

State lacks coal, and railways should run also to the smelters at Hendricks and at Nelson. A railway will shortly be built through Traill towards Boundary Creek. And the original charter of the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway authorizes it to extend all the way to the boundary."

A pretty good account of operations reaches us respecting the Tuolumne gold mine at Yale. A good while has been consumed in getting matters into working order at the mine, but at last a good result has been reached, and at a meeting of the company, held the other day in Ottawa, a dividend of ten per cent. on the capital stock of \$20,000 has been declared. This, it is claimed, was the result of twelve days' working. The former directors of this mine, viz., President, W. B. Stephens; vice-president, W. Dale Harris; A. W. Fleck, Berkeley Powell, W. L. Hogg, were re-elected at the Ottawa meeting of the 10th instant.

LUMBER.

Operations in the woods of the Georgian Bay district, especially in the French River limits, so far as the cutting of logs is concerned, are being seriously interfered with by heavy falls of snow. The depth of snow is said to be fully 2½ feet. If continued, this may seriously reduce the quantity of logs taken from the woods this year. Hauling is going on successfully, and the prospects point to an inexpensive season. Trade is already assuming holiday shape, and little demand is looked for until the holidays have closed. In manufacturing centres, stock-taking is the order of the day, and until the exact whereabouts of the year's balance is found, buyers do not feel disposed to make purchases. The present year, so far as can be learned, will not pass into history as a season of profit. Stocks carried over at the mill are about the same as last year.

SUGARS ADVANCED.

The sugar market has shown a very strong front during the week. The source of strength lies in the disturbed conditions in the island of Cuba, where an insurrection is raging. In some instances the sugar estates have been devastated by the rebels; in others the fields are overrun with weeds and not a laborer is to be seen. No attempt, at least so says rumor, will be made to grind at present. As yet the American markets have alone responded to this alarming state of affairs. The Sugar Trust, it is said, has bought heavily in Cuba at an advance of ¼c. over former prices. In Europe the crop deficiencies are estimated variously from 807,000 tons to 1,050,000 tons. The world's visible supply was estimated on the beginning of the month to be 1,727,491 tons, as compared with 1,088,858 tons at the same period one year ago. On Friday the Canadian trade were advised of ¼c. advance in Halifax granulated. But jobbers objected strenuously to so sharp an advance and claim that the present consumptive demand is too weak to sustain higher prices. The upward movement was to a certain extent checked by this strong opposition, and an advance of 1-16c. only was realized on granulated and ¼c. on yellows. Below these prices refiners claim sugars will not fall during the present campaign.

GROWING FLAX.

According to the returns of the Provincial Government there has been an increase of 170 per cent. in the acreage under flax in the Province of Manitoba. The natural outcome of such an abnormal increase in production was a fall in price. Not only have Manitobans devoted more attention to flax of late, but a similar movement has taken place in the Argentine Republic, latest estimates, which are considered reliable, placing the yield this year in that country at about 300,000 tons, against 250,000 in 1894-95, and 85,000 in 1893-94. The supply of seed in Canada proving far more than the requirements of Ontario millers, large quantities have been forced into the export trade, with the inevitable result that growers have been compelled to take prices based on the cost of production in Russia and South America. If these prices be sufficient to cover the costs of the Canadian grower and shipper, with a small addition of profit, the industry is on a firm basis, and may be expected to show marked development in the course of a few years.

PLUCKING POULTRY.

If the Christmas season is to be a source of profit to the poultry grower and merchant, and a pleasure to the gastronomics of the consumer, some of the poultry raisers must change their ways. In preparing fowls for market they should be dry plucked and not scalded. Receivers complain that about half the offerings on the Toronto market have been scalded; after the skin has been broken it very quickly becomes dark and presents anything but an attractive appearance when offered to the consumer. The retailer is compelled to sell scalded birds in many instances at a sacrifice of 2 to 3c. per pound.

