

KLONDYKE EXPENDITURE.

The general traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Mr. D. McNicoll, estimates that 50,000 people have gone to the Klondyke this season, and that 20,000 of them will return to their homes without reaching the gold fields. Each man carried with him an outfit costing several hundred dollars, and his traveling expenses were not less than \$250 or \$300, making a total average expenditure of not less than \$600, or a total investment of \$30,000,000 in pursuit of the phantom. Thus far less than one-fifth as much has been brought away, taking the miners' own statements as correct.

PAINT WHICH LASTS.

According to press reports, a fortune awaits the man who painted a station sign at Harper's Ferry, on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, shortly after the completion of the line at that point. The Western Society of Engineers has the sign now on exhibition in its rooms in the Monadnock building, at Chicago.

The engineers are using every effort to ascertain who mixed the paint and applied it to the sign, which was placed in position at the Harper's Ferry station about thirty years ago. The summers' heat and winter storms have in no way dimmed the lustre of the paint used to make the words "Harper's Ferry." The words stand out as boldly as the day they were formed by the artist's brush. The wood around the letters has been worn about one-sixteenth of an inch by sand beaten against it by fierce winds, but the letters have withstood the elements.

It is claimed that no paint manufactured now-a-days is equal in durability to that which was applied to the old sign, and if the person who mixed it is living and will take advantage of the secret he possessed, as to its composition, it is said he can, by engaging in the paint manufacturing business, soon accumulate wealth.

A SON OF THE FOREST.

Here is a suggestive story, well told, taken from the St. John, New Brunswick, Gazette. It concerns an Indian, who lived on one of the tributaries of the river St. John, and had come down to the city:

"J. P." remarked the red skin, with his customary brevity.

"Justice of the Peace?"

"J. Paul."

And then the noble red man went on:

"My farm on Oromocto; 150 acres; no mortgage; dug 87 barrels potatoes this fall; good potatoes; all sold in St. John."

He was commended for his industry and thrift.

"Boy, 14 years old; he in school at Rothesay; he in fifth book; girl 12 year old; she in Mr. P.'s family at Rothesay."

"Good Indian."

"Had booth at St. John Exhibition; sold 700 baskets; had another at Halifax Exhibition; sold 500 baskets; squaw make some of them."

"Good squaw."

"Live in city this winter; on farm next summer; like farm in summer."

"Aristocratic Indian."

"Buy basket?"

"Nit."

"Night."

A MISTAKE NOT EVIDENCE OF MALICE.

The First National Bank of New York received a draft from its correspondent in New Castle, Penn., drawn upon Isaac Haft. The clerk, who took the draft to Haft's premises, found them closed, and was told that Haft had failed. The draft was then returned by the bank to the New Castle bank, with this statement: "We return herewith, Isaac Haft, 419

West Forty-second street. Our messenger reports that he has failed." The Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court has affirmed judgment of the Trial Term, dismissing the complaint in a suit brought by Haft against the bank to recover \$10,000 for libel. "The question is not," Justice Ingraham says, "whether the charge is true or false, nor whether the defendant had sufficient cause to believe that plaintiff sent the letter or acted hastily, or in a mistake, but the question is, the occasion being privileged, whether there is evidence for the jury that he knew or believed it to be false. The communication being privileged, the malice that must be proved is what the law calls express malice. It is thus defined: 'Malice is either express or implied. Express malice is malice to be specifically proved; that is, it is to be proved by evidence not contained in the language itself. It is shown either to aggravate damages or to rebut the inference arising from a qualified privilege.' While the question of malice is usually one for the jury, when the burden is on the plaintiff to prove the malice, if the evidence adduced is equally consistent with either the existence or non-existence of malice, the judge should stop the case, for there is nothing to rebut the presumption which has arisen in favor of the defendant from the privileged occasion. And it has been expressly held that a mere mistake innocently made through excusable inadvertence cannot in any case be evidence of malice."—Dickerman's Detector.

