

the war, and if forced to meet their obligations the plantation traders could not pay more than 25 per cent." Another despatch says that the storm in North Carolina, on the 4th ruined the cotton, wheat, and corn crops. Some hailstones that fell weighed a pound and a quarter, so says the telegraph. We may deduct something from this, and still believe that the storm must have been a pretty heavy and destructive one.

We understand that the Canadian Steam Users' Insurance Association, now known as The Boiler Inspection & Insurance Company of Canada, at their annual meeting confirmed the appointment of Mr. John Galt, C. E. & M. E., as general manager of the Company. Mr. Galt has had considerable experience as a civil and mechanical engineer both in Europe and the States, and we congratulate the directors in securing the services of one whose high scientific attainments combined with practical experience will increase the utility of this important company. Mr. G. C. Robb, who has filled the position of chief engineer so creditably is retained; and this company act also now as general consulting engineers. Their services we believe in the interests of Canada will be fully valued and appreciated. We note that Mr. Cox, President of the Midland Railroad Company, was added to the directorate, while Mr. Jones still acts as secretary and treasurer.

The Syndicate has secured the North Shore road between Ottawa and Montreal, and the Crt lit Valley is already virtually in its possession. The Quebec and Ontario remains the "missing link," soon, however to be supplied. From Toronto to Montreal the competition between the two powers will be lively; but the far greater portion of Western Ontario will be in the hands of the Grand Trunk. The fate of the Toronto, Grey & Bruce and the Northern and North-Western is matter of speculation. But the probabilities are that the former will go with the Grand Trunk, and the latter with the Syndicate. Then the railway question in Canada will be pretty solidly settled, for some time, at all events. In a year or two more, people will look back with astonishment at the great railway revolution, precipitated and accomplished within less than the time of an ordinary term of Parliament. At present we are too near the event to realize in our minds what its magnitude actually is.

The most intensely French of our French-Canadian fellow-citizens in Quebec will scarcely deny that they are a *little* behind Ontario as regards agricultural improvement. But it may be that the time has come for them to make a start. The statement is made that two farmers, named Lacour and Lahale, having land on the island of Montreal, have rented to the Pioneer Sugar Company the whole of their arable land—some 150 acres—to be used entirely for the raising of sugar beets, and to be paid for at the rent of \$15 per acre. This seems a big rent, but it must be recollected that the land is in all probability extra good garden ground, well manured and worked for many years back, from which an enormous crop of beets will be taken in any ordinary season. For beets grown elsewhere the Company offers to pay five dollars per ton. Here and elsewhere may be seen hints of a great agricultural revival in Lower Canada. With the use of phosphates on the land and the cultivation of the sugar beet together, the ancient Province

can again be made a wheat-growing country, as it was many years ago. As things are now turning, this is not only a possible but even a probable revival.

The Montreal *Shareholder* of last week professes to have authority for denying the rumor recently alluded to in these columns that Mr. Hickson was about to leave the Grand Trunk and become Manager for the Syndicate. We merely gave the rumor for what it was worth, and no more. After quoting what we said, and denying the truth of the rumor, our contemporary adds:—

"Despite this contradiction that we have to make, the paragraph we have quoted is as a whole thoroughly truthful. The right words are struck in describing Mr. Hickson's successful management as "really phenomenal," and the Syndicate would no doubt be ready to bid high for the transference of his services to itself. It happens, however, that the Grand Trunk proprietary has the best practical knowledge—that of experience—of the invaluable character of the abilities of their General Manager, and would certainly not allow itself to be outbid were the retention of his services to come under discussion. We repeat, however, that no such subject has anywhere been mooted, or is likely to be."

After all which, the *Shareholder*, instead of alluding to this journal under the disguise of "a Toronto paper," might have mustered courage enough to say plainly that the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER was meant.

The prospectus of the Steel Association of Ontario has been issued. The Company has secured seven hundred acres of valuable mineral land, back of Belleville, in which place the works will be built, a committee being now engaged in selecting the site. The first issue of stock will be \$700,000, in shares of \$50 each, but it is expected that ultimately as much as \$3,000,000 will be called for and employed. It is stated in the prospectus that as a guarantee of good faith to subscribers, and to prevent the depreciation of the stock by speculators until \$2,000,000 is subscribed and fully paid up all the stock is to be held in trust by some chartered bank in Ontario, acting as fiduciary agent for the Company, and cannot be sold or transferred. This will ensure the building of the plant and active carrying on of the work. The balance of the stock, \$1,000,000, will be held in reserve, to be issued as may be required to extend the works in order to enable the Company to fully supply the Canadian market with all the various kinds of steel required in the Dominion. In order to insure to the Company the benefit of the best efforts of its employees by giving to each one of the latter a personal interest in the success of the enterprise, all workmen employed at the works will be required to be holders of at least one share of stock; thus by giving to the workmen employed in the works a voice in the management of the business and a share in the profits, the conflicts which so often arise between capital and labour will be prevented. To enable them to fully supply the Canadian market with all the various kinds of steel, the Company has secured control of all the known processes and patents for the manufacture of steel. Meantime the Company has a temporary office at Room No. H, Queen's Hotel, Toronto, where information regarding the new enterprise may be obtained. It is expected that the works will be in operation, and producing 50 tons of steel per day of twenty-four hours, within four months; but we might stretch that time a little and still allow that remarkably good speed was being made.