

the second chamber concur, this stand-and-deliver demand will become law. Why religious and charitable institutions should get water cheaper than individuals, and the city, that is the whole population, be obliged to supply it, perhaps below cost, passes understanding. One thing is clear: clericalism in Quebec is on a fair way to commit suicide, and the more acts such as this are perpetrated the sooner the end will come.

The new Frontenac Hotel, on the site of the old Chateau, is a curious commercial appeal to the sentimental side of history. The decorations are of the same character, and refer back to the 17th century. But the site has special merits of its own, commanding as it does splendid views of the surrounding country, and both banks of the St. Lawrence river, the isle of Orleans, the Laurentian range of mountains. This magnificent hotel, with its 170 bed-rooms, is a bold experiment, seeing that it is intended as a feeder to a railway, and it remains to be seen how it will turn out as a commercial speculation.

WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS.

The constitutionality of the warehousing clause in the Bank Act was raised before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, on an appeal to that tribunal from the Ontario Court of Appeal, in the case of Tennant and the Union Bank. The cable brings the news that the Bank has failed on the appeal. The failure is probably due to the finding of the Court that the warehouse receipts were bad in themselves. The dispatch also says that the warehouse receipt clause in the Bank Act has been held constitutional. If the Court has gone so far, it must in effect have said that although the receipts were bad, yet had these been good they would have given effect to the Bank's claim as assignees of the receipts, because they find that the Dominion Legislature was not encroaching on the exclusive power of the provinces to deal with civil rights when it passed what is known as the warehousing clause in the Bank Act. Till the mail brings the judgment in full, it would be idle to deal as extensively with its effect as we hope to do in our next issue.

THE SHOPKEEPER FEELS IT.

Who suffers when a mechanic or a laborer is disabled or out of work? The man himself, of course, and his family still more. But others bear a part of the load of penury and distress in such a case. We make a mistake if we suppose that the breadwinner who has no work or who cannot work is entitled to all our sympathy. If we think for a minute it will probably occur to us that the load of his misfortune is by no means on himself and his household only.

Suppose a factory hand disabled by a broken arm, or laid aside by stoppage of the factory. Suppose a corporation laborer with a broken leg. In most cases these people have no reserve of means laid aside for a rainy day. The wife and family need

food and fuel, the man needs medical care and perhaps medicine. Many are too proud to look to charitable funds or societies for help, and so they lean on the shopkeepers. The coal dealer sends wood or coal to such a stricken house and waits for his pay. The butcher or the baker provides in many cases for the food wants of unfortunate families and marks it on his books. Many a grocer who can ill afford it, continues to sell tea or sugar, cheese or flour "on tick" to the household. The shoemaker, the chemist, the doctor, all probably bear a share of this man's load. In these cases the promptings of the heart overcome the objections of the pocket.

In every considerable industrial centre such happenings to work people occur with painful regularity, and when slack time comes and hands are discharged or put on half time, the pressure becomes more or less severe upon those whose business is the supplying of the workers' households. Charitable boards may look after the very destitute; church members do much in the way of assistance. But when temporary misfortune overtakes a wage-earner we think it very likely that the shopkeepers often bear more of his load than they can reasonably be called upon to do.

MANITOBA CROPS.

A bulletin issued this month by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture contains some interesting information about the crops of that province. Attention is drawn in this to the distinct natural conformations which influence the climate to such an extent as to influence the crop yield. There is under cultivation a fractional part of a territory two hundred miles from east to west, and about one hundred miles from south to north in the province.

"All that part of Manitoba in the bed of the old Lake Agassiz, from the 'Ridge,' east of the Red River, to the foot of the Pembina Mountains, and following a line through Morden, Treherne, Burnside, Arden, and skirting the Riding and Duck Mountains on the east, now called the Red River Valley, is especially favored by its rich soil, its moisture and heat, for the perfect maturing of all kinds of grain. The altitude of this district averages about 800 feet above the sea level. Going west, the rise of the Pembina and Riding Mountains gives a more elevated prairie, interspersed by many bluffs of timber and numerous lakes and ponds. Going farther west, and especially to the south-west of the province, the elevation is still greater; soil is somewhat lighter, and scarcely any timber. For many years this south-western district was noted for its wheat, being of fine quality, invariably ripening early and without frost, while yielding abundantly."

It appears from this report that the Red River Valley has been the most favored district this year in the matter of crop, and that the south-western and western parts of the Province have suffered from the hot winds and want of rain. We condense from its pages some paragraphs which show, among other things, that the yield of wheat per acre ranges from less

than 10 bushels per acre in the south-west to more than 20 in the east, the average being 15½ and the total estimated yield 15,616,000 bushels from a little over a million acres.

The following table is a brief summary of the wheat yield throughout the province:

	Under crop. Acres.	Yield per acre. Bus.	Total yield. Bus.
N. W. District..	87,696	17.07	1,496,970
S. W. "	405,000	9.12	4,131,000
N. C. "	294,150	19.05	5,604,557
S. C. "	161,928	20.03	3,220,560
East "	55,776	20.86	1,163,826

Province 1,003,640 15.56 15,615,913

To the question sent to correspondents, "What percentage of this year's crop has been marketed?" it is replied that one-third has been sold in the N. W. district; rather more than two-thirds in the S. W., while the North and South Central report each 62 per cent., and the Eastern only 40 per cent. sold. Calculations from these figures would put the amount of wheat already marketed at 9,244,556 bushels, leaving a balance of 6,374,367 bushels still in the hands of the farmers. Of the wheat marketed 6,000,000 bushels has gone east and south as wheat; about 1,000,000 in the form of flour, leaving over 2,000,000 stored in elevators west of Lake Superior for shipment or for grinding. Of the 6,371,367 bushels in farmers' hands nearly 3,000,000 will be required for seed and bread; this will leave about 3,500,000 to be yet marketed for export.

The wheat is reported this year to be free from smut and usually No. 1 or 2 hard.

The oat crop ripened too fast and does not come up to expectations; 388,000 acres produced 9,823,000 bushels, say 25½ bushels per acre, and the province itself or the lumber camps to the immediate east will need it all.

Barley shows on the whole favorably, and an increased acreage is predicted; 114,762 acres was sown, yielding 22.14 bushels per acre, or a total of over two and a-half millions.

Flax has been grown in the province, usually for the seed, which is either used in the Winnipeg mills or sent to Ontario. Almost 12 bushels per acre is the yield, and 9,737 acres has been gathered, say 116,454 bushels. The Department urges more general cultivation of this crop.

Anticipated changes in the United States tariff leads to the hope of an improved market in that country for both barley and potatoes, and Manitobans are therefore thinking of growing more of both; 12,387 acres of potatoes yielded 1,649,000 bushels, or 133 bushels per acre; and 20,919 acres other roots produced 3,896,000 bushels, being at the average rate of 186 bushels.

More than a million dollars has been expended during 1893 on farm buildings. Prairie fires are referred to as having done considerable damage during the year.

THE DANGERS OF THE LAKES.

Of the hundreds of thousands of passengers who are accustomed to sail the Great Lakes in the fine summer weather there are few who have any adequate notion of the dangers, to which seamen and their craft on this great expanse of fresh water are subjected in wintry weather or in time of storm. We take steamer from Collingwood or Owen Sound for Port Arthur or Duluth; we make the round trip from Buffalo to Chicago; we cross Lake Ontario to Rochester or Niagara, with as little thought of danger as the New Yorker has who steps on board his train for Boston or Albany. And it is not until some disaster occurs, some gale is announced, that strews the lake shores with