 1st day of April, 1901. D. A. Pender, accountant, Rat Portage, Ont., is receiver.

The Anthracite Coal Company has for some time past been engaged in drilling for the purpose of discovering what was below the well known bed of the Souris lignite coal deposit. After passing through some small strata of iron tinged clay, and one or two seams of coal an inch or two thick, a bed of solid clay 40 feet thick was struck. Below that a seam of sandstone two feet thick was met and underneath that a seam of coal 26 inches thick. This coal approximated in quality to the Canadian Anthracite. It coked well and proved to be a coal of very superior quality. The depth at which this seam was found was 108 feet below the river bank. It would seem from this that beds of coal of superior quality exist below the lignite deposits of the surface.

MINING MATTERS.

British Columbia Mining.

The mill run on the Athabasca mine last month averaged \$18.11 per ton. The mill ran 10 days, crushing 289 tons, which yielded a total of \$5,237.00.

Kaslo is offering a bonus of \$50,000, and exemption from taxation for ten years to any company who will erect and operate a smelter at that point.

The mining committee of the provincial legislature has decided to urge the minister of mines to issue crown grants for placer ground instead of leases as at present.

The mining force at the Athabasca, Nelson, has been increased by some fifty men, there being about eighty in all now at work. The new cyanide plant works well.

Ratepayers of Kaslo and Slocan have unanimously passed a by-law to provide a \$50,000 bonus for a smelter to be erected there. A site has been secured and exceptionally good water power obtained.

The Centre Star has declared another dividend of 1 per cent, amounting to \$35,000. This is the fifth dividend, making the total amount paid up upwards of \$176,000. The dividend is payable on April 1.

The contract has been let for the air compressor and drill equipment of the Dominion Copper Company's property at Phoenix. This machine will be 20 drills. The Siemens property will also be supplied with a compressor plant of five-drill capacity as well as some further equipment.

The Rossland "Miner" expresses the opinion that everything points to great activity in mining development in the boundary country the coming summer. All who have knowledge of the immensity of the mineral deposits of that district are quite certain that, given adequate smelter and transportation facilities, there is no portion of the continent of America which will make greater strides in progress and prosperity.

It is calculated by the Rossland "Miner" that the aggregate capacity of the interior smelters is now a treatment of 3,500 tons a day. The van Anda smelter on Texada Island adds slightly to the above total. When at work, so 3,500 tons a day will be in round figures about the present aggregate daily smelting capacity of the works in the province, counting in that just across the line at Northport, near Rossland, and attached to the Le Roi mine ownership.

It has been announced from Rossland, where the head office of the company is situated, that a plan has just been perfected whereby the treasury of the Brandon and Golden Crown Mining Company will be replenished and that this will enable mining operations to be resumed shortly on the extensive scale. The company's Golden Crown mine is in the boundary district. Much stock in this company is held at Brandon and other places in Manitoba.

The Revelstoke Board of Trade has resolved to decline to co-operate with the Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia in urging the provincial government to support the granting of a charter for the proposed railway to connect the Crow's Nest Pass coal fields with the Great Northern railway. The Revelstoke board is of the opinion that the granting of that charter would not be in the interests of the smelting industry of the province.

Robert Jaffray, of Toronto, is reported to have stated at Victoria on the 9th instant, that Elias Rogers, who is managing director of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, has an option on an iron property near Crow's Nest and that, if results of examination warrant it, a smelter will be erected to treat the ore. He is also reported from Vancouver to have said in that city that there are three large smaller propositions on foot, and that the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company and the Great Northern Railway Company will do all they possibly can to forward projects for building in British Columbia.

British Columbia's representatives on the Board of the Canadian Mining Institute, elected at the annual meeting at Montreal on March 8, are Vice-president, Robert R. Hedley, manager of the Hall Mines smelter, Nelson; members of the council, Bernard Macdonald, manager of the Le Roi mine, Rossland; Edmund B. Kirby, manager

of the War Eagle mine, Rossland, and John B. Holston, manager of the Cariboo Consolidated Hydraulic Mining Company, Quesnel. Another western representative in the council is W. F. Little, of Anthracite, Northwest Territories.

