

FIRES FROM STORED HAY.

That hay may take fire spontaneously through the generation of heat therein by rapid evaporation is not widely enough known. The New York Monitor reminds its readers of the fact, and makes a suggestion towards doing away with the risk, thus: The spontaneous combustion of hay is the cause of many fires on farm property during the early fall, the hay being stored while yet uncured, or while damp from a recent shower, both conditions being highly favorable to the development of spontaneous combustion through the great heat generated in the process of evaporation. Several hundred hay fires from that source were reported to this office last year, and the agents writing such risks should inspect them carefully and warn customers to guard against the overheating of the hay, which can easily be prevented if proper precautions are taken. In our younger days it was the common practice to liberally sprinkle each layer of hay with salt for this purpose as well as to guard against must. Salt is a good absorbent of moisture. The exceptional dampness of the present summer in the East is specially favorable to this class of fires.

ENTERPRISES, OLD AND NEW.

The Londonderry Iron Co., Ltd., has shipped during the month of August, 700 tons of cast iron pipes. This is the largest quantity ever shipped by this company in one month, and shows a very encouraging volume of business for the Lower Provinces. The Truro News says: The outlook for September indicates an even larger shipment of pipes.

A telegram from Napanee states that R. F. Bicknell is seeking a bonus to aid in the erection of a packing house at that place with a capacity of 1,000 hogs per day, besides cattle for beef packing. The cost is estimated at \$65,000.

Fredericton's citizens are in favor of granting a civic bonus of \$10,000 to a shoe factory enterprise, 92 per cent. voted "yes," and the ratepayers have said emphatically that they are willing to tax themselves in order to encourage manufacturing enterprises. The vote stood: For the bonus, 622; against it, 40. Messrs. John Black, M. P. P., J. S. Neill, John Kilburn, Willard Kitchen, W. T. Whitehead, John Palmer, Edward Moore, Geo. Colter, J. W. McCready and O. M. Hartt will be the applicants for the letters patent.

Apparently the business of making felt boots is prospering at Berlin, for word comes that Mayor Rumpel is about to enlarge his premises devoted to that industry. He will presently begin operations on a four-story brick manufactory, 50 feet frontage and 125 feet in depth, bordering on Victoria street and connected with the present factory. This will likely mean the employing of 50 or 100 more hands.

"The destruction of the saw-dust evil is begun already." At least this is what the Ottawa Journal says, from which we take the following: A calcium carbide plant large enough to handle the Ottawa output of saw-dust and waste wood, will probably be constructed in Ottawa before next spring. The success of Mr. V. L. Emerson's carbide plant has been such that those who were backing it up financially are prepared to expend more upon the erection of a larger plant. Such is Mr. Emerson's statement.

We have received the following letter from an old subscriber: I notice in your paper that the people of Belleville think of bonusing an iron furnace. It might be well for them to know something about the Guelph rolling mill that the city of Guelph was asked two or three years ago to bonus, but did not. I think the name was the "Guelph-Norway Steel and Iron Works." This industry was foisted upon a credulous investing public by a Mr. Patterson, who had been employed at the old Wyandotte rolling mills in Michigan. He had many plausible things to say about big profits, etc., in such a mill; all he wanted, he said, was capital to the extent of \$20,000 taken up by Guelph people; he and his partner would put in \$20,000. The sum of \$40,000 thus subscribed was to complete the whole, and get the mill running until money came in from the sale of the product. It was plain to a thinking man that on the small capital the scheme was impossible and the man who was proposing such a silly venture was not the man to manage the business. The stock was however subscribed in Guelph, and Patterson and his partner paid up their stock by transferring a lot of old

iron from Wyandotte, which they sold to the company as machinery. Before the plant was complete it became evident the capital of the concern was too small, and \$20,000 more had to be gotten up. The business worked for a time; they turned out and sold some iron, and a meeting was held, which the report in the papers stated was very satisfactory, but they wanted more capital, the shares of which were to be sold first to the original stock-holders, and any left offered to the public at 20 per cent. premium. But they never got much premium, and they had difficulty in getting rid of the new stock at par. Things went on for a short time, when finally the thing bust up and had to go into liquidation. Result, \$80,000 sunk; property idle, virtually sold to the heavy stock-holders for \$8,000, and so remains idle to-day. No bonus was given by the town as I have already stated. The company got exemption from municipal taxes, which was no great loss to the town. They had to pay the school tax on a valuation of \$15,000, however.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

A Bowmanville buyer is going through South Essex, Ont., buying apples at from \$1 to \$1.25 per barrel. They are to be shipped from Harrow to Scottish markets.

Last week's shipments of cheese to Britain were large, the quantity having been 85,071 boxes, which is 40 per cent. more than in the corresponding week of 1897. And the butter shipments were considerable, being 23,971 boxes for the week. Prices of both cheese and butter are more promising.

Mr. McLaren, M. P., commonly called the Canadian Cheese King, tells a reporter how he found things in England. When asked how Canadian cheese stood there he replied: "All right in so far as it is known as Canadian. But the trouble is, Canada is a terra incognita in the Old Country. Why? Well, because it is all known as 'America' over there. I tell you," and here Mr. McLaren warmed up to the subject. "it would pay us to have fifty good men constantly employed in Britain educating the people as to Canada and Canada's resources. The wholesalers know all about us, but to the retailer and consumer we are simply 'Americans' and our products are classed with those of the United States."

Much interest is being taken in dried fruits which are firmly held both in the Mediterranean and in California. In a fortnight California raisins are due. The combination of growers there is reported a very strong one, even the packers being tied hand and foot, and prices are stiff, with a considerable difficulty in getting orders booked. Opening prices are given in our Montreal markets, but it is said they are sure to advance. Valencia raisins and Sultanas are steady; figs high; currants firm; almonds very strong. California prunes will be due in Canada about end of October; they are in fair supply, the largest sizes will rule higher than last year, but medium and small sizes will quote about the same.

It was to be supposed that some time or other the advantages of the southwestern peninsula of Ontario as a fruit-growing district, would be recognized. Accordingly we find that Messrs. Kennedy Bros., of Syracuse, N. Y., built a premises in Leamington for canning and evaporating fruit, and have found it more successful even than they expected here. This season work is to be confined exclusively to apples, but next season all kinds of fruits will be handled and put into juices, syrups, jams, and jellies. The factory at present employs 45 persons, but it is likely to be enlarged and the staff doubled. At present the consumption is about 4,000 bushels of apples per week, but before the season is over it will increase to about 6,000.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

According to the statement of C. J. Thompson, of Virden, secretary of the Manitoba Hail Insurance Company, the amount of loss sustained by the company this year was \$23,000, of which the greater part has been paid. The loss by hail covered 100,000 acres.

But a few weeks have passed since we had to chronicle the loss of the lives of several faithful nuns by the burning of a religious hospital in Quebec province, which had no adequate appliances for putting out fire; and now we hear of the destruc-