

MONEY IN MAPLE.

Mr. John Bayne MacLean, writing in the *Canada Stationer*, says: In Canada we have the best hard maple in the world. The farmer in many districts spends part of his winter cutting it and selling it for firewood. He is quite happy if he realizes from \$1 to \$3, or perhaps \$4 a cord. This is a sad waste of one of our greatest natural treasures. Much of it can be more profitably used in other ways. In the manufacture of wall paper, an industry constantly growing here and abroad, hundreds of thousands of rollers are used for printing the various patterns. These rollers are made of the very best hard maple, the very kind that Canada produces better than other country in the world. In the rough they are 19½ to 23½ inches long. The end is five or six inches square, according to the size of the roller required. Only the most perfect wood can be used. It is cut into these sizes. The ends are painted to prevent the wood drying faster with the grain than across it. It is then allowed to stand for three or four years. By this time it is thoroughly seasoned. This is all the labor put upon it. Good maple in this form, after being properly seasoned, brings 50 to 75c. per rough block. A considerable quantity of maple blocks are similarly treated each year for use in mangles. These must be of first-class wood, but are not necessarily as perfect as the wall paper rollers.

NEATNESS PAYS.

Sometimes it is a great temptation to mention names, but it will hardly do, and here is a case in point. I was wandering about the yards of a railroad shop about three weeks ago, where, despite the fact that it was the "bone yard," there was not a vestige of refuse of any kind. The planking between the tracks was actually swept clean, and though there were fifty or sixty men at work there was nothing lying about to stumble over. I asked my companion how much less it cost him to keep things clean than in confusion, to which he replied that it certainly cost him no more, but as he had never tried the confusion plan he could not give the actual saving. I went from there direct to a big car manufactory, and it was big; big in the acreage of ground it covered, and bigger still in the confusion that existed. I thought I had seen bad places before, but I never had. Nothing in my wildest imagination had ever equalled it. Car timbers of all sorts and dimensions were tumbled confusedly together. In one heap I saw different lengths of longitudinal sills, corner posts, cross-tie timbers, and end sills. Shavings and chips had accumulated like the leaves of a primeval forest, and I actually do not know whether there was any floor in the planing mill or not, other than mother earth.

We were after the dimensions of certain cars that had been built. Of course, drawings were an unheard of quantity, so we started to search for the laying-out pole. At first we were the assistant superintendent and myself, increased in ten minutes by the man who had charge of the poles, again increased at the end of another ten minutes by the department foreman, only to be eked out shortly afterwards by two laborers, to say nothing of the man whose machine we were obliged to stop while prosecuting our search. Of course it was dusty, and the more the poles were handled the dirtier we and the air became, until everyone was irritated and ready to swear, and I am not sure but that some of us did. Well, after an hour and a half of pulling and hauling we gave it up, because some of us guessed it must have been put elsewhere. I do not know what the search really cost the company, but I do know that if I had a job it would not go there. I am inclined to think that such a place would add to its income by opening its grounds to the public (for a fee) just to show how bad things can be and still have the semblance of holding together. In the neat place I saw a refinement that is a little unusual. The cleaner-up of the yard had a wheelbarrow with a rubber-tired wheel. He says it runs more easily than his old barrow, and that it does not jar so much on the pavement.—*Railway Review*.

NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of proprietors was appointed to be held within the bank's head office in Edinburgh on Monday, the 21st

December, 1896. The following report was prepared for submission:

REPORT.

The directors submit herewith the certified balance-sheet and profit and loss account of the bank as at 31st October last; and have pleasure in reporting the following satisfactory results of the past year's business:—
After making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, the net profit amounts to £178,314 4 6
To which there falls to be added the undivided balance brought forward from last year, viz. 31,707 17 0

Making together £210,022 1 6

This amount the directors have resolved to apply as follows, viz:—

To the payment of the ordinary dividend at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum. £130,000 0 0	
and an extra dividend, or bonus, at the increased rate of 3 per cent. per annum. 30,000 0 0	
To the reserve fund. 30,000 0 0	
and to carry forward to next year. 20,022 1 6	
	£210,022 1 6

The dividend and bonus will be paid to the proprietors in equal parts on 12th January and 13th July next, free of income tax.

Exclusive of the sum of £160,000 set aside to meet the full year's dividend and bonus now declared, and also of the unappropriated balance of £20,022 1s. 6d. carried forward, the reserve fund of the bank is £850,000.

In accordance with the requirements of the bank's constitution, the two senior members of the board, Mr. W. Elliott Lockhart and Mr. Alexander Wilson, now retire, and in order to fill up the vacancies thus caused, the directors recommend the proprietors to elect Mr. William Houldsworth and Mr. Fletcher Norton Menzies. They also recommend the appointment of Mr. Elliott Lockhart and Mr. Wilson as members of the extraordinary board.