The Hall Mining and Smelting Company, Ltd., has issued notice to its shareholders, calling up the last shilling due upon the company's £1 shares. The circular in which the call is made sets out that it was thought advisable to make the call, as the use of this amount will effect an important saving in interest charges. Concerning the company's smelting operations the circular calls attention to the fact that smelting and mining are now carried on as separate businesses. The obstacles which the company has to overcome in the way of profitable lead smelting were the uncertainty of the supply from the mines in the district, the insufficiency of fluxing and iron ores, and the inadequacy of the existing power of the calcining plant in the possession of the old company. Satisfactory contracts have now been made with the lead mines, as well as contracts for a sufficient supply of iron ore for fluxing purposes, and the board has caused a new mechanical roaster and briquetting plant to be erected at a cost of \$25,000, which will very materially reduce the cost of smelting.

Wheat Stocks.

A considerable decrease in stocks of wheat in the United States and Canada, which was almost offset by increases in the stocks in the other leading countries of the world during February, left the total supply on March 1 but little below that held at the beginning of the preceding month. The increases were shared almost equally between the stocks in Europe and Australasia and Argentina. We give below the usual data bearing on the state of the world's wheat supplies, which is of special interest just at present in view of the forthcoming government report on the situation.

The total stock of wheat in the leading countries of the world on or about March 1 compares with preceding periods as follows:—

	Mar. 1, 1901.	Mar. 1, 1900.
U.S. and Canada.....	3,010	3,001
Europe and Australasia.....	74,800	72,000
Australia.....	12,000	10,000
Argentina.....	3,125	1,050
Totals.....	178,935	175,051
	1900.	1899.
U.S. and Canada.....	30,354	30,130
Europe and Australasia.....	68,000	68,200
Australia.....	9,000	8,000
Argentina.....	7,000	2,570
Totals.....	170,354	135,505

In the following table we give the details of the movement of stocks in the United States and Canada, by months, since January 1, 1900:—

	East of Rockies.	Pacific coast, and Canada.	Totals U.S. and Canada.
Jan. 1, 1900.....	89,235,000	10,022,000	99,257,000
Feb. 1	87,473,000	8,923,000	96,396,000
Mar. 1	85,570,000	7,814,000	93,384,000
Apr. 1	79,339,000	7,237,000	86,576,000
May 1	70,764,000	7,050,000	77,814,000
June 1	57,617,000	6,863,000	64,480,000
July 1	58,523,000	5,903,000	64,426,000
Aug. 1	60,398,000	5,770,000	66,168,000
Sep. 1	60,210,000	7,483,000	67,693,000
Oct. 1	70,071,000	10,208,000	80,279,000
Nov. 1	82,238,000	9,982,000	92,220,000
Dec. 1	80,591,000	10,057,000	90,648,000

Of the decrease for the month shown in the above table, as will be seen, the bulk occurred in the stocks east of the Rockies.

The situation of supplies in the United States and Canada is shown in the following table, which gives the stock of wheat held on March 1, 1901, with comparisons for eight years past:—

	East of Rockies.	Pacific coast, and Canada.	Totals U.S. and Canada.
1901	80,704,000	6,072,000	86,776,000
1900	85,570,000	7,814,000	93,384,000
1899	51,055,000	5,104,000	56,159,000
1898	45,021,000	4,424,000	49,445,000
1897	61,604,000	1,857,000	63,461,000
1896	94,328,000	4,250,000	98,578,000
1895	96,745,000	11,891,000	108,636,000
1894	96,210,000	6,622,000	102,832,000
1893	103,223,000	5,470,000	108,693,000

