

Colon There is thus a considerable activity, and the construction of the canal is indirectly benefiting the country generally, developing and bringing it within the boundaries of civilization and commercial enterprise.—*Mechanical World.*

New Stone Saw.

A new sort of saw for cutting stone is described in *La Semaine des Constructeurs* which seems to have advantages over those now commonly in use, and is easily and cheaply made and operated. In place of the ordinary long steel blades, supplied with sand to enable them to grind their way into the stone, the new machine presents only a slender endless cord composed of three steel wires twisted together, which is stretched over pulleys in such a way as to bring the lower portion horizontally over the stone to be cut. The frame carrying the pulleys is moveable so that the cord can be brought in contact with the stone, or lifted away from it, at pleasure, and the whole is kept in rapid motion, while water falling in drops from a reservoir above serves to moisten the stone. The three wires which form the saw differ from the ordinary kind in being square in section, and by twisting into a cord they are so turned as to present a succession of oblique cutting edges, which act, when set in motion, in nearly the same way as so many small chisels, while the rapidity with which the blows follow each other probably add to the effect.

British Shipping.

The shipping trade of the British Islands renowned as it has been for years, in growth as well as extent, continues to grow. "Her march is over the mountain wave" still, and "her home is on the deep," though in a sense different from that in which Campbell wrote. The annual statement for 1893 of navigation and shipping in the United Kingdom, shows a decided increase over the previous year in number and tonnage of crafts employed in the home or foreign trade and both. The following are the figures. Total number of sailing and steam vessels, British and Foreign, entered at ports in United Kingdom during 1893:—

	No. vessels arrived.	Tonnage.
1893 ..	354,164	75,340,507 Tons
1892 ..	353,413	71,854,212 "
	No. vessels cleared.	Tonnage.
1893 ..	314,984	69,452,800 "
1892 ..	314,964	66,526,002 "

The Condition of Three Great Nations.

The expenses of the United States, with 56,000,000 people for 1893, were \$265,408,137 and the income \$395,287,000, leaving a surplus of \$132,879,000 to be applied to the debt, notwithstanding \$60,000,000 paid in pensions. The estimated revenue of Great Britain, with a population of 36,000,000, for the present year is £84,000,000 or \$420,000,000. Deducting £8,000,000 or \$40,000,000 placed in the sinking fund for payment on the debt, there is left for all expenses \$380,000,000. How is it with France? She has a population of less than 38,000,000, hardly 2,000,000 larger than Great

Britain, almost 20,000,000 less than the United States, and yet her national expenses last year were \$605,000,000, well nigh twice those of Great Britain, and not far from three times as large as those of the United States, leaving her a deficit of 73,000,000 francs or \$14,600,000 to be provided for by extra taxation.

The Strong-Rooms of the World.

Strong-room is the standard English name for what in this country is termed a large vault for the storage of valuables, cash, bonds, etc. I like this good old English name of strong-room and so I will use it as applying to safe deposit vaults the world over. I have visited many of them both sides of the water, and all my life since boyhood has been spent in looking after them. Less than twenty years ago all the strong-rooms in this country which were used for storage of cash, bonds, and so forth belonged to the banks and bankers, and were a part of their business machinery. Since that time safe deposit companies have been established, and they are now numerous in this country, having larger and better strong-rooms than the bankers ever had. No one will ever know how many million dollars worth of valuables are stored in one of these great safe deposit companies, for each customer has his own special lock-up within the great central strong-room, and keeps his own keys and counsel. I shall be asked who is responsible to depositors for the safe-keeping of all these treasures, and I reply the company is responsible for the exercise of due care and diligence in the work it has undertaken; and what is demanded of it in these premises would have to be settled in the courts if any dispute in the matter should arise between a loser and the safe company.—*London Cor. Boston Commercial Bulletin.*

General Notes.

THE condition of the British labor market in the opening week of June as reported to the *London Labour News*, was not materially different from that noted in the preceding week. Some iron works are closing their doors, the depression in the iron industry continuing; others are reducing wages, and still others curtailing hours of work. In the textile industries great diversity exists, some reporting plenty of work and new orders and others the reverse. In the Lancashire cotton-weaving districts the manufacturers of one large district have decided to advance the weavers' wages 5 per cent. of the first full week in July. It is believed that the employers all through Lancashire generally will concede a 5 per cent advance in preference to having to face another strike. A new confederation of weavers' association is practically completed, which embraces the northern counties of England.

SOURIS—PLUM CREEK.

Mr. Joseph Brown succeeds Brown and McKennit in managing the Crescent Hotel.

Mr. Peter Moffat has opened a new blacksmith shop. This is the third in our village.

Mr. William Carveth has opened a butcher store, and goes in for regular meat provisions. Those who know him are confident that it will be well carried out.

A new bridge has been erected over the Souris here—a great boon for the traffic to and from Brandon, Alexander, and the Turtle Mountains, White Water, Souris Ford and Antlers district.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

C. Burley, lumber, has sold this week 20,000 feet of lumber to farmers for granaries.

Hugh McKenzie, of McKenzie & Campbell, harness makers, has rented the Central Hotel, in Minnedosa, for a term of years.

Alex. McLean has let the contract for a two storey solid brick house, to be built on King street west, near the Presbyterian church.

R. C. Campbell, furniture dealer, has again got charge of his stock. It is to be hoped that Mr. C. will soon recover from his embarrassment.

The Portage Milling Company shipped 1,000 sacks of flour to Indian Head and Swift Current this week for the Hudson's Bay Co. This consignment was outside of the previous contract with the H. B. Co.

Twenty head of fat cattle were shipped to Winnipeg last week by A. H. Morrison. The total weight of the shipment was 29,000 pounds, or an average of 1,450 pounds each. They were certainly a credit to the farmers who raised them.

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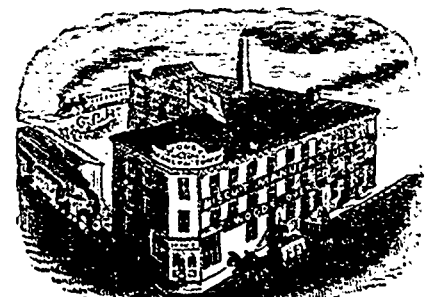
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