It will be necessary for the proprietors to appoint auditors for the current year, and the directors beg to suggest that Mr. George Todd Chiene, C.A., Edinburgh, and Mr. John Macdonald Henderson, F.C.A., London, should be elected.

W. ELLIOTT LOCKHART,
Chairman of the Board.

The National Bank of Scotland, Limited,
Edinburgh, 14th December, 1896.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER, 1896

To charges of management at head office, London office, and 107 branches. £136,049 5 10	
Dividend at the rate of 13 per cent. £130,000 0 0	
Extra dividend, or bonus, of 3 per cent. 30,000 0 0	
	160,000 0 0
Added to reserve fund. 30,000 0 0	
Balance carried forward to next year. 20,022 1 6	
	£346,071 7 4
By balance brought forward from last year. £31,707 17 0	
Gross profit, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts; deducting interest due but not paid, rebate on bills current, income tax, license and stamp duty; and applying a sum of £21,029 8s. 8d. in reduction of cost of heritable property and of alterations. 314,363 10 4	
	£346,071 7 4

W. ELLIOTT LOCKHART,
ROBERT STEWART,
JOHN WARRACK, } Directors.
T. H. SMITH, General Manager.

PROGRESS OF ACETYLENE.

The *London Iron and Steel Trades Review* says: "The method by which M. Raoul Pictet purifies acetylene is based upon the failure of certain chemical reactions when the material is exposed to low temperature. At -50° C. (-58° Fahr.) sulphuric acid does not act upon acetylene, but it does act upon the impurities usually found in that gas when made from carbide of calcium; and, therefore, the gas, as it is formed from the carbide, is passed through that acid, which retains the impurities. The purified acetylene is then more manageable and more easily liquefied, while its obnoxious odor, its liability to spontaneous ignition (through the presence of phosphuretted hydrogen), and its action upon metals are very largely got rid of, while the light produced is intensely white and bright.

Speaking of the acetylene light, an English exchange says it is finding its way into print works, dye house and bleacheries. The coolness of the flame, with its great luminosity, is the chief recommendation, and it is now very simply and easily produced. It is a thoroughly clean, good light for the textile coloring trades, but there is one point worth noting about it. In view of its white light textile colorists have jumped to the conclusion that it will be good for matching colors, whereas, as a matter of fact, it plays as many tricks with shades as the gaslight. Compound shades, viewed in the acetylene light, vary according to the proportion of their constituent colors. A large number of experiments made in this direction by a well-known Scottish colorist prove that, although to appearance acetylene gives a much whiter and purer light than coal gas, the effects are almost identical in color examination.

Electricity remarks that the news has reached it from a reliable source that the Niagara Carbide Company, which, by the way, is the parent company of the great acetylene promotion scheme, claims that no one has a right to make, sell or use a machine for the generation of acetylene gas for illuminating purposes in the United States without its permission. In one case they actually threatened the inventor of such a machine with suit if he undertook to make and sell it for that purpose without permission from them. At the same time they informed him that they still had valuable territorial rights to sell.

Professor Frank Clowes recently delivered a lecture on the explosibility of acetylene, remarking that the value of acetylene as an illuminant, and the discovery of its ready production from calcium carbide, have led to the manufacture of this gas in some quantity, and acetylene will probably be dealt with in still larger volume in the near future. It becomes, therefore, important to devise methods for detecting its presence in the air, arising from leakage and escape, and to measure the percentage of the gas present at any place. It is also important to know what proportions of the gas, when present in mixture with air, will lead to explosion if the mixture should be kindled. The detection of small proportions of the gas will not be readily effected by its smell when it is prepared in a state of purity; at present the smell is made much more pronounced by the impurities which the commercial gas contains. Further, the smell will not in any case furnish a means of measuring the proportion present in the air."

—Where are the growing cities of the middle west located? Where lake transportation is available. Cleveland is outstripping Cincinnati. Buffalo is the most thriving city in the Empire State beside New York. Detroit, Milwaukee, Duluth and a score of smaller places have made wonderful strides and are outstripping their rivals which have not the advantage of cheap water transportation. Chicago escaped the threatened and anticipated collapse after the World's Columbian Exposition, and the recent election in that city showed that its population had made a remarkable gain. There can be but one cause for this great advance in all lake cities, and that cause is the advantage cheap water transportation gives them.—*Marine Review*.

—A summary of the shipbuilding returns of the United Kingdom for the year 1896 shows a marked increase in the number of vessels turned out by the 102 private shipbuilding yards. During the year, 941 vessels totaling 1,294,594 tons gross have been launched, more than 25 per cent. of which are for foreign owners.