The position of European supplies on March 1 compared with preceding

months and years was as follows:—

	(000,000's omitted.)
Jan. 1	102,078,589,37,388,700,000,001
Feb. 1	105,081,173,877,571,001,001,001
Mar. 1	101,083,274,370,269,008,000,001
Apr. 1	100,079,763,061,769,007,771,7
May 1	100,081,563,153,061,565,070,2
June 1	99,085,562,055,067,270,081,1
July 1	87,088,461,450,350,350,350,350
Aug. 1	82,086,848,038,044,803,041,0
Sep. 1	77,089,402,41,137,063,062,2
Oct. 1	77,089,058,57,319,700,007,0
Nov. 1	70,089,489,270,551,471,172,4
Dec. 1	70,089,489,270,551,471,172,4

European supplies, it may be noted, are larger than they have been at any time since February, 1897.

The combined American and European stocks make the following comparison:—

	(000,000's omitted.)
Jan. 1	160,167,117,118,118,118,118
Feb. 1	161,162,118,118,118,118,118
Mar. 1	162,159,121,118,118,118,118
Apr. 1	161,123,114,122,163,181
May 1	149,117,05,107,146,172
June 1	132,116,09,04,133,158
July 1	128,119,89,78,121,148
Aug. 1	123,116,59,61,108,140
Sep. 1	123,117,59,61,107,132
Oct. 1	154,134,67,95,127,153
Nov. 1	168,159,88,111,127,178
Dec. 1	170,160,106,127,172,185

There is here shown, as will be seen, a decrease of 5,000,000 bushels in European and American supplies for the month of February, but there is a gain of 3,000,000 bushels as compared with a year ago, of 38,000,000 bushels as compared with the corresponding date of 1899, of 44,000,000 bushels as compared with 1898 and of 29,000,000 bushels as compared with 1897, but a decrease of 10,000,000 bushels as compared with March, 1896.—Bradstreet's.

Great Britain's Imports of Wrought Steel.

Writing on the statistics of imports of unwrought steel by Great Britain during 1900 and the two preceding years, an authority, the London Iron and Coal Trades Review, notes that "these figures emphasize the fact that Great Britain is importing steel in augmented quantities from nearly all of the steel-producing countries, which in varying degree, compete with Great Britain's own steel industry in the markets of the world. In 1898 Great Britain imported an aggregate of 40,231 tons from all sources. This total, which had swelled to 77,290 tons in 1899, reached the seriously obtrusive total of 179,341 tons in 1900. In other words more than two and a half times as much foreign-produced steel was imported last year as was imported during the year previous, and over four times more than for 1898.

"The principal contributor to this result was of course, the United States, from whose Atlantic ports we absorbed 157,551 tons last year, as compared with 59,374 tons in 1899 and 29,371 tons in 1898. Here we have an increased importation of close upon 100,000 tons during the past twelve months. Our next largest imports were from Sweden, from which source, however, we derived rather less during last year than during the year previous. Our imports of Swedish unwrought steel last year amounted to 12,192 tons, as compared with 14,081 tons in 1899, and 6,004 tons in 1898. The fact remains that, with the exception of the United States, from which we derived vastly the greater portion of our foreign-produced steel, Sweden continues, though on a somewhat diminished scale, our second largest source of supply. Holland takes third place with 4,852 tons last year, being more than four times the amount taken in 1899. Canada is drawing forward with 1,577 tons in 1900 against 387 tons in 1899, and Belgium shipped 1,460 tons to us last year as compared with 938 tons in the year previous. Germany follows with 911 tons, against 109 tons, and the remaining totals are trifling, representing in 1898 or 1899 such sources of origin as the Argentine Republic, the Cape, Italy, Japan, Norway, Russia and Victoria, which find no places in the statistics for last year. On the other hand, New South Wales and Portugal appear on the list for the first time in 1900, although the figures are insignificant.

"The fact that we are deriving from the steel works of our arch-competitor the United States, an increasing yearly tonnage of unwrought material is, however, an unpalatable fact which our manufacturers and engineers will do well to appraise at its proper industrial and economic valuation."