

General Notes.

In November, 25,000 bushels of wheat were shipped from Neepawa.

Two hundred and eighty lots have been sold on the Government reserve at Calgary, at an average price of \$70 per lot.

SAVINGS banks were instituted in England sixty-eight years ago. They are now in operation in fifteen European States, and have sixteen millions of depositors.

An estimate of the value of new buildings in Toronto for four recent years gives the following figures:—1882, \$1,757,630; 1883, \$1,506,740; 1884, \$2,033,245; 1885, \$2,344,300.

THE signs + and -, it is said, were first used by Christopher Rudolph about 1524. The sign = was first employed by Robert Recorde in 1557, because, said he, "noe 2 thynges can be moare equalle."

It is reported from St. Petersburg, that arrangements have been made for the exportation to Germany of Russian petroleum. Of the 400 wells in the vicinity of Baku, only half are being worked. An American company has been formed to build pipe lines to tide water. The production of the section has steadily increased until it has amounted to 1,300,000 tons.

ALMOST a year ago, counterfeit fives on the Bank of British North America, of the issue of 1877, were being passed, and the Bank took pains to remove that issue from circulation. The "blue" note of 1884 replaced the others, which were destroyed as they came in. But within ten days a new edition of the counterfeit V has appeared printed on better paper.

A report from Minneapolis says that there is a general feeling among lumbermen that the prospects are of the best. Careful estimates put the total log cut of the coming winter upon the upper Mississippi and its tributaries at 550,000,000 feet. The distribution of these logs will be about 300,000,000 feet to Minneapolis and the balance to mills above that point. About 5,500 men and 2,000 horses and oxen will be employed in the woods during the winter.

THE Submarine Telegraph Cables of the world are owned by twenty-six different companies and represent an aggregate capital of one hundred and seventy five million dollars. A plan has been recently proposed that the nations of the world form an international syndicate, purchase these lines, fix a uniform toll rate barely sufficient to pay a low interest on the cost, and give to the people the benefits of cheap rates. Although backed by some prominent names in England, the idea has not received much attention, and would seem to be some what utopian.

THE Ottawa Citizen says:—Messrs. H. Shorey & Co., wholesale clothing manufacturers, of Montreal, have issued circulars announcing their intention of removing their establishment to Ottawa owing to the prejudice which exists against Montreal goods on account of the small-pox epidemic in that city. This firm is one of the largest manufacturers of clothing in Canada, and will give employment to a large number of hands.

It is a curious fact, which is not widely known, that the heavy copper consumption of India is due largely to a religious rite of the natives. At certain seasons of the year small caps of sheet copper about an inch in diameter and an inch and a half deep are filled with rice, and are thrown into the rivers as an offering, with religious ceremonies. The quantity of copper thus annually consumed is very heavy, India sheets being an important article of commerce.

Impervious Corks.

Corks may be made impervious by soaking them (best quality) for several hours in a solution of one-half ounce of glue or gelatine in a mixture of three-quarters of an ounce of glycerine and one pint of water, heated to about 50° Cent. Such prepared corks may be rendered nearly proof against acids and other chemicals if they are dipped, after thorough drying, for ten or fifteen minutes into a melted mixture of four parts of paraffin and one part of petrolatum.

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