

A TRUE DETECTIVE STORY.

Chief Wilkie, of the United States Secret Service, tells the following story of how a city ring was broken up:

"Several professional detectives were employed, but secured nothing. Finally the case was put in the hands of an amateur investigator, who soon reached the conclusion that the meetings of the 'ring' were held in the office of the lawyer who stood close to the gang. He hired an office near by and obtained entrance to the lawyer's.

"In the centre of the office he found a large table, and on it a combination pen-holder and inkstand of an elaborate design. Through the centre of the table, directly under the inkstand, he drilled a fine hole, and passed through it a small minute telephone transmitter.

"The next day, as the office was about closing, the amateur detective entered it and managed to tilt the inkstand on edge so the transmitter could receive the sound. That night the ring met and the members took their seats around the table. In the other room were four members of the Citizens' Committee, each with his ear glued to a receiver. That was the end of that particular ring."—Philadelphia Times.

THE St. Mary's River Railroad Company will construct a branch from some point on its main line by way of the North Kootenay Pass to a point on the Kootenay river between Wardner and the boundary line.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 8th Jan., 1902.

Ashes.—A few small purchases are reported of first quality pots at \$4.40 to \$4.50, the latter figure being for first-class tares; seconds are quoted at \$4 to \$4.05. In pearls, there has not been a deal for several weeks, and from \$6.50 to \$7 is a nominal quotation.

Cements and Firebricks.—There is almost an entire lack of demand in these lines at the moment, but values hold steady, and we quote: Belgian cement, \$1.90 to \$2; German, \$2.35 to \$2.50; English, \$2.30 to \$2.45; American, \$2.35 to \$2.50; Canadian, Beaver brand, \$1.90; Star, \$2.20; Silicas, \$2.10; firebricks, \$17.50 to \$23.

Furs.—Business during the holidays has been light in raw skins, but more liberal receipts are expected shortly. No changes in quotations are reported, though some revision of quotations is probable after results of the London January sales are known a fortnight hence. We quote for prime skins: Black bear, \$18 for large, \$13.50 for medium, \$7.50 for small; badger, 10 to 50c.; wild cat, 10 to 35c.; fisher, \$4 to \$6 for northern; western ditto, \$3 to \$5 for No. 1; red fox, \$1.50 to \$3 for northern; silver fox, \$50 to \$100; cross fox, \$5 to \$10; wolverine, \$1.50 to \$5; lynx, \$2 to \$4; marten, fine British Columbia, \$3.50 to \$7; eastern, \$2 to \$4.50; mink, eastern, \$2.25 to \$3.50; western, No. 1, \$1.50 to \$2.50; fall rats, 8 to 10c.; winter ditto, 10 to 13c.; otter, \$12 to \$18 for fine north eastern; No. 1, western, \$8 to \$12; coon, No. 1, black, \$1.50 to \$2.50; No. 1, dark, 80c. to \$1.35; skunk, 20c. to \$1.35 for prime, according to stripe, etc.

Hides.—The market has been a very quiet one for several weeks past, the demand from tanners being light. Calfskins are beginning to come in a little more freely. We quote dealers as paying 7½c.

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London, Canada—Room 4, Duffield Block, Dundas and Clarence Streets—Geo. H. Smith, Supt.
Montreal, Canada—1670 St. Catherine's Street—Chas. Stansfield, Supt.
" " " " 533 Board of Trade Building, 42 St. Sacrament Street—Henry Briggs, Supt.
Ottawa, Canada—Metropolitan Life Building, Metcalfe and Queen Streets—Geo. E. C. Thornton, Supt.
Quebec, Canada—Room 12, People's Building, 125 St. Peter Street—Geo. K. deKappelle, Supt.
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