

Business at Edmonton.

John McDougall, of McDougall & Secord, Edmonton, was in Winnipeg this week on his way to Europe on a holiday trip.

He reports business as being very good at Edmonton this season, although the grain yield was not as large as it should have been on account of a number of farmers having commenced cutting too early. The trade with the north, which has always brought a lot of business to the Edmonton merchants, was particularly good this year, the quantity of fur shipped out being nearly double that of previous seasons.

The rush to the Klondike, by way of Edmonton, has died out, but there have been some very good samples of ore discovered north of Edmonton, very little development has been done as yet, however, owing to the cost of transportation. Large deposits of galena have been discovered on Grease Lake, but as it is mostly of a low grade it cannot be worked with profit at the present time.

Edmonton has experienced a small building boom this past summer, some fifty dwellings having been erected, as well as a number of business blocks.

Telegraph Rates to Alaska.

The Great North Western Telegraph company announces that the Dominion government telegraph line between Skagway, Alaska, and Dawson City, N. W. T., now being completed, they will accept messages at following rates, beyond Seattle, Washington. (Messages are sent by first steamer between Seattle and Skagway.)

| | For ten words | Each extra word. |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Skagway, Alaska | \$0.35 | |
| Bennett, N. W. T. | 1.35 | .05 |
| Cariboo Crossing, N.W.T. | 1.85 | .10 |
| Tagish, N. W. T. | 1.95 | .10 |
| Miles Canyon, N. W. T. | 2.10 | .10 |
| White Horse, N. W. T. | 2.10 | .10 |
| Lower Labarge, N.W.T. | 2.35 | .15 |
| Hootelliqua, N. W. T. | 2.60 | .15 |
| Elvo Finger, N. W. T. | 3.35 | .20 |
| Fort Selkirk, N. W. T. | 3.85 | .20 |
| Dawson City, N.W.T. | 4.35 | .20 |

Press dispatches, Skagway, Alaska, to Bennett, N. W. T., 1 cent per word, minimum charge 75 cents, with an additional charge of 35 cents for steamer, Seattle to Skagway. United States and Canadian government telegrams, half commercial rates. All messages to be prepaid.

Destroying the Sources of Rubber.

The consumption of India rubber has grown enormously in recent years. The trade has been stimulated chiefly by the use of tires. Several years ago it began to be evident that unless wasteful and destructive methods of collecting rubber were discontinued the supply would diminish while the demand was increasing. Government after government has therefore prohibited or restricted the collection of rubber in its territory in order to give the plants time to multiply and regenerate. The Congo Free State has now gone a step further. In addition to its decree of 1892, still in force, which made it a serious and punishable offense to kill the rubber plant or to gather rubber in any way except through incisions in the bark, is now made obligatory to plant at least 120 vines or trees for every ton of rubber collected. Infractions of the new decree are punishable by fine up to \$2,000, or imprisonment. A bureau of rubber forests has been appointed to guard the rubber interests of the

state and to enforce the decrees of 1892 and 1899.

It is necessary to kill the camphor tree in order to get camphor, but it is not necessary to kill any of the varieties of trees and vines that yield rubber to collect their juice, and yet this inexcusably stupid and wasteful method has been employed in many countries with the result that rubber plants have been exterminated in hundreds of thousands of square miles of territory. How speedily this result is achieved is illustrated in the recent case of South Madagascar.

In 1890 Fort Dauphin, on the south coast of the island, was a trade centre of small importance. Then it was discovered that rubber was near at hand in fairly abundant quantities. A dozen firms from Germany, France, Mauritius and Tamatave appeared on the scene and set all the natives they could muster at work killing the rubber plants and collecting its juice. They paid the gatherers nearly £10 for 220 pounds and sold the product at Tamatave at an enormous profit. They rushed the business and ruined it in six years. In 1896 the natives had to travel north for a week before they could find a vine to cut. The product dropped in 1896 to one-tenth that of 1893, and South Madagascar rubber disappeared from the market in 1897.

All along the west coast of tropical Africa the trees and vines producing rubber have been killed for a distance of forty to fifty miles from the sea. In the Amazon basin, the greatest rubber field, this useless destruction of a source of wealth has never been practiced. Small incisions are made in the bark, the milk is caught in hollowed-out lumps of clay placed beneath the incisions, and each tree yields a supply every year. But other American countries are finding it necessary to adopt stringent methods to protect the industry. In British and French Guiana it is now illegal to collect rubber except by tapping the trees. The cultivation of rubber on plantations is now everywhere encouraged. The exportation of the article from a part of Nicaragua, unless produced on plantations, has been prohibited till 1907 on account of the great destruction of rubber trees. Costa Rica has also prohibited the killing of rubber plants.

These steps to save the rubber industry from destruction, both in America and Africa, were taken none too early, and the prospects are the waste in the forests will now be greatly reduced while the number of plantations will gradually increase.—Carriage Directory.

Canadian shippers of produce are suffering inconvenience as a result of the withdrawal of vessels from the Canadian routes by the Imperial government for war service. Freight rates have advanced twice during the past two weeks. Altogether between Boston and Montreal six or seven steamers have been taken off.

The author of "In His Steps," the famous religious book, of which over three million copies have now been sold, has been induced to answer, in an article which he has sent to The Ladies' Home Journal, the question which unconsciously comes to the mind after reading his book: "Is this plan practicable in our present daily life?" Mr. Sheldon does not evade the question, but answers it in a direct and vigorous manner, and tells exactly what he believes would be the effect of his plan upon modern business methods and present day social life.

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