

PRESTON & McKAY,

Millers and Mill Contractors,

BOISSEvain, MAN.

Estimates and Plans furnished for building and remodelling Flour Mills, using Upright and Horizontal Cleaning Machines, Allis Roller Mills, Gravity and Reel Scalpers, Smith Centrifugal Reel and Inter Elevator Bolts, Smith Purifiers, Upright and Horizontal Bran and Shorts Dusters, Cyclone Dust Collectors, The Brown Automatic Cut Off Engine.

The above list is a combination of the best Milling Machines known to the trade, and with an extensive experience in Mill Building, we are prepared to contract for the erection of Flour Mills, second to none as regards superiority of machinery, convenience of operation, quality and yield of results. We are also agents for all Mill and Elevator Supplies such as Leather and Cotton Belting, Bolting Cloth, Elevator Cups and Bolts, etc., for which prices will be furnished on application.

Smelting Kootenay Ores.

The miners of Kootenay District are not likely to be in want of a place to smelt their ores. In addition to the smelter now nearly completed at Revelstoke, and the one to be built next summer at Golden, East and West Kootenay, especially the Northern portions, will be well provided for and as soon as the Columbia and Kootenay Railway is finished, the ores of Kootenay Lake can come north to Revelstoke. The owners of the Blue Bell mine talk of establishing a smelter on their property at the Lake. There is now a 40 ton smelter at Colville, and a larger one is projected at Spokane Falls. Great reduction works are in operation at Helena and Anaconda and the Boston and Montana Co., are erecting an immense plant at Great Falls, Montana, which will draw on the ore supplies of Kootenay Lake as soon as the Manitoba road reaches Bonner's Ferry. Besides, both Tacoma and Portland are reported to be building extensive smelters.

The ore buyers of Denver are already bidding for the ores of Northern Idaho, which they are able to do because the Union Pacific has reached there with its road, and offers low freight rates in competition with the Northern Pacific, and the very favorable terms on which smelting is done at Denver is an additional inducement for shipping there. The Union Pacific expects to get business from Kootenay Lake over the Spokane & Northern. It now has a line to Spokane Falls.

A bill just introduced into Congress at Washington provides that copper, lead and nickel may be imported in ores for refining, free of duty, provided that an amount of copper, lead or nickel, equivalent to that imported shall be exported within six months in a refined state.

If this measure becomes a law it will be equivalent to a repeal of the American tariff on Canadian ores, so far as smelting is concerned, and where the ores will then go for reduction will be solely a question of freight rates and reducing charges, and it is quite sure that neither ores nor bullion will be shipped to Swansea from this part of the Dominion.—*Star, Revelstoke, B.C.*

PARROTT.—“Can anything beat this? Here's a house advertises twenty five dollars' worth of clothing for ten dollars!”

WIGGINS.—“Why, yes; you can get a ten dollar Confederate bill for five cents.”

The Retailers' Convention

Arrangements are now being made to hold the proposed retailers' convention during the first week in March. Merchants will therefore hold themselves in readiness to attend about that time. The exact date will be announced shortly. The sentiment of the trade has been so unanimously and enthusiastically in favor of the convention, that it would not now do to let the matter drop. As there is no organization to take the initiative in making necessary arrangements and formally calling the convention, that work has devolved upon THE COMMERCIAL, and in view of the benefit which is likely to accrue to the trade, it will be cheerfully performed. Efforts are now being made to secure a low rate from the railways for those wishing to attend the convention, with good prospects of success. A hall is being selected and other necessary arrangements will be made. Judging from the many letters received, a large attendance is certain, and the success of the convention is now beyond doubt.

Ceylon Tea.

In the year 1885-86 a little over seven million lbs. of tea were exported from Ceylon, but in 1888-89 the quantity sent abroad amounted to more than thirty-two and a half million lbs. One gratifying feature of this development is that it has been steady and regular in its progress. Markets for Ceylon tea have been established in the large centres of the United States of America, Canada, and Australia. Russia, too, is now taking the more flavory kinds, and South Africa and South America appear likely to become consumers of the excellent tea grown in Ceylon. Rotterdam and Amsterdam received a first consignment in 1886, and in the following year Havre imported a small quantity. In all these instances the trade has since grown, and that with other continental ports is also flourishing.—*British Trade Journal.*

Milling World. Although wheat is “statistically stronger than it has been for years,” according to the dictum of the guessers and gamblers, the price continues to sag below the lowest notch ever recorded, according to the frigid facts and figures of the market reports. Everything seems to be going by contraries this year. Probably when the discouraged guessers really begin to think that wheat is really weak, it will bound upward like a rocket.

Russian Wheat Crops in Recent Years.

The *Liverpool Corn Trade News* reports that “between good crops in Russia and bad crops there is a difference of about 80,000,000 and 120,000,000 bushels wheat alone, irrespective of rye, which this year promises about 120,000,000 bushels less food for home consumption in Russia. The crops of wheat have been:

| CROPS. | BUSHEL. |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 1884 | 272,000,000 |
| 1885 | 171,648,000 |
| 1886 | 155,600,000 |
| 1887 | 268,992,000 |
| 1888 | 216,210,000 |
| 1889 (estimated) | 176,000,000 |

After 1888 Russia was swept of wheat, there having been two short crops in succession.”

A Great Yield.

One of British Columbia's mammoth Douglas firs was cut down and made into cordwood last week by two of W. R. Austin's workmen. The tree was not very thick, only measuring seven feet in diameter, but it was very high and clear of limbs almost to the top. Only the clear wood was used, and when the tree had been sawed, split and piled, the result was found to be 33½ cords of prime wood, and not a limb in the pile. The time occupied in reducing this tree to cordwood was four days. A tree of this size in the eastern provinces would be looked on as something marvellous, but in this part of the Dominion it is only worthy of a passing note.—*Westminster, Columbian.*

BOOTH BROS., fruits, Brandon, have resumed business.

THE merchants of Gladstone have unitedly endorsed the proposed retailers' convention, and they promise to attend and do anything in their power to help on the movement.

THE Brandon *Times* quotes the market at that place as follows:—“There is a fair supply of everything except eggs. Prices to farmers are: Wheat, 68c; oats (feed), 40 to 45c; oats (seed), 45 to 50c; barley, 50c; flour, \$2 to \$2.75; bran, per ton, \$14 to \$15; shorts, per ton, \$14 to \$17; chop, per ton, \$22 to \$30; flax, per bushel, \$2.25 to \$2.50; potatoes, per bushel, 65c to 70c; hay (bulk), per ton, \$9 to \$10; hay (baled), per ton, \$12; beef (dressed), dull, 3 to 4c; pork, 4½ to 5c; mutton carcass, 7 to 8c; chickens, 6 to 8c; turkeys, 10 to 12c; geese, 10 to 11c; ducks, 10 to 11c; butter, 14 to 16c; lard, 10 to 11c; cordwood, \$3.50 to \$4.50.