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The Mercantile Adjuster,

P. O. Box 609,
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PROVISIONS.—There is not much roll butter coming in, the weather being too hot; nearly all that offers is packed; the market is firmer and a cent higher. There does not seem to be the same production as usual at this season; probably because the May pastures were bad. The cheese market is steady and quiet, without any particular feature. As to hog products, the market is firmer without change in quotations, but stock on hand is moving out satisfactorily. Eggs are scarce and higher at 13c.; quality has now to be closely scrutinized.

WOOL.—There is very little farmers' wool coming in; a scarcity of the usual small lots is to be remarked. Some larger parcels of fleece are offering, however, and for this 16 and 17c. per pound is paid. There is little or nothing doing in pulled wools.

BRITISH MARKETS.

The weekly report of James Watson & Co., iron merchants, dated Glasgow, 15th June, says: We have to report a firm but irregular market during the week, Scotch pig closing 1s. 9d; Hematite and Cleveland about 3s. per ton higher than last Friday. The advance is not unnatural, after the steady downward trend of values, which probably induced too free selling by those who have this week been buying back at the advance.

There has been no fresh business reported with consumers, but makers generally show more desire to meet buyers' views.

The total shipments of Scotch iron since the beginning of the year were 169,062 tons up to 10th June, as compared with 114,985 tons for the like period of 1899. Middlesbro' shipments were 563,435, against 604,661 tons; Cumberland, 352,936 tons against 220,556. The furnaces in blast in Scotland numbered 85, as against 83 a year before; in Middlesbro, 96, as compared with 98; in Cumberland, 45, as compared with 42 on the 15th of June, 1899.

A NEW RESOURCE.

"We run across lots of things in this line of business that would make tiptop newspaper stories," said an old-time accident insurance man, "but very few of them ever leak out. What I have in mind especially are attempts to defraud the company. Frequently the cases are very curious.

"I call to mind a fellow in a certain little town who presented a claim against our company for the loss of a toe. According to his story, he was cleaning his pistol, when the weapon went off accidentally, and the second toe of his left foot followed suit. He had his papers made out all right, and on the surface the case seemed perfectly straight and honest, but some instinct warned me that we ought to investigate. An old insurance man develops a singular sixth sense in such matters, by the way, and will often spot fraud without being able to tell how he does it. I looked into this particular affair myself, and found the claimant limping around with one foot bandaged up as big as a pillow. When I suggested an examination by our own doctor, he got highly indignant, but I was firm, and finally he consented. I had expected to discover all five toes intact, but, to my amazement, we found only two. Three were missing, a couple of the stumps showing old scars, and the other a fresh wound.

"With considerable embarrassment, the fellow explained that he had met with two previous accidents of the same sort, and I

found upon enquiry that he had been well insured on each occasion. Whenever he got hard up he simply shot off a toe and replenished his exchequer from the insurance companies. It was a good scheme, but necessarily had limitations, and I told him he might improve it greatly by getting married and shooting off his wife's toes. When the lady became toeless, he could secure an Oklahoma divorce and marry another with a full set. He was ill-natured enough to take offence at my badinage and said we would hear from his lawyer. We never heard."—New Orleans' Times Democrat.

MINING INVESTMENTS.

"It is the pig that gets the swill."
Don't buy even a low-priced stock carelessly.

You must have patience and abide the operation of time.

A man in these days must be pretty fresh to be taken in by a salted mine.

When a good-producing mine is being deliberately held back, you follow suit.

Get out of a dishonestly managed company. You will never be happy while in it.

You have no reason to expect success in a mining enterprise when bad men are at the head of it.

It might not be a bad idea to regulate your stock buying by the quantity of machinery purchased.

There have been cords of money made in legitimate mining that has been lost in speculations entirely outside of mining.

Any man is a double-ribbed silly goose that depends on the Post Office Department to keep him away from the "wild cats."

No one but a tenderfoot buys a lot of mining machinery and ships it to a hole unless there is some stuff there to be gotten out.

Be sure of your men, that they are of the right character. If they are honest and failure comes, losses can be met with some consolation.

Remember that neither a prospect nor a hole is to be classed with a savings bank deposit. You can't eat and keep your pudding at the same time.

If it is a prospect you are investing in, don't get into a cast iron perspiration if you don't get a dividend the next week after making the investment.

If you will insist on buying mining stocks in companies you know nothing whatever about, and are fortunate enough to "strike it," don't write yourself down a genius, for no one, not even your wife, will believe it.

When 80 per cent. of the estates in this country (the U.S.), either partially or wholly sink out of view, because of waste, defalcations, and wild-cat speculations of trustees, good mining properties can hold up their heads and look happy.—American Investments.

SALMON FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

Interesting fish caught on rod and line, in South African waters, including Cape salmon, yellowtail, kingfish, and a species of ray, were on view at a meeting of the British Sea Anglers' Society on a recent date.

The heaviest of the Cape salmon was forwarded to a taxidermist's for preservation for a society's museum. This fish, a magnificent specimen, weighed 65 lbs., was 61 inches in length, and had a girth of 32½ inches. Dr. Bateman, a member of the society, was the successful angler, the fish being caught in Algoa Bay on a greenheart sea rod and an ordinary flax line.