The shipper does not notice the evil effects of scalding because they scarcely become evident in the short time during which he holds his poultry, but a word of advice to customers, if acted upon, should do much to prevent a repetition of serious waste that has repeatedly been suffered through holding in a glutted market.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday evening last a general meeting of the Commercial Travelers' Association was held in the rooms of that body on Yonge street, Toronto. The attendance was large. The president, Mr. Robert H. Gray, presided, and the secretary, Mr. James Sargent, submitted the annual report. The financial condition of the body was shown by the report to be encouraging, a decided addition being made to the reserve fund, as well as an increase in membership. The report was adopted. A subject of free discussion at the meeting was that recently brought to the attention of the Ontario Treasurer, namely, the advisability of appointing a Government inspector of hotels, to the end that the sanitary arrangements of houses of public entertainment throughout Ontario might be improved. We have referred to the subject elsewhere in to-day's issue.

When the nominations for officers came on, the retiring executive were re-elected by acclamation for another year, namely, Mr. R. H. Gray to the presidency, Mr. R. J. Orr to the first vice-presidency, Mr. J. C. Black to the treasurership. Directors for the Toronto and Hamilton boards were nominated as under:—

Directors for Toronto—D. D. Baird, H. Beddington, W. Caldwell, R. H. Cosby, J. H. Devaney, M. C. Ellis, H. Goodman, A. F. Hatch, W. Hopwood, John Hodge, W. L. Holdmond, John Muldrew, C. H. Murdoch, W. R. Mosey, J. McKay, E. E. Starr, J. Taylor, G. N. White. Of these nine are to be elected.

Hamilton Board—First vice-president, John Hooper; second vice-president, W. E. Lachance (elected by acclamation). Directors—Wm. Bremner, James Hooper, Fred Johnston, T. M. Davis, H. G. Wright, W. G. Reid, J. H. Herring, J. Madill, J. P. Stedman, Richard Coleman. Six to be elected.

The old boards for Guelph, Brantford, Montreal, Kingston, Berlin, Winnipeg and Victoria, were all elected by acclamation for the current year. Before the conclusion of the meeting short addresses were made by Capt. McMaster, Messrs. Hugh Blain and A. A. Allan.

WESTERN ONTARIO COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS.

The general business meeting of the Western Ontario Commercial Travelers' Association, was held in London, last Saturday evening. The president, Mr. John M. Dillon, occupied the chair, and amongst those present were secretary Alf. Robinson, vice-presidents P. J. Conroy and Dan. Mackenzie, Messrs. Robert Tait, W. D. Brock, H. J. Collamore, H. S. Wilcox, W. H. Oke, Wm. Mayo, John A. Walker, H. Line, F. H. Crabbe, T. T. Mortimore, W. E. B. Eardley, J. C. Vandecar, W. J. Craig, W. S. Case, Wm. Gray, A. W. White and others.

In his address, the President stated that the closing year had been one of the most prosperous in the history of the association. The membership had increased until it now exceeded 1,000, while the addition to the reserve fund, after payment of all claims and allowing for all liabilities of which there was any knowledge, was over \$8,000, or nearly twice as much as in any previous year. The reserve fund now amounts to nearly \$40,000. Secretary Robinson read the financial statement, which showed the receipts to have been \$12,135, of which \$10,268 was received from membership fees. The disbursements aggregated \$4,908.50, of which \$3,108.20 was for death and accident claims, and the balance for secretary's salary and working expenses. The assets amount to \$40,331.97 and the liabilities to \$602.35, leaving a balance to the credit of the reserve fund of \$39,729.62.

The president then called for nominations for officers for the ensuing year, when the following unanimous nominations were made and the officers as indicated declared duly elected:—

President—J. M. Dillon.

First Vice-President—P. J. Conroy.

Second Vice-President—Dan Mackenzie.

Third Vice-President—A. W. Robertson, Hamilton.

Treasurer—Samuel Munro, London.

Directors for London—W. H. Oke, Wm. Gray, H. G. Collamore, W. J. Craig, H. Line, E. W. B. Eardley and H. S. Wilcox.

Outside Directors—Hamilton, R. M. Hope and John Booker; Toronto, F. W. Heath, R. H. Greene, James Stevenson; Stratford, James Dow; Brantford, George Watt, jun.; St. Mary's, Jas. Maxwell; Galt, John Wardlaw; Ayr, John G. Watson; Oshawa, E. O. Felt; Waterloo, S. Snyder; St. Thomas, B. F. Honsinger, Wm. Turnbull; Woodstock, F. J. Richards; Windsor, Jas. F. Smyth; Chatham, A. E.