

## EXPRESS COMPANIES CONSOLIDATED.

**A** TELEGRAM from New York, dated 27th Nov., says:—

The American and Merchants Union Express Companies have effected a consolidation of their interests. The Merchants' Union stock is taken at two shares for one, making its portion of the capital nine millions. The consolidated Company will have a total capital of eighteen millions, and will continue the existing co-operative arrangement with the old companies. Mr. Fargo, is to be President of the new Company which will bear the title of the American Merchants Union Express Company. The articles of association have been formally executed with the following Board of Directors:—H. Wells, Elmore P. Ross, William G. Fargo, William C. Beardsley, Edward B. Judson, William H. Seward, Junr., James C. Fargo, John N. Knapp, Johnston Livingston, Clinton F. Buchus, James M. Thompson, Theo. M. Fomeroy, and Benjamin P. Cheney.

At an election of officers held to-day, the following were chosen:—President Wm. G. Fargo; Vice-President, T. M. Fomeroy; Treasurer, Elmore P. Ross; Secretary, John N. Knapp; General Superintendent and Assistant Treasurer, J. C. Fargo.

The Commercial Advertiser speaking of this consolidation says:—

"It appears that the Adams Company was not represented in the meeting of Express Companies held to-day. We understand that the Adams Company are opposed to the basis of an amalgamation of the American and Merchants Union, and that they require a re-arrangement of the terms of the working union of the several companies. The fact of the consolidation having been accomplished without notification of the Adams Company, implies that the other Companies are prepared to take issue with the Adams. A renewal of the express war seems therefore by no means improbable."

## THE NORTH SHORE FOR FARMERS AND IMMIGRANTS.

**G**RADUALLY the farmers and traders on the North Shore are beginning to send something besides oats to the St. John market—more especially potatoes, which, for the first year or two, have been sent here in considerable quantities. They are, however, of the commoner kinds, such as the "Christy" and "French Whites."

The soil of the eastern counties from Shediac northward is admirably adapted to the successful growth of the potato, but as the distance is great and the freight considerable to our market, we would strongly urge upon the residents of that locality the propriety of growing the finer kinds. The early blue is, of course, unsurpassed; but the drawbacks are generally liable to disease as soon as the root is fit to dig, and the distance rendering it unfit as an early potato to send to St. John, as the market can be supplied earlier from the neighboring counties of King's and Queen's. But the varieties known here as the Owen and Kidney and Carter are all favorites, bring the best price and meet with the readiest sale. The first named is grown largely up the St. John River, and one sees barrels of them of such length that they might almost be carried by the armful. They are long, smooth, tapering at each end, with few eyes and pink in color. They keep firm until very late in the spring, and don't sprout so vigorously as the Carter. The Kidney has the same characteristics, differing only in appearance and being of a kidney shape and color. The Carter may be described as round, slightly flattened, full of deep eyes and of a white skin. It is a rank grower, very prolific, matures nearly as early as the Bluenose, and is just the potato for fall and early winter use. If our agricultural friends at the north would try some of these kinds, we think the results would be such as to induce them to go into the business in earnest, as labor there is cheap, and with the aid of diggers for raising the mussel mud, which are now in use about Shediac, manure of first-rate quality can be cheaply procured. Mr. W. Stevens and Mr. H. A. Scovill had each a mud digger at work in Shediac harbor last winter and raised a great many loads. The machine is drawn on to the ice, and by means of a long arm operated by a horse, the shovel is projected through a hole in the ice into the mud. About four shovels full fill a single horse sled. The mud is full of small shells, and when mixed with barn yard manure—two loads of the former to one of the latter—makes a capital compost, or if summered over and turned will do to apply directly to the potato.

Our North Shore friends are delighted (and well they may be) at the prospect of the "Intercolonial" going that way. It will open up a new world to them, give them another circulating medium instead of oats,—destroy the track system, keep our young men at home, possibly infuse a little progress into the minds of the French, and throw open to occupation thousands of acres of splendid land which has hitherto been left to solitude and the lumberman because of remote situation and proximity to a people of foreign language, exclusive customs and occupying for a hundred miles a water frontage as rich in wealth as the world affords.

Those of our readers who have never seen the North Shore country, and more particularly the farmers of the southern section of the Province who are only familiar with their own rough, hilly fields, where they have to contend with stones and a surplussage of water fed from small springs, have not the most remote conception of the boundless stretch of gently undulating land, free from stones, of excellent quality—generally of a sandy loam—that greets the eye as the traveller pursues his journey from Shediac all the way to Dalhousie—in fact, getting better as one goes further north. Had this land bordered the shores of the Bay

of Fundy, and lain contiguous to St. John where it would have been settled by the Loyalists and fallen immediately under the eye of the immigrant when he landed, far different would have been the estimate of the agricultural capabilities of New Brunswick at the present day. It is just the soil for the poor man, easily cleared and easily cultivated, one man with a pair of horses being able to put in more crop than on our general upland, in the district above named, can be done with twice the help—in fact, just the kind of land that has attracted to Ontario from its being on the high road of travel, a steady stream of immigrants from Great Britain and Ireland, as well as some from the Maritime Provinces. But the time is at hand when the Intercolonial will let some daylight into our north-eastern counties and convert the wilderness into a feeder to our seaport, bestowing a mutual benefit on each, notwithstanding the cry of lamentation in certain quarters at the selection of the Robinson route.

