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THE Welland Canal is to be kept open until 15th December. Ice is forming at the west end of Lake Erie and it is three inches thick on Lake St. Clair where the steam barge "Tempest" stuck for a while on Sunday. The lightships and gas buoys in the Detroit river and Lake St. Clair have been removed, and are now in winter quarters. Everything stopped in the river at Detroit last night, says a despatch of 30th November, and from this time until the close of navigation will run the river only during the day.

THE extensive improvements that have been made on the Grand Trunk Railway

Telephone Main 2732

## John Mackay & Co. Chartered Accountants

Canadian Bank of  
Commerce Building,

Toronto.

System on the line between Toronto and Montreal, west of Port Hope, were finished a week ago, and trains are running over the new portion. This work completed the double track of the Grand Trunk between Montreal and Niagara Falls. The portion between Whitby and Port Hope has taken a long time to complete, but now that it is done it is well done. Over 46 miles, a practically new roadbed has been under construction, involving an outlay for betterments of \$1,500,000.

A CURIOUS state of things exists at Gagetown, Queen's County, New Brunswick, if the following paragraph is true. The Gagetown Gazette, has had to suspend publication. The editor remarks: "We have always found it impossible to secure local help as is found in most country newspapers, as in small towns there are always boys and girls who are anxious to get a chance to learn a trade. It is not so here, as you cannot get either a boy or a girl to work in an office, or in fact, anywhere else."

#### THE INDUSTRIAL SITUATION.

Following the news of closing down of factories and reduction of wages in various parts of the United States last week, comes further information along the same lines. The International Harvester Co., Chicago, is trying to save \$5,000,000 per year by the laying off to save \$5,000 per year by the laying off of 7,500 of its 19,000 employees; 3,000 of these being in the Deering division, and 1,500 in the McCormick division, the others being stationed in the mills at Milwaukee, Springfield, and elsewhere. A dispatch from Boston, Mass., of November 30th, stated that the wages of some 32,000 cotton textile operatives were reduced on that day, this making the total number of New England workmen to have their pay cut down this fall, 64,000, and since then about 11,000 more have been reduced in New Bedford. The cut averages 10 per cent. In Rhode Island, practically every cotton mill has adopted the new schedule, about 20,000 hands being affected, and the new rates equalling a loss of income of something like \$20,000 weekly. Apparently no very serious protest is being made against the

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