

A general and special meeting of the shareholders of the Banque Jacques Cartier was held on Monday, 12th March, in Montreal. The meeting, which was numerously attended, decided to adjourn until next Monday, so as to allow of the shareholders' subscriptions to the new stock being increased, as they will be, by about \$100,000. Outsiders and depositors have subscribed \$285,000 towards the \$500,000 of new capital decided upon, while the shareholders have only so far subscribed about \$115,000, and it is considered that the shareholders should make up the balance. Judging from the unanimity of the meeting of the 12th, this is likely to come to pass. The bank's assets have so far proven satisfactory; as Mr. Laporte says, not one client has failed since last year.

The People's Bank of Halifax was to hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, 6th March. Its January dividend was at the annual rate of six per cent.

We observe a change in the position of the Queen street branch of the Ontario Bank. It is now at the corner of Queen and Portland streets, instead of at 500 Queen street west. Both outside and in the new office is an improvement on the old; mahogany woodwork, copper quill work and panelling, tinted walls and electric lights make the new office an agreeable place for the staff to work in and for the customers to visit.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

At a meeting of the cheesemakers of London section of Ontario it was resolved that 10 cents is too high a price for boxes, and that unless manufacturers come down to 9c. they, the cheesemakers, will bring in material and make their own boxes.

Exports from the United States of canned beef last year were 49,393,218 lbs., against 37,866,632 lbs. the previous year, showing the effect of the exceptional British South African demand. Exports of canned fruits were of the value of \$3,015,431, against \$2,429,078, a substantial increase. Canned salmon export fell off from 30,270,000 pounds to 23,015,000 pounds.

The commission appointed to investigate the elevator and warehouse system of Manitoba and the Northwest has reported recommending inspection of elevators for the protection of shippers and producers of grain and practically a complete freedom in the construction of flat warehouses. A bill for submission to Parliament has been prepared in accordance with the report.

According to a New York despatch of this day week the American Fisheries Company has gone into a voluntary receivership in order to re-organize and reduce the capital to a more suitable figure than the \$2,000,000 and the \$8,000,000 common now outstanding. The preferred is paid up, while the common represents patents for fish phosphate out of menhaden. The reduction by the by-laws could not be made without the consent of all preferred shareholders; the by-laws were drawn in the interest of the original owners of patents. Consequently the receivership was decided on. The receivers are Thomas Russell and Charles B. Hobbs.

Promoters of the Standard Chain Works, chartered under the laws of New Jersey with a capital of \$3,000,000, have been meeting in New York to consummate the consolidation of chain works. Ten of the leading chain manufacturers of the United States are in the combine. These have their headquarters in the States of New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

A verdict of \$22,500 has been given in the New York Supreme Court against an electric railroad company, for injuries to a boy of 11 years who was standing on the corner of two streets when one of its cars swept around the curve, the fender projecting over the curb so that it swept the boy under the car, and in consequence his left leg had to be cut off.

WESTERN MINING ITEMS.

The product of the War Eagle mine for the year ending September 30, 1899, is thus given in The Rossland Miner: Tonnage, 51,243; smelter's gross assay value, \$834,882.92; smelter's net value, \$508,562.03; smelter's gross value per ton, \$16.28; smelter's net value per ton, \$9.92. To this may be added figures showing product and values for three

months, October, November and December of 1899: Tonnage, 22,693; smelter's gross assay value, \$401,873.55; smelter's net value, \$265,711.50; smelter's gross value per ton, \$17.71; smelter's net value per ton, \$11.71.

The following are the results of the Hall Mines smelting operations during January, 1900: Copper smelting, 8 days, 11 hours, 1,803 tons of Silver King ore from the company's mine, and 7 tons of purchased ore were smelted, containing (approximately), Silver King ore, 30 tons copper, 17,405 ounces silver; purchased ore, etc., 9 tons copper, 5,770 ounces silver, 34 ounces gold. Lead smelting, 29 days, 1 hour: 741 tons of purchased lead ore were smelted, together with 128 tons of Silver King ore from the company's mine, from which were produced 164 tons of bullion, containing (approximately) from Silver King ore, 1,700 ounces silver; from purchased ore, etc., 159 tons lead, 25,820 ounces silver, 416 ounces gold.

NERVE TONICS AND BUSINESS "BITTERS."

In the high pressure life of recent years in the United States and Canada, consuming nerve force as it does, and wearing out the human system prematurely, a craving has developed for stimulants and sedatives, helps to "get up steam" followed by helps to calm the brain to sleep. And to meet this craving the ingenuity of the patent medicine man has catered most persistently. Nerve stress, or exhaustion of the nervous system, of which we see so much in commercial and financial life, manifesting itself in neuralgia, sciatica, lassitude, sleeplessness, demands relief, and so we have remedy after remedy offered to alleviate pain and to restore the tone of the suffering system.

A firm of Western Americans has compiled a list of some hundreds—432, to be exact—of these and other "sure cures." "Secret Nostrums and Systems" is the name of the book, and its contents are instructive as well as amusing. For instance, we learn from it that there are no fewer than 48 kinds of tonics and tonic bitters, the formulae for making which are given either accurately or approximately. And among the variety of drugs, of strengthening extracts or essences used in them, it is interesting to find that alcohol is an almost universal ingredient, the proportion used varying from 6 per cent. to as much as 41 per cent. "B.B.B." is the alliterative name of one, which only common people are supposed to use, because it is no secret that beef, brandy and bitters are its main make-up. The "Oil of Gladness" and the "Oil of Joy" are attractive titles for mixtures consisting, so the book tells us, largely of whiskey, there being capsicum in the one and camphor in the other.

The friend of woman, Lydia Pinkham, whose benignant face, and whose signature "Yours for Health" looks at us from the pages of so many magazines, uses mainly herbs in her compound, but does not despise alcohol. Then again, the magnetic element in the preparation known as Magnetic Liniment appears to be cantharides; while "Moxie, the great Nerve Food" is, we are told, simply a decoction of oats made with a syrup and flavored with sassafras and wintergreen. We do not remember at the moment what "Revalenta Arabica," a favorite food in England for those troubled with neurasthenia or other debility, is made of, but there is a preparation vended plentifully in the States under the name of "Avena Sativa" for nervous troubles, of which Dr. William Osler says, satirically: "I prefer to take my avena sativa in the form of porridge rather than in the form of concentrated tincture of oats,"—avena being the Latin word for this grain.

It may be true, as we are so often told, that people like to be humbugged, so long as it is skilfully done. But the fact that so enormous a business is possible in disguised stimulants points to a widely felt demand for some restorative, some panacea that will quickly build up the human system which has been exhausted by brain labor and worry. It is of little use to tell business men that such remedies as these artificial liquid tonics are only of temporary use. But we venture to say again that Nature's cures are the real cures for nerve and brain exhaustion. To pour drugs and essences into the stomach is not the best way to feed a debilitated system or a spent brain. Fresh air and exercise, systematic relief from the nerve stress, shorter hours of head-work, variety of occupation, simpler and more rational ways of living—these are the means a man or woman should employ whose health is beginning to fail by reason of too much sedentary work or too exclusive devotion