

had some of the curious commodity asked for, and submitted it to the would-be buyer's scrutiny. The latter critically examined the lot, and offered the owner 4 cents a pound for it. Wondering what use cow hair could be put to, the reporter asked the buyer. "What do I do with it?" replied the individual, "I'll tell you. I first blow the hair by a peculiar process, which separates the long hairs from the short ones. The long hairs are then woven into fabrics with other material, which, upon completion, becomes the genuine, all wool-blankets which Uncle Sam presents to the Indians." And the shorter hairs. "They are worked into felting." "Do you ever pay more than 4 cents a pound for it?" "Oh, yes. White cow's hair is worth 11 cents a pound."

The following statement of the Farmers Bank of Rustico, P. E. I. has been published, Liabilities—Capital stock, \$8,311.86; bills in circulation \$12,655; deposits, \$549.19; due on dividends, \$65.45; total amount due from bank, \$21,479.50. Assets—Gold and silver, \$945.35; Dominion and other bank notes, \$1,813; amount due to bank, \$19,039; total resources, \$21,797.35; balance in favor of bank, \$317.95. All the debts are considered good, and a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. was declared for the year ending 15th February, 1884.

THOMAS H. HODGSON, of Montreal, at one time known as "the butter and cheese king", who made a disastrous failure, a couple of years ago, and who had lately returned and endeavored to re-establish himself, has again left town, in rather a peculiar manner. He had never fully settled old matters, and since has returned to Montreal a few months ago, had been labouring under great disadvantage owing to lack of financing facilities. His departure was rather sudden, and it is understood he had to borrow the money to secure his own passage and that of his family to England. It is not believed that he has made any fresh liabilities of consequence.

THE *Argus* says that, as Mr. Elizur Wright has recently been busy giving the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association something like a certificate of good character, it is just as well to remember what is his opinion about assessment companies. He once said: "If the co-operative scheme is to be called insurance at all, it is merely temporary insurance on credit. Just as sure as the down-hill road of life grows steeper and steeper, and the demands on the living members become correspondingly heavier and heavier, this credit will prove a failure. The hale members will cease to pay. The moribund will be disappointed. If the insurance had really been of good quality, it might be said they enjoyed all they paid for. But the insurance has been miserably imperfect, because it all the while ran the risk of what now has happened. They have contributed largely to the indemnity of others, and are now, when health has failed and no sound company will admit them, left in the lurch as to their own."

FALL SHOWS FOR 1884.—Industrial at Toronto, Sept. 10th to 20th; Dominion at Montreal, Sept. 5th to 15th; Western Fair at London, Sept. 22nd to 26th; North Perth, Stratford, Oct. 2nd and 3rd; Mornington, Milverton, Oct. 7th; Provincial, Ottawa, Sept. 23rd to 27th; Central, Hamilton, Sept. 30th to Oct. 3rd; Horticultural, Berlin, Sept. 10th and 11th; Southern, Brantford, Oct. 8th and 10th; North-Western, Wingham, Oct. 7th and 8th; South Oxford, Otterville, Oct. 3rd and 4th.

—Oak, ash, hickory, sycamore, balm-of-Gilead, maple, elm, basswood, all these woods are presumably still produced in the County of Essex. At least Mr. Orillette, a dealer still professes to purchase them.

—Under the head of "Logging Notes" a St. John paper, of August 2nd, states that Mr. Robert Connors does not agree with the opinion of Mr. Gibson, the lumber king, that there is as much spruce lumber in the Province of New Brunswick now as twenty years ago. He states that in many districts of the Province, where lumbering was formerly carried on heavily, log-cutting has been totally abandoned of late years, as the difficulty of working in the woods becomes more and more difficult every year. The logs are becoming scarcer, smaller and more remote from the streams. It takes fully 100 years for the spruce tree to reach its growth, and when it grows on burnt land it never reaches its natural size. Mr. Connor believes, however, that with moderation in the annual out-put the spruce forests will be available for use for many years to come. A correspondent of the North-Western *Lumberman*, writing from Midland, Ont., last week, declares that bill stuff and coarse lumber are about 50 cents to \$1 lower than in the spring, but good lumber is steady at about last season's prices. Lath has been good, and up to last year but is now dropping. Shingles, 18-inch, have declined from 50 to 30 cents, and 16-inch about 25 cents. "There will not be nearly so much lumber made here this year as last. There are several mills idle that have not run any, and the Parry Harbor mill was burned lately, which shuts off about 15,000,000 there. There are about 10,000,000 feet of logs hung up on the Muskoka and Maganetawan that will not come out, and about 10,000,000 more in the Muskoka that will come out to late, if they come at all. There are also about 400,000 cubic feet of square timber hung up on the above rivers, intended for the Quebec market."

THE MAGNETIC POLARITY OF IRON.—Captain John Hayden, of Bath, Me., author of "The Requisite Nautical Assistant," writes that as long as forty years ago he practically tested, on shipboard, the influence of upright iron bars or masses of iron on the needle. He says: "Iron rods or bars, in a horizontal position, exert but little force on the compass, but the same amount and form of iron placed vertically produce an immense effect on the needle. The iron rod immediately becomes magnetic when placed in a vertical position, its magnetism increasing with the length of time it so remains, although it manifests no magnetism when parallel with the horizon. This effect on iron is most marked when the rod is held or placed in the magnetic meridian, and in the direction of the tipping needle, which is in this country with the bottom end swung to the north about thirty degrees from the perpendicular."—*Scientific American*.

—The Barque *Petitcodiac*, of Moncton, arrived at Halifax on Sunday from Hamburg with a cargo of beet root sugar for the Nova Scotia refinery.

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