

THE GREAT IRON AND STEEL WORKS AT SYDNEY, C.B.

Here is the graphic way in which the correspondent of The Halifax Morning Chronicle illustrates the industrial changes made at Sydney in so short a time. He writes on Sunday last: "When big Hugh McDonald, sometime Klondiker, but now returned to enjoy the fruits of his weary digging, stepped off the fast express at Sydney he made a remark which struck the key note of the situation, 'Well,' he said, looking around at the tall chimneys in one direction, and the long stretch of new houses in the other, 'it seems to me that little old Cape Breton has been having a Klondike all to herself here, while I've been freezing and sweating after the "dough" five or six thousand miles away in the Yukon.' And that is just what the island, more particularly Sydney, has found, adds The Chronicle—a Klondike, but an improved one.

After the big company had got their plans under way the Intercolonial Railway was pressed night and day to keep up with the quantities of material and men bound for Sydney. In an incredibly short time the first furnace was built, and the charging of it began on Saturday last. "This immense tube, ninety feet high and eighteen feet in diameter, is as I write, fusing an enormous mass consisting of 400 tons of Belle Island iron ore; 225 tons of coke (in the making of which 400 tons of coal were used), and 125 tons of lime from George's River, C.B.—the charge for one of the four furnaces which has to be renewed every twenty-four hours. Figures do not seem to convey a right idea of the mass of material consumed, but picture to yourself three freight trains banging up to each furnace and discharging their contents every twenty-four hours, and you have a better idea of the great capacity of the works." This pioneer furnace was lighted by the daughter of the general manager.

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

Import business is at a standstill, and will be for the next fortnight or more. It has not been of much account for weeks, attention being absorbed in preparations for the Commonwealth celebrations. The Government led the way of course. It imported eighteen thousand bottles of champagne direct, how much other liquid is unstated, sent out requests to all the English-speaking peoples to send their Cabinets and samples of their fighting men to Australia. Great Britain has sent a thousand men, representative of its historic regiments; India a hundred officers, the Cape and Natal members of Government and the other Australasian colonies a multitude of rulers, big and little, and troops galore. Canada is absent. The Government started out to spend \$100,000. It long ago got beyond that figure, and how much the show will cost no man says or appears to care. The multitude have gone in for a good time and are bound to have it, and the multitude rule here. The merchants growled about the waste of time and money, but they don't count for much in a real democratic country, and the excitement is carrying even them away with the current. The money is not wholly lost, some of it goes into the pockets of workingmen, and a part of that will contribute towards making a pleasant Christmas, but a good deal of it towards making a hilarious one.

The Governor-General, to the surprise of most people, sent for Sir William Lyne, the Premier of this colony, to form the first administration of the Commonwealth, and to the surprise of more Sir William undertook to do it. He is a plodding statesman, who has been rather fortunate, sat on a rail for a long time on the federal question and then fell off on the wrong side. He sent for the Premiers of the other colonies to come and see him, two could not, one would not, and the two who did advised him to give his ambitious scheme up and send for Barton, the Federal leader. With a bad grace, and after, it is alleged, making terms for himself, he did so.

Mr. Barton is at work on his ministry. His chief difficulty will be to select the material at his disposal. What is of most interest to Canada is that he is a protectionist with a leaning for preferential tariff within the British Empire. Most of his colleagues will be like him, though one or more probabilities are men described as free traders, but *not fanatically so*.

With the exception of Queensland, Australasia is having

pretty good times. The wheat harvest of the three wheat-growing colonies has been a good one, and it is estimated there will be a surplus of twenty million bushels to export. The drought in Queensland is unfortunately extending coastwards, and has reached so far, that Mount Morgan, the richest gold mine in the world, is obliged to close nearly all work for lack of water.

New Zealand leads the prosperous van. In ten years her population has increased twenty-three per cent., her imports fifty-seven per cent., her exports of home produce, thirty-eight per cent.; her gold production, sixty-six per cent.; her land occupants, eighty per cent.; land cultivated, fifty-five per cent., and her deposits, one hundred and seventeen per cent. The figures are the more striking when it is remembered that ten years ago New Zealand was on the topmost wave of a boom, but its position now is the outcome of solid growth. If Sir Wilfred Laurier comes to Australia he should endeavor to visit New Zealand.

Nearly a year ago the Corticelli Silk Company sent out a Toronto man to open up a branch of its business in this country. For six months it seemed impossible to get an opening for their high-priced goods, but he persevered, and got into the market at last, and in the last five months has sold more than was set down as a good trade for the twelve months, and at Canadian prices. This is about the only way a market of any size can be made here. No Canadian firm who has done likewise has failed. It's only the potters, who expect to do Australia in a week, that fail. Orders have gone to Canada for sewing machines, enamelled ware, windmills, gas stoves, steel linings for interior work. These are amongst the new lines of Canadian goods recently introduced.

F. W.

Sydney, New South Wales, 25th Dec., 1900.

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS.

The annual convention of the Ontario Association of Architects took place in Toronto last week, when several very interesting papers on building and kindred subjects were read. The treasurer's statement showed the finances of the society to be in a very satisfactory condition. The president, Mr. A. Wickson, in his address, stated that, during the year, the question of architectural education had been considered, and that a new system had been decided on, whereby studio work would be conducted in the association's rooms. A resolution, recording the great loss the Empire had sustained in the death of Her late Majesty, the Queen, was carried. The election of officers resulted as follows: Grant Helliwell, president; F. S. Baker, first vice-president; John A. Pearson, second vice-president; W. A. Langton, treasurer; William B. Gregg, librarian; C. H. Bishop and Charles Gemmell, auditors. At the conclusion of the election, a luncheon was served, at which forty-one members of the Architects' and Engineers' Association were present.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

It seems to be certain that the wreck recently discovered off the Oregon coast is that of the British ship, "Ardnamurchan," which sailed from Fraser river last November, with 73,578 cases of salmon, valued at \$460,584. She probably foundered with all on board. The cargo was fully insured.

"Commercial Intelligence," a high class London journal, published in the interest of the commercial relations of the whole Empire, in discussing the export trade in turkeys from Canada to Great Britain, makes these remarks: It is a hazardous business this dealing in perishable commodities which depend so much for their sale on the state of the weather. But our Canadian cousins have taken a great deal of trouble in order to send us just what we want, and style and packing have much improved. It is to be hoped that all parties interested will have made a profit out of the trade this season in order to encourage breeders on the other side to go on with their endeavor to get some of the patronage so liberally bestowed on the foreigner. To this end, we may be permitted to make a suggestion. Big birds, well set up and fleshy, fetched good prices before Christmas. There were too many by far of the undersized scraggy-looking sorts about. If Canadians will keep