

The largest raft of the season passed down the St. Lawrence recently. It contained 61,000 feet of square timber and was taken through the Long Sault in sections under charge of the best pilot on the river, Richard Dutoit.

According to the last advices from London, British Columbia's 3 per cent bonds have reached the gratifying figure of 104½. The 6 per cents were quoted at 125½, and the 4½ per cents stood at 120½. Vancouver's 1894 4 per cents were quoted at 107½, being the highest of any city in the Dominion.

The success of the shipment of lobsters to British Columbia waters is now assured. A large quantity which was recently sent westward by the fisheries service to plant the species in the West reached there in splendid condition. Besides these twenty thousand Eastern oysters have been planted in the waters of the Pacific Province by direction of the late Government, and a large quantity of black bass by the way of experiment.

Leading woollen manufacturers have met and discussed the question of credits and have decided that it is in the best interest of the trade to shorten credits by dating ahead a month earlier, namely, 1st September and 1st March in place of 1st of October and 1st of April respectively. It is understood that some of the wholesale dealers are averse to this arrangement as they were not consulted in the matter, and consequently have refused to give their orders under the new regulations.

There are in the United States, it is stated, 200,000 machinists, 10,000 tool makers, 25,000 boiler makers, 10,000 pattern makers, 750,000 carpenters and joiners, 200,000 masons and bricklayers, 50,000 contractors and builders, 50,000 plumbers, gas and steam fitters, 150,000 stationary engineers and firemen, 100,000 locomotive engineers and firemen, 50,000 electric railway and light employes, 50,000 cabinet makers, carvers and wood-workers, 50,000 civil, mechanical, electrical, and mining engineers.

Shippers in the export lumber trade state that they have not experienced such a good season as the present for the last ten or twelve years, and also that they have not seen as active an enquiry for spruce deals for the past 25 years as at present. The market in England is good, and can take all the deals and boards we can give her up to the close of navigation; in fact, large contracts are made ahead at good profitable rates. The drying up of quite a number of the Ottawa tributary streams has stopped the logs coming down and cut off a considerable supply of deals, which has curtailed the export movement, but it is hoped that rains in the West and North will soon remedy this drawback.

The yield and quality of the Argentine corn crop has resulted far more satisfactorily than was ever anticipated. The average return per square is something wonderful, 60 quintals being a low figure, some farmers having harvested up to 160 quintals per square. The quality also could not be better, and if only they could get some decently dry and cold weather the condition would be such as to render merchants' minds easier as to how it will turn out at the ports of discharge. The first estimate of export from there of 6,000,000 bushels must be increased to 10,000,000 bushels at the least. The big yield compensates growers for the poor prices ruling at present. The immediate outlook for them is unfortunately not very encouraging, as gold does not seem likely to rise much, if at all. Freight rates have a firmer tendency, and values are already falling away in the home markets.

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News has been received of the filing of chattel mortgages by J. W. Howry & Sons, lumbermen, whose offices and operations are at Fenelon Falls, Ont. The main mortgage is for \$490,000 and is given to the Bank of Toronto, covering all their Canadian interests. Two mortgages for \$18,000 on real estate are given to H. K. Howry and S. L. Wiggins, receivers for G. B. Wiggins, and two for \$4,000 each to Grace H. Howry. It is said that another mortgage is prepared, covering a New Mexico ranch to secure creditors.

On good roads accustomed to carrying a large and heavy ordinary traffic, and which have been well maintained and kept in good order, the steam roller does not put itself much in evidence. But when one of these implements is for the first time put upon a by-street or a country road accustomed to small and light traffic, and which has received but little attention in the way of maintenance, beyond an occasional scrape in unusually wet weather and a sprinkling of stones from a cart at rare intervals, the gas pipes suffer severely.

A Rome farmer has discovered that the army worm is killed when it comes in contact with salt. To confine the worms where they are operating he is putting a windrow of salt around the field or to protect a growing crop that is not infested he will run a line of salt around that. From experiments he made, in which several worms were killed, he is confident that when the worms undertake to crawl over the row of salt enough of the salt will adhere to them to destroy them. The result of the experiment will be given to the public.

According to a report of the Manitoba Department of Education for 1895, just issued, it is learned that the school population of the province increased from 7000 in 1881 to 44,932 in 1895. The number of registered pupils in the two years, respectively, was 4919 and 35,471. The number of school houses increased from 256 in 1883 to 956 in 1895.

The Colonial office has agreed that an all British cable shall be laid forthwith from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Australia, via the Fanning islands Honolulu being tapped by a branch line. The conference has only now to arrange minor details. It has decided that the cable shall be laid and be managed, not by a subsidized private company, but by a cable trust formed by the British, Canadian, and Australian Governments raising a capital of £1,800,000 on joint guarantee. This new link with Australia proving a strategic and commercial success, extensions will be made to South Africa and India, thus creating a trunk line of Imperial cables. The Colonial Office also is on the point of issuing a decision respecting a West Indian cable to avoid its present dependence upon the United States and Cuban lines, which are allies of the Pender system. Two tenders are before the Government—the West India and Panama Company propose an extension from Jamaica to Bermuda, to meet the Halifax-Bermuda cable, and then to England. The Halifax-Bermuda Company propose an extension south to Jamaica, and ultimately to Trinidad and British Guiana. The West Indian Government urged the Colonial Office to accept the Halifax-Bermuda tender, which it probably will do.

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