

It is learned by the Montreal *Star* that the prospects for the phosphate trade are not very encouraging this spring, and shipments will, in all likelihood, be rather less than last year. There are two reasons for this conclusion, depressed British markets, and very heavy Florida shipments. Competition from Florida is said to be unusually keen. The mines in Quebec have been doing very little all winter, and it is said that their production will be curtailed this summer.

S. DALPE, who has been making carpenters' planes at Roxton Pond, Que., for a quarter century, wants to turn his business into a joint stock company, and made an offer to the Waterloo town council. But the council could not entertain it. Another man, Mr. T. Knowlton, has a scheme for a kindling-wood factory, "to supply the American, and possibly the English market;" plant to cost say \$10,000; 80 per cent of the cost of the marketable article would be labor. A committee of the Waterloo council is considering the matter.

In his annual report, the Postmaster-General says:—Some misunderstanding appears to exist with respect to request letters. Only those mailed in Canada and addressed to places in the Dominion, upon which is printed a request that they may be returned to the address given, if not delivered in a specified time, can be regarded as request letters, and be returned to the writer. Letters having the printed address of the sender thereon, but without a specific request to return, cannot be treated as request letters. Such will, however, be returned unopened from the Dead Letter office.

The Stormont Cotton Mill at Cornwall is closed down under the following circumstances. One of the weavers reported late on Thursday morning, April 27th, and was sent out. He came back on Friday, but a spare hand had been given charge of his looms and he was once more compelled to go out. On Monday last there was a repetition of what occurred on Thursday, and the weavers stopped their looms, refusing to work unless the weaver in question was given his looms. Their demand was refused by the managers and the mill closed down, throwing six hundred hands out of work.

A DESCRIPTION of the new Victoria Hotel, which is situated in the first and second storeys and portions of the ground floor and basement of the Helmcken block in Victoria, B.C., shows it to be a well-appointed house, and we are told that its *chef de cuisine* was for some years *chef* in the Palace Hotel, San Francisco. In the basement are club rooms,

pantries, wine cellars, and billiard rooms, already fitted. The office is fitted in carved oak, the bar room in mahogany and black walnut, while both are elaborately painted in fresco. The parlors are furnished with the best furniture and pianos, oil paintings, while the floors are covered with Brussels carpet. The bed rooms, seventy-five in number, have oak fittings, and many of them are *en suite*.

OUR readers will remember that the creditors of Wm. Forist, Attwood, had a meeting a couple of weeks ago. Now they are offered 50 per cent. on liabilities of \$3,200.—David Schwaitzer started in London as a manufacturer of caps in June, 1891, but without success, as an assignment has been made.—In Collingwood the firm of Stone & Mathieson liquor dealers, have become involved. Their stock is said to be mortgaged for all it is worth, and the share of unsecured creditors in the firm's assets is very indefinite.—Horace Fisher, machinist, Hamilton, has borne a good record, but of late has not been able to make ends meet, and his assignment is now in order.—About a year ago J. J. Ball removed from Bracebridge to North Bay, but there he has had no better success in his jewellery business and has assigned.

THE sheriff is in possession of the general stock of George Kennedy, St. Andrews, Man.—In Brandon, Mann & Durham started the lumber business about four years ago with \$1,500 capital. This small basis seems to have been sufficiently large to enable them to obtain extensive credit, for we now find that the Keewatin Lumber Company has a judgment of \$10,000, and A. B. Law & Co., private bankers, one for \$22,600. The firm have assigned.—Last week we noted that the sheriff was in possession of the premises of the Western Woolen Company at St. Boniface, Man. Since then the company has assigned.—E. L. Joyal, dealer in harness at Winnipeg, has also assigned. About a month ago his creditors had a meeting.—Strang & Co., wholesale grocers in the same city, have effected a settlement with creditors at 50 per cent.

RESPECTING the South African Exhibition Mr. Alexander W. Murdoch, the agent for that enterprise, tells us that a hundred and fifty tons of freight has been placed at his disposal for it by the Massey-Harris works; the Waterous Company, seventy-five tons; the Bell Organ and Piano Co. promise a large shipment; J. & T. Bell, the shoe house of Montreal, H. Shorey & Co. of the same city, Gooderham & Worts, Limited, the Davies Brewing Co., the Pure Gold Mfg. Co., the J.

& J. Taylor Works, will all, it appears, exhibit. The South African Banking Corporation of London, England, offers facilities for cashing South African drafts on London. A steamer will leave Halifax during July to carry experimental shipments. We do not observe in the above list any flour or breadstuffs merchants or dealers in dairy products. It seems that this fair might well attract some attention from persons in these lines of business. Lord Knutsford, the Colonial Secretary, has shown much interest in connection with a Canadian exhibit at this Kimberley Exhibition. In the plan shown us the space for Canada is much larger than that of the United States.

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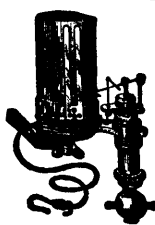
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