

the expenses that are regarded as "not worth counting," make a hole in the profits; or, where allowance is made, by rule of thumb, for certain items, it is not done by any proper rule, and therefore the true cost of an article cannot be learned.

THE COMMERCIAL VALUE OF MOUNTAIN SCENERY.

This may strike most people as an odd way to put it. Mountains are certainly not fit for ordinary settlement; but they may have a commercial value for all that. Switzerland is almost full of mountains and draws crowds of tourists from all parts of Europe and America to see and climb them. Probably half of the whole business of Switzerland arises from her mountains. Anyone who has been there can certify to that.

But we are just realizing that we have a Switzerland of our own in the Rocky Mountains and British Columbia. Every feature of the Swiss mountains is to be found there. Travellers will recall, with delight, the exquisite valley of Interlaken, with the snow-capped peaks of the Bernese overland close by. We have a veritable Interlaken at Banff; indeed, in many respects, Banff is superior to Interlaken, for in combination with its mineral springs it is both Interlaken and Baden. We might put Saratoga in this list, too, considering the new hotel just built by the Pacific Railway Company. The Swiss Matterhorn is reproduced in a range which towers over the Bow River valley within a mile or two of this very hotel. All the tremendous features which make the Matterhorn famous are reproduced there. We have the Jungfrau range over again in the heart of the Selkirks, where the Hermit mountain towers over all her neighbors, and all are snow-capped. The famous Mer-de-glace, that wonderful sea of ice near Mont Blanc, is more than paralleled by the magnificent glaciers underneath Mount Sir Donald. The Kicking Horse Pass and the passes and canons of the Fraser and Columbia are quite as grand as the great passes which have made the Swiss mountains historically famous for centuries.

So then, we have actually got a Switzerland of our own in the North-West and the Pacific Slopes. And just as Switzerland supports an immense population out of her scenery, and does constantly increasing business with tourists that swarm over her hills and valleys—so doubtless will Canada. There is no reason why there should not be thousands and tens of thousands of visitors visiting these mountain regions every summer. Instead of one large hotel we may expect, before long, to see five and twenty at least, with little settlements of shops springing up about them exactly as they have done at Thun, Interlaken, Lucerne and other places in Switzerland. Why not?

VIATOR.

BOOTS AND SHOES IN THE U. S.

In two recent issues the *Boston Shoe and Leather Reporter* has this to say of the trade which it represents:

The shoe manufacturing industry is certainly in a strong position. The great majority of the manufacturers have as many orders as they can fill, at prices which afford them fair profits, and from customers of whose ability to pay they feel very little doubt. There is reason to believe that few of the goods they have sold will be carried over to

another season. It is one of the favorable features of the traffic that jobbers and retailers are so cautious to avoid buying any larger supplies than their business calls for.

Speaking of prices the same journal continues: We are in an era of low prices. Pretty much all kinds of staple merchandise are cheap, and shoes are certainly no exception to the rule. The wonder is that they should be so good and so inexpensive, and at the same time that the manufacturers of them should be realizing fair profits. The explanation of this is, in part, that the trade is pursued with nice economy and remarkable skill. Everything in the way of material and labor is utilized to the fullest extent, and so much ingenuity is displayed in the adoption of styles that scarcely any goods are made that do not find a ready market.

DRY GOODS NOTES.

An encouraging state of business is shown by the October dividends of the various Fall River Corporations. Indeed, they give good reason to anticipate a continuance of the fairly profitable business of the past year. The annual reports presented at the October meetings have been especially encouraging, and stockholders generally are pleased with the year's returns. The dividends declared during the year by twenty-one corporations, with an aggregate capital of \$10,560,000, reach a total of \$226,050, or an average of over 2 per cent.

Flax growing in England, says the *Standard*, will probably receive a great impetus if a new system of preparing the fibre introduced by Mr. Henly, of the Flax Mills, Long Melford, Suffolk, prove successful. With the use of a small breaker, costing only £15, any farm laborer can prepare flax for the spinner, dispensing with the scutching process, so that growers can be independent of local flax works, which are few and far between. In Long Melford ninety acres of flax were grown, in order to give the new system a commercial trial; it is expected that a much larger area will be grown next season. This is an experiment deserving the attention of those in our North-West who have been looking into the subject of flax growing.

