

ber above the grade of No. 2 culls, and shall admit of coarse knots and stains, and be free from rot; it shall also admit of pieces imperfectly manufactured, below 1 inch in thickness, and perfectly sound, and not rendered worthless through improper manufacture.

No. 2 Culls.—Shall be lumber that will work one-half sound."

Millions of Acres of Flax.

The increase in the acreage of flax in the Northwest has been the greatest this season of any since the farmers began to raise it. The Dakotas and Minnesotas, on a little under 400,000 acres, raised, in round numbers, 4,000,000 bushels of flaxseed. This year careful inquiry shows the acreage to be nearly twice as much as last year. Allowing the production to equal ten bushels an acre, the result will be 8,000,000 bushels of flaxseed. When it is remembered that the production of the country has averaged only about 9,000,000 bushels, the Northwest's increase in acreage and probable production is an important matter. It is usually the last crop to be planted, and it is not too late for it now. Attention was first called to the heavy increase in acreage by the great quantity of seed called for. In all localities where it was grown before, the acreage is reported to be very much larger. But the greater increase in flax culture this year is in sections that did not raise flax before. The flax area had been limited mostly to southern Minnesota and southern Dakota. Farmers went into flax when the wheat failed for a few seasons. Last year there was a practical wheat failure in Central and North Dakota, and flax has gone into the ground there as it did a few years ago in the southern sections. Flax was above \$1 a bushel last fall when wheat sold for half that on the farm. The cost to raise either was about the same, as there was but little difference in the yield per acre. It is to be hoped that the heavy increase in production will not affect prices unfavorably, though an increase of 45 per cent. on last year's production in the whole country will naturally have that tendency.—*Commercial Bulletin.*

General Notes.

The arc S12 newspapers and other publications in Canada.

During May the market superintendent collected \$35.05 in fees at Winnipeg.

The new Montreal 3½ per cent loan has been floated in London at 83, to the amount of \$2,300,000.

A dividend has been declared by the Banque de St. Jean, Montreal, of 3 per cent for the current half year.

Messrs. Drummond and Moffatt, of Winnipeg, are at present in the old country financing the Assiniboine water-power scheme.

East bound rates on tallow and grease in barrels and tierces from Chicago to Boston and New York have been reduced 2 cents.

The Ingersoll, Ont., Electric Light & Power Co. have been organized and have obtained a contract to light the town by electricity.

The transfer fee on memberships on the Chicago Stock exchange has been fixed at \$25, and the cost of an original ticket is now \$2,560.

The annual statement of the Imperial Bank shows a net profit of \$199,035. Out of this sum the directors have been able to carry \$50,000 to

the rest account after paying two 4 per cent dividends and writing off \$2,926 on bank promises and furniture account. The rest now is \$700,000.

The carriage and blacksmith shops of Wm. Bulford, and the hotel of Jason Hill, at Collam Village, Ont., were burned recently with loss of about \$30,000.

The Canadian Band Drill Company with a capital of \$18,000 has been organized at Sherbrooke, Que. They propose manufacturing mining machinery.

The Hamilton, Ont., Street Railway Company which is considering the proposal to use electricity as a motive power, estimates \$2,500,000 as the cost of the plant.

A fire occurred in the buildings of the Dow Brewing Company at Montreal recently, but it was extinguished before any great damage had been done. Loss about \$5,000.

It is reported that the Bell Telephone Co. have contracted for the construction of a double copper telephone line connecting Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto, at a cost of \$35,000.

Tracklaying on the Duluth & Winnipeg will commence in about two weeks. About 1,000 men are at present engaged on the line between Lake Winnibigoshish and Grand Forks.

The retail grocers of Seattle, Washington, threaten to boycott the wholesale grocers of that city if the latter persist in selling goods to customers at the same prices they charge the retailer.

At a meeting of the paper manufacturers held at Montreal a short time ago, it was decided to reduce the price of paper on account of wood pulp having dropped from 45 cents to 20 cents. This will be very satisfactory to newspaper publishers.

