

GODERICH ratepayers voted by a large majority to adopt the by-law under which the town takes \$50,000 stock in a grain elevator company.

IN our issue of 18th ult. it was stated that \$5,000 of Berlin debentures had been sold to W. H. Brouse. This was incorrect, as the bonds were awarded to Messrs. G. A. Stimson & Co., of Toronto, whose offer was the highest.

THE customs collections at Montreal for February show a considerable increase over the previous February, the figures being, February, 1897, \$678,315; February, 1898, \$565,040. The excise collections, too, were greater, being \$220,819, where, in February, 1897, they were \$160,161.

CRUDE rubber has gone up greatly in price, and as a consequence Canadian makers of rubber goods have agreed to put up their prices of manufactured articles 10 per cent. on and after March 1st. The American rubber works made an advance of 10 per cent. at the close of last year.

A TENDENCY, even now observable, among a number of Toronto commercial and other businesses to remove to the neighborhood of the new court-house, has induced Messrs. Muntz & Beatty, general insurance agents, to remove their offices from Toronto street to the Temple Building on Bay street.

THE experimental shipment of 30 tons of copper ore from the Van Anda mine on Texada Island, in October last, to Vivian & Sons, Swansea, has given very satisfactory results. The gross returns of this shipment, according to a B. C. paper, gave £241 15s. 10d., averaging \$40 per ton, the copper going about 17½ per cent.

AT Ottawa on Wednesday last Mr. Sifton informed the House that he understood the United States relief expedition for the Yukon had been abandoned. There had been correspondence in regard to the application to allow a force of militia to accompany the expedition, but he deemed it inexpedient in the public interest to bring down the documents at the present time.

THEY are getting floating craft on the Kootenay Lakes comparable in size to the monster boats which ferry railway cars across Detroit river. One has just been built by Elliott & Hale for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The boat is 200 feet long by 38 feet wide, and is capable of carrying 1,000 tons. On it are three tracks, and each will take five freight cars. The B. C. papers call her a "scow," so we presume she is to be towed, and has no engines.

THERE were suspicions that the municipal accounts of New Glasgow, N.S., were not all straight, and Mr. F. D. Laurie, who was elected in a civic contest there not long ago promised that he would have an investigation made. He was as good as his word, and an expert was secured from Halifax. This expert has found various discrepancies. According to the figures given by the town clerk to the electors, the debt of New Glasgow outside of sewers was \$7,000, but the expert finds it \$12,000. The other discrepancies were of a lesser amount, but the accountant has not finished his audit. Mr. A. M. Fraser, the town clerk, who is under suspicion—the Moncton Times says under arrest—in connection with these irregularities, has occupied that position for twenty years or more, and is one of the prominent men of the place.

A SPECIAL general meeting of shareholders in the Provincial Trust Company of Ontario was held yesterday at its offices in Toronto, when

the gentlemen whose names follow were added to the board of directors: A. T. Wood, M.P., Alex. Bruce, Q.C., and John Knox, of Knox, Morgan & Co., Hamilton; J. H. Shenstone, secretary-treasurer Massey-Harris Co. This company, whose capital is a million dollars, half of which is already subscribed, has opened an office in Toronto, and is ready for business. It has a strong stock list, including well-known capitalists in Toronto, Brockville, Cornwall, Ottawa, Georgetown, in addition to those named above. Sir Richard Cartwright is president, Messrs. S. F. McKinnon and James Scott being vice-presidents. The directors have chosen as their manager, Mr. William Beith, who has been years connected with the Ontario Bank, and is experienced in financial affairs. From the influential character of those connected with it the Provincial Trust Company is likely to do a very considerable business.

#### QUEBEC MINING ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday evening last was held the annual meeting of the Quebec Mining Association in the Windsor Hotel. Mr. Drummond, the president, was in the chair, and members or delegates were present from Sherbrooke, Toronto, Thetford, Boston, London, Rossland, Chicago, New York, Edmonton, Macleod, Dawson City, Windsor, N.S., Halifax, Westville, Kingston, Radnor, Michipicoten, Black Lake, Buckingham. Mr. Bell, the secretary, read a report giving approximately the mining product of the Province of Quebec during the past year. The values of the products were as follows: Asbestos, \$500,000; asbestic, \$150,000; mica, \$125,000; copper pyrites, \$131,730; copper, \$2,000; chromate, \$32,770; gold (prospecting), \$1,000; graphite, \$2,000; feldspar, \$5,000; silver and lead (bi-products of mica), \$5,300; ochre, \$12,400; phosphate, \$6,084; charcoal pig iron, \$201,400; iron ore, \$41,220; slate, \$50,000; flagstones, \$7,000; lime, \$140,000; bricks, \$600,000; cement, \$22,000; from prospecting, \$30,000; total, \$2,064,000.

In view of the proposed establishment of a strong united organization of the mining men of all the provinces, and the Quebec association having served its purpose as a provincial protective body, it was proposed to dissolve the association, and that the membership be transferred to the new body to be organized. This motion was made by Mr. Bell, the secretary, but was objected to by Mr. J. E. Hardman, and an adjournment carried. It was announced that last year's students' prizes had been awarded as follows:—First, Mr. J. W. Wells, of Kingston; equal second prizes, Messrs. H. N. Thompson and Mr. W. M. Ogilvie, of McGill University. The prizes amounted in full to fifty dollars, and were again offered this year, with the addition of a valuable gold medal presented for the purpose by Mr. James King.

#### FOR BIMETALLISTS.

During the last political campaign an ardent Populist, with the proverbial long-flowing beard, was delivering a speech somewhere in the wilds of Kansas. During the course of his remarks he said: "Fellow-citizens, it is necessary for the welfare of our country that silver should be kept at its face value. If the Government marks a dollar a dollar, it follows that it must be worth one hundred cents." A voice coming from the rear of the crowd interrupted him, saying: "Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question?" "Certainly, sir," replied the Populist, "a dozen if you like." "Then, Mr. Speaker, I should like to know if the Government marked your whiskers hay, would a mule eat them?"—San Francisco Argonaut.

## Debentures.

Municipal Debentures bought and sold, also Government and Railway Bonds. Securities suitable for Investment by Trustees and Insurance Companies and for Deposit with the Government, always on hand.

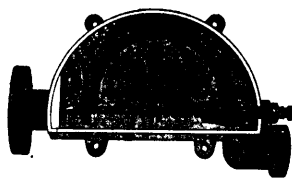
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