FURNITURE FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

At the time of the Chicago Exhibition and repeatedly since, THE MONETARY TIMES has stated that an excellent market for our furniture existed in Cape Colony. Here is what the American Consul at Capetown has recently had to say about the opening for furniture down there:

"There is no reason why the trade in American-made furniture should not materially increase in South Africa. For 1897, the value of American furniture imported into South Africa was \$254,979, being second only to that of the United Kingdom. Germany standing third. American manufacturers should send their furniture 'knocked down,' and so made that it can be put together here with ease, each part numbered correspondingly. The trouble is that furniture from the United States comes largely 'set up,' and what is knocked down has not been assembled or put together before being knocked down. The freight is, say, 20s. 6d. (\$4.98), per forty cubic feet, and when sent knocked down there is a saving of from 50 to 100 per cent.

Germany and Sweden have a large trade in chairs, both in South Africa and South America, and the trade in "bent work," as it is called, is also large. The chairs are light, strong, are shipped knocked down, occupy but little space, and are easily put together, each part being plainly numbered. They have been set up before being knocked down, and are put together, not with glue, but with bolts and screws. I venture the assertion that if American manufacturers will adopt the German methods in packing, the market is theirs.

"The same may be said in reference to all other classes and kinds of furniture. The sale of tables, bedsteads, bureaus, washstands, sideboards, etc., can be increased several hundred per cent. by shipping in small compact packages, with the furniture so made that on arrival here the parts can be assembled easily and correctly.

"There is no fault with the prices charged by American manufacturers, even with the duty added; but it is the excessive freights on account of bulk, and the difficulty of putting together, if shipped knocked down, of which the dealers complain.

"The imports for 1897 into South Africa were:

Country.	Value.
United Kingdom	\$1,611,649
Hong-Kong	7,031
India	4,419
Belgium	11,120
France	4,161
Germany	149,897
Holland	20,799
Japan	998
United States	255,321
Sweden	50,037
All other countries	24,167

Total value \$2,140,199

A GOOD WORD FOR HALIFAX.

No one can blame the Halifax people for making the best use they can of the fine possibilities which their splendid harbor gives them for the purpose of trade. Standing out as it does in the Atlantic ocean, it has advantages which no one will endeavor to underrate. It is a Canadian port in which Canadians may well take pride. These disadvantages are in the hands of the citizens to be made available and useful for the purposes of commerce, and if they have not been used to the fullest extent to which they are capable of being used, this is a matter of regret. But the very advantages which Halifax possesses naturally and which may be used so easily, are reasons why the people of a place like St. John must put forth every effort to overcome any disadvantage to which it may be subject, as compared with our sister city.—St. John Globe.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Nov. 3rd, 1898.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—There is an abundance of butter in the market, but unfortunately all of it is not of the best quality, and does not find ready sale. Choice dairy is quoted as high as 17c. per lb., while poor and medium brings only 12 and 13c. per lb. Creamery tubs and boxes are quoted at 18 to 19c., while prints bring as high as 21c. There is a fair demand for butter in the export market, and large supplies are reported to be going forward to Great Britain, as we elsewhere note. The local cheese market is steady and unchanged, quotations running from 8½ to 9c., according to the date of the make, and quality. Receipts of strictly new laid eggs are limited, and supplies are in good demand. Prices remain about as quoted a week ago.

DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS.—There is a marked activity in the provision market at the present time. Supplies are coming forward and going rapidly into consumption. Of desirable weights, all dressed hogs are quickly taken. Dealers quote \$5.25 to \$5.50 per cwt. Preparations are being made for a good-sized pack this year, and there is every prospect that this will be successfully accomplished. The demand from consuming centres is strong, and prices remain very steady and firm.

GREEN FRUITS.—Trade has been active during the week. In some lines, however, there has been only a quiet business doing. Oranges are practically out of the market. The last Valencias and Californias have been received from the coast for the season. Receipts of Florida oranges may be looked for soon. Merchants are asking for Malaga lemons \$9 per chest, and \$4.50 per half chest. In pears, grapes, and other Canadian fruits, a fair movement has taken place. Apples are moving in large quantities, and the season promises to be one of unusual activity. We quote sundry articles as follows: Sweet potatoes, per bbl., \$2 to \$2.25; bananas, fancy fruit, per bunch, \$1.50 to \$1.75; dates, Hallowee, 4c. per