La Compagnie Manufacturiere du Chambly is sought to be incorporated in Quebec. Messrs. T. S. Willett, B. Willett, of Chambly, Hon. J. R. Thibaudeau, Raymond Prefontaine, M. P., J. M. Fortier, and George W. Parent, of Montreal, are the parties. Its object being to construct dams across and along the rapids of the Richelieu river, in Chambly Canton, &c., in the counties of Rouville and Chambly, to create water powers to be owned by said company, which it will work or have worked by others. (1.) To produce and furnish electricity for the lighting of streets or buildings. (2.) To pump water by hydraulic process or otherwise. (3.) For manufacturing purposes generally.

The Canada Cotton Company has decided, we understand, to pass dividend for the current half-yearly period.

A firm of New York importers has been in litigation with the U. S. Government for the last twenty-five years endeavoring to recover upwards of \$18,000 duty alleged to have been wrongfully levied on sixty-two lots of mousseline delaine. It appears that these importations, made from France in 1857, 1858 and 1859, were subject by the then collector of customs to an ad valorem duty of 24 per cent. The firm, Messrs. Lachaise & Fauche, contend-

ed that the goods should be classified as manufactures of worsteds, at 19 per cent. Last week a verdict was rendered giving the plaintiffs the amount at stake, together with interest from 1857. This decision, it is said, will bring about a settlement in eighteen other cases now pending, and involves something like a quarter of a million dollars, which the public Treasury will have to pay.

TIMBER AND LUMBER NOTES.

The *Fredericton Gleaner* understands that one of the heaviest lumber operators on the upper St. John is in serious trouble with the American customs' authorities for making alleged false entries at the customs' office, Fort Kent.

Owing to the excessive lowness of the water in Chats Lake, Messrs. McLachlin Bros. have been compelled to shut down their steam saw mill which will lessen their cut by at least a quarter.

A great disadvantage under which the lumbermen of the North Shore labor, says the *St. John Sun*, is the distance which vessels carrying lumber to the United States have to pass over before reaching their destination. Were the long and dangerous sail around the coast of Nova Scotia abolished by the construction of the proposed ship railway across the isthmus which connects that province with New Brunswick, all the wood now wasted in the manufacture of deals in the shape of slabs and edgings, could be profitably converted into laths, pickets and other short lumber. As the matter now stands, it does not pay to ship short lumber from the north to the States. On the Restigouche as well as on the Bonaventure there are large quantities of the finest cedars. Hundreds of millions of white cedar of large size on the Bonaventure River.

A man from Michigan, who was admitted to the Royal palace, at Amsterdam, Holland, passed—if he or the newspapers don't lie—through a door hung on brass hinges and secured by a brass lock, made in a Massachusetts factory, and saw the following further evidences of the spread of United States art and industry in the old world:—A chair from Grand Rapids, Michigan, and a spittoon (he called it a "cuspidor,") from Baltimore, stood near. Over the mantel, which was of American design, hung a landscape by a Philadelphia man, Thos. Moran, and upon it were a Colorado stag vase and a box of Michigan tooth-picks.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

E. R.; Ottawa.—It is necessary, according to a recent circular, to make such declaration. We do not know that, as you seem to suppose, it is necessarily an expensive operation. The Provincial Treasury circular is as under:

"Every incorporated company carrying on any labor, trade or business in the Province of Quebec is required to file with the prothonotary of the Superior Court, and with the registrar, a declaration of the corporate name, when and how it was incorporated, the date of its incorporation and where its principal place of business within the province is situated. Any company neglecting to make such declaration as required by the law, is liable to the penalty imposed by the act 45 Vic., chap. 47."

B.; Guelph.—(1.) We understand that depositors and note-holders of the Bank of London were to be paid on 1st November current. At Petrolia by the Bank of Toronto branch;