

### Western Notes.

Over 200 members of the North-West Mounted Police, or about one-fifth of their number, says a telegram from Ottawa to the *World*, have post-office saving bank accounts, their joint accumulation amounting to about \$25,000.

It is rumoured that Mayor Stewart of Ottawa, who represents the Canadian interest in the coal mines at Anthracite, Alberta, has sold the mines to an English syndicate for \$5,000,000. It is expected work will be resumed early in the New Year.

It is an idea among many people in this country, that the Mennonites are a close-fisted people, who keep and hoard up all the money they get hold of, but it is a mistake. Now that they have had two good seasons and their grain has brought good prices, they are spending their money as freely as others. For instance, they have not yet invested in superfine broad-cloth suits or plug hats, but we are aware that many of them have been purchasing more improved machinery, better stoves and household effects, and what is more, quite a few will be found shortly with their comfortable horse and buggy riding around the country. It is only a question of time before they will become thoroughly Canadianized.—*Monitor*.

### The Flour Trade.

Stocks continue to accumulate, having increased 3,329 barrels during the past week, bringing up the quantity in store here to 88,033 barrels, against 31,532 barrels a year ago, showing an increase of 57,101 barrels. Advices from points west of Toronto, state that stocks in the hands of millers are not large, and that receipts may be expected to fall off shortly. On the other hand it is reported that the market in Toronto has been so demoralized of late, that consignments to that city have been ordered to be sent on to Montreal. Still there is not the serious break in prices which some buyers anticipated, and should the advance in the price of wheat which set in a few days since continue, holders of flour will not have much trouble in sustaining values. In the meantime, however, there has been a good deal of cutting below quoted values in order to effect sales. Business has also been forced by peremptory orders from Western millers to realize, and hence a good deal of the late weakness in the market has unquestionably been occasioned by these forced sales.—*Trade Bulletin*.

### Wood Made Fireproof.

It is stated that a New Englander has recently discovered a cheap method of dissolving zinc by combining it with hydrogen and producing a solution called zinc water. This liquid, if applied to certain woods, notably whitewood, makes it absolutely fireproof, and at a low cost.

Mr. Edward Atkinson, the Boston Economist, in speaking of it at Cornell University, says he regards this discovery as one of the most important of the age, and one that will surely revolutionize fire insurances as well as immensely decrease the losses by fire. The invention is kept secret for the present. Only one foreigner, Sir Lyon Playfair, the English scientist, knows of it. He corroborates all

that is claimed for the invention, and says that the inventor is a bungling chemist, but that he has a faculty of blundering into the choicest secrets in nature's laboratory. As soon as patents are perfected and capital interested, zinc water will become an article of commerce.—*Commercial Bulletin*.

J. S. NORRIS.

JAS. CARRUTHERS.

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