

THE *Budget* reports that the movement to establish a live stock insurance company for Canada is progressing satisfactorily, and that it is expected to have the company formed and perfected by the commencement of the new year. A provisional board of directors has been appointed, and a committee will communicate with the Government concerning the formation of the company. Subscriptions to about one-fourth of the required guaranteed fund have been received. The company will undoubtedly fill a want, and should, therefore, prove successful.

THERE are three assemblies of the Knights of Labor in Winnipeg, and others will be organized, among the number one composed of German citizens. An attempt will be made to organize assemblies in the larger provincial towns. In a short time at this rate the Knights will be able to wield considerable influence in the province, and especially in the city. There can be no harm in the organization of the workmen for mutual assistance, and so long as their efforts are kept within constitutional bounds, they have a perfect right to organize and agitate for the improvement of the condition of the mechanic and laborer.

MINNEAPOLIS lumbermen are just at present seriously agitated over the acquiring by Canadian lumbermen, of large tracts of timber land in Northern Minnesota. The Minneapolis men are disposed to kick heartily against such acquisitions, as they claim that all this lumber will shortly be required by the States of Minnesota and Dakota. It is stated that one Canadian syndicate, with American partners, has acquired the title to 500,000,000 feet of pine timber in Northern Minnesota, and that the whole of the vast timber belt of the northern slope of the State will shortly be "gobbled up" in the same way. This doubtless refers to companies operating mills on the Lake of the Woods at Rat Portage and Keewatin. The logs for some of these mills are floated down the rivers running into the lake from Minnesota, and thence towed across the lake to the point of destination.

THE *Northwestern Miller*, in stating that "American millers have demonstrated that they control the leading flour markets," advocates that a convention of millers be held at an early date to discuss the situation. It proceeds on the line of argument that the American millers having conquered the markets of the world and rendered milling unprofitable in Great Britain, they should not allow the advantage which they have gained to pass from them by careless or unwise action. The *Miller* thinks it is possible for the Americans to hold the markets which they have at last shown their ability to control, and still do a profitable business. This it is well known Minneapolis millers have not done. These manufacturers have shown their ability to control the markets of Great Britain only by selling at a loss to themselves. American low grades of flour have been selling in British markets at an actual loss to the manufacturers, and in this way milling has actually been rendered unprofitable in Great Britain. The Americans have a good profit from their domestic trade in patents and

strong bakers, and the surplus they slaughter in foreign markets. This is showing their ability with a vengeance.

THE immense value of the fisheries to the Dominion of Canada is hardly realized by the great majority of Canadians, notwithstanding the prominence given the subject of late by the action of the Government in enforcing the treaty of 1818 relating to United States fishermen pursuing their avocation adjacent to the Canadian coast. A paper recently published, shows that during the year 1885, the value of the fisheries to the country represented nearly \$18,000,000. This is exclusive of Newfoundland, where during the same year the fisheries were valued at \$6,000,000. Distributed over the provinces, Nova Scotia comes first, the fisheries of that province being valued at \$8,233,922; New Brunswick follows with \$4,005,431; Quebec, \$1,719,459; Prince Edward Island, \$1,293,429; British Columbia, \$1,078,038; Ontario, \$1,042,691. In the case of British Columbia, there is room for almost indefinite expansion of the figures given, the industry in that quarter being yet in its infancy. The completion of the Hudson's Bay railway will also open up another most valuable field for such pursuits. The number of men given employment in connection with the industry is placed at 69,000, and the number of vessels at 1,117, besides some 28,000 open boats.

MR. ROBBINS has a paper in a late number of the *Popular Science Monthly* regarding sudden changes of temperature and modes of heating buildings, which every Canadian would do well to peruse. He describes the sudden changes of temperature which are encountered many times every day by most people, by passing from a heated room to a cold atmosphere, as ruinous to the constitution. "If," he says, a "blizzard of unusual severity were coming that would send the thermometer down 50° or 70° in three hours, we should expect a great increase of pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, resulting in many deaths. Now, instead of three hours, suppose the mercury were to drop three score deg. in three seconds, what would be likely to be the effect on health? And yet we bring about artificial changes to ourselves quite as sudden and as severe as this." Mr. Robbins thinks our whole system of heating is faulty. He would do away with stoves, furnaces, steam pipes, etc., replacing them with open fire-places. Open radiation warms the objects in the house or room, and from them the air gets all the heat it wants. In the other case the air is heated first, and surrounding objects receive their supply from it. Besides the ozone of the air is destroyed by our mode of heating. In an absence of more perfect heating arrangements, he urges strongly against over-heating apartments, and to use caution in passing from a warm room to a cold temperature.

If there is one class of immigrants more than another who are always sure of ready employment in Canada, it is good domestic servants. In the Northwest there has always been a scarcity of desirable help of this nature, and one has only to pick up a copy of a Winnipeg paper to find a number of "wants" in this line. In the older

province of Ontario there is also always a good demand for the better class of domestic help. Domestic servants in Canadian households are usually made more at home than they would be in similar positions in the old country. Very often they occupy a position little inferior to one of the family where they are serving. They are allowed greater freedom of the house, and placed under fewer social restraints. This being the case, it will be seen why the better class of servants are so much in request. Intelligent and well-behaved girls will have no trouble in finding comfortable quarters in Canada. On the other hand, their work will usually be of a more general nature and requiring a wider knowledge than in England, where several servants are kept, each one having a particular routine of duties. However, an intelligent girl, who is capable of adapting herself to circumstances, will soon be able to overcome any little difficulties of this nature through a lack of extended knowledge suitable to a Canadian household. The scarcity of good domestic servants in Canada is partially accounted for from the fact that Canadian girls who are obliged to go out to service, prefer what they term more "genteel" employment in shops, factories, etc. At such employment they will usually work much harder and more continuously for longer hours, often in a vitiated atmosphere, rather than take more healthful, vigorous and pleasant work as domestic servants.

FOREIGNERS, including many leading British statesmen, have been wont to point to the United States as a model of peace, contentment and prosperity. The fact that she has maintained a position of respect and admiration among the nations, without the expenditure of vast sums in maintaining huge armies of soldiers and naval forces, has been frequently referred to by British statesmen as an argument in favor of a reduction in military expenditure. It would appear, however, from the tone of a large portion of the American press, that this enviable position is not relished by many Americans themselves. Many of these journals have been long and loudly clamoring for military and naval expenditure, to place the United States on a par with the armed-to-the-teeth nations of Europe. Among the journals most loudly clamoring for war expenditure, may be found the extreme protectionist portion of the press. Such papers argue that the surplus revenue should be applied in arming the nation, and that there should, therefore, be no reduction in taxes. In the case of such papers, their anxiety to see the nation prepared for hostile attack from without, is likely secondary to their opposition to tariff reform. The *Chicago Journal of Commerce* is one of the latter class. This journal calls for war expenditure "to inspire and present a decent appearance in the world of nations." Not of course "that there is any particular danger that any nation will be so foolishly as to commence a war with America," but just for the glory of the thing, you know. This is, certainly, a "logical" course of reasoning. It is to the credit of the United States that its policy has looked to commerce and industry rather than armament to uphold the honor of the nation, and now that its position has been assured, it would certainly be a retrograde movement to commence at this late date to put on the glitter of war.