During April of this year 4,999 tons of hay were exported from the United States against 2,744 tons in April, 1889, and for the ten months ending April, 1890, the exports of hay amounted to 28,545 tons, against 16,309 tons for the corresponding period of last year.

At a meeting of the creditors of the Dominion Illustrated Publishing Company, in liquidation, held at the court house, Montreal, on Saturday, John E. Clarkson was appointed liquidator, and permission was granted to continue the business under the supervision of the liquidator for the time being.

The June report of the State Department of Agriculture in South Carolina, shows that with few exceptions, perfect stands of cotton exist throughout the State. The plant is healthy, vigorous, and well advanced. The average condition is 103 against 78 last year. The increase in acreage is four per cent.

Notice has been received by the surveyor of customs at Albany, that Canadian postal cards imported through the mails are dutiable at the rate of 25 per cent ad valorem as "printed matter," and he has been instructed to prevent a continuance of the practice under which these cards have been admitted, in 500 lots, free of duty.

The Argentine Republic contains 70,000,000 sheep. The exports of wool to Europe last season amounted to 431,000 bales, or, in round figures, 350,000,000 pounds of wool. For the season of 1889 this wool was taken as follows: Franco, 185,000 bales; Germany, 106,000 bales; Antwerp, 131,900 bales; England, 7,000 bales, and Italy, 4,000 bales.

Bradstreet's mercantile agency reports seventy-three failures in the Pacific Coast States and Territories for the month of May, with assets \$105,762, liabilities \$248,869. The failures are divided as follows: California, 52; assets, \$61,532; liabilities, \$193,269; Washington, 12; assets, \$2,730; liabilities, \$47,400. Oregon, 6; assets, \$3,500; liabilities, \$8,200.

Importers of gin in cases, says the Montreal *Journal of Commerce*, have interviewed the Minister of Inland Revenue on the injury to the trade caused by certain parties who are in the habit of importing gin in barrels and then bottling it and disposing of it as imported gin in bottles. Others manufacture it in this country and sell it as genuine imported goods. Hon. John Costigan promised to investigate the whole matter.

A meeting of sugar refiners was held at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, says the *Herald*, for the purpose of forming a combine in connection with a London syndicate, which would have supreme control of all the refineries in this country. A lengthened discussion took place, the majority of those present being in favor of the scheme, but two of the Lower Province men requested further time to consider the matter. There seems very little doubt that they will fall into line at the next meeting.

The *Western Manufacturer* states that "the mineral palace now being erected at Pueblo, Colorado, will cost about \$250,000. It will be of handsome design, the exterior being a series of square columns and beautifully polished stone. All parts of the building will be made of the products of Colorado's mines, the owners in all the counties in the State having sent in their choicest and richest specimens. In the interior will be seen every variety of mineral production, from stone and coal to pure gold, the value of which will be at least \$750,000. It is intended to be a permanent exhibit. The building will be lighted up with 3,000 incandescent electric lights.

The stock of wheat in private elevators in Minneapolis and not included in the visible supply is 2,173,000 bushels—an increase of 151,000 bushels as compared with last Monday. This leaves the stock at three points as follows: At Minneapolis (public) 7,472,206 bushels, (private) 2,173,000 bushels; at St. Paul, 250,000 bushels; at Duluth, 2,754,400—total, 12,649,200; increase, 366,849 bushels. In store in country elevators in Minnesota and the two Dakotas, 1,641,500 bushels; decrease, 117,500 bushels. The aggregate stock at country and terminal elevators of the three States is thus, 14,290,906 bushels or 433,330 bushels less than a week ago.—*Daily Business.*

The Dominion Grey Cotton Association held their quarterly meeting at Montreal recently. They decided to shut down their mills for six weeks on account of the high price of raw cotton and as there are sufficient goods on hand to last for a few weeks. They also decided to advance prices on any new goods they may manufacture two cents per pound, to in part recoup them for the advance in new cotton. They, however, agreed to allow any of the mills which chose to do so to sell off, if taken at once, the stock of cotton they have on hand at old prices. Some of the mills, it is expected, will avail themselves of this permission, while the others will hold out for the full advance. It is also understood that a member of the association was fined for cutting rates.