We require, now, to insure the settlement of this splendid tract of country, a liberal policy on the part of the Legislature in dealing with the granting of Crown Lands. The wild lands owned by the Government and fit for settlement, along the Robinson route, should be given away to *bona fide* settlers, and we would even go for the Government making roads through them at the public expense.—*St John Telegraph*.

## THE FOREIGN COTTON COMPETITION.

**T**HE efforts of the government and capitalists of England to extend the area of cotton cultivation in other countries beside the United States show no abatement of energy and enterprise. In every part of the globe where cotton can be raised English capital and brains stimulate its culture, and supply as far as can be all the deficiencies arising from the peculiar situation of the soil and the cultivators. To emancipate themselves from dependence upon American cotton is an object to which English manufacturers attach a high degree of importance. Upon the success of these efforts they regard the question of the monopoly of the cotton supply as dependent, and to prevent the restoration of the former supremacy of the United States in the production of the great staple, they spare no expense or trouble. The immense political influence of the government promotes the efforts of private individuals, and English officials and consular agents in every part of the world to carry out the designs of the Manchester Cotton Supply Association.

The latest information relative to the culture of cotton in other countries besides the United States during the year 1888, are re-assuring. A company has been formed in Melbourne for the cultivation of cotton and sugar in the Feejee Islands, the soil and climate of which are said to be favourable for the growth of these products. In the cotton province of San Paulo, Brazil, the product has increased from 7,027 arrobas in 1884-5, to 690,000 arrobas in 1887-8. For the year 1888-9 a yield of no less than 900,000 arrobas is anticipated. The British consular agents in the United States of Columbia report that notwithstanding the admirable capabilities of soil and climate no cotton is grown in the interior, owing to the indolence of the natives, and also owing to the unsettled political condition of the country. But from the consular district of Magdalena a small supply will be obtained. The cotton tree is indigenous and perennial in this region, and offers almost boundless returns. When the crop is picked, the tree is cut down, and sprouts up again for next season. The tree bears cotton for twenty years. With a settled form of government offering security to labour and capital, it is estimated that immense returns could be procured from this region.

From India the exports for 1887-8 show a decrease of 56,000 bales as compared with the season last year. This falling off is attributed partly to the early setting in of the rainy season in the Central Provinces, and partly to large supplies sent to the Northwestern Provinces and to Bengal for native consumption. The area cultivated is larger, however, than last year, and it is anticipated that later accounts may show an undiminished supply for exportation later in the season. Lord Mayo, the new Governor-General of India, in response to a committee of the Cotton Supply Association promised to promote and extend the cultivation of cotton in India, and facilitate its speedy conveyance to Great Britain.

Americans have still too deep an interest in their great staple to be indifferent to the efforts that are in progress to stimulate competition with it by the various cotton producing countries in the world. That these efforts are to a large degree successful, and that they promise no less important results in the future than in the past is only too apparent. But the contrast between the action of government and capitalists of England and those of the United States are not favourable to the American character. If we are ever to recover our former cotton ascendancy it will manifestly be through individual enterprise exercised irrespective of co-operative or government aid. This course, perhaps, may be more in accordance with the prevailing type of American character, but it is certain that wise statesmanship demands at least the removal of all impediments to the culture of cotton in the Southern States.

**THE GORE BANK.**—The Woodstock Times is pleased to notice from the price list of stocks, &c., published at Montreal, that the stock of the Gore Bank within little over a month has risen 13 per cent. Such quotations indicate what we foretold in respect to the institution named. It will not be long under present management until the stock of this old bank will be quoted at par on the reduced value, and in time we hope to see the directors declaring handsome dividends to wipe out past losses on stock reduction.—*Hamilton Times*.

## THE FRONTENAC LEAD MINE.

**T**HE work of development having been carried on all summer, there is now an opportunity to record the progress which has been effected in the intervening period.

This mine is situated in the township of Loughborough, and located on the Rouseborn lot some 20 miles distant from Kingston by way of Ralston, but the distance is shorter by the Perth road, though the latter road, in consequence of its bad state of repair, is not followed at the present season when the rains and fall weather have made its condition more than usually bad. In equipping the mine with suitable buildings, furnaces and machinery, a vast amount of teaming has had to be done. Most of the supplies have had to be conveyed from Kingston; and the necessity for good roads in getting in heavy machinery has fully impressed itself upon those who have had this important matter in charge. We make this remark in order to add that the County Council, in the view of meeting the wishes of the mining proprietors, and to aid in the prosperity of the township, have voted a sum of money to put the Perth road in repair.

In May last the work which had been done up to that time consisted in the erection of a substantial boarding house, capable of lodging 30 men, the putting up of a blacksmith's shop, stable, driving-house and powder magazine, the building of a house over the shaft, and an ore shed in which to store the ore.

The actual mining operations consisted in deepening the shaft over the vein (first begun by Mr. Rouseborn on his making the discovery) and in driving a tunnel or gallery in the vein itself, beginning at the lower part of the hill side near Indian Lake and pursuing an easterly course, intending to pass the site of the shaft and to continue the gallery on the other side of it. The gallery or adit is an important work, and the miners have been steadily engaged in it all summer. When completed, it will drain the shaft and remove the water which percolates into the deep workings from the surface. It will enable the ore to be more readily got out by the practice of *stoping*, or by breaking down the roof of the tunnel. It is a slow and tedious work, but being preparatory to a more speedy process, it has to be patiently persisted in. The gallery has now been more than doubled in length, and in penetrating the hill side, has carried operations to a greater depth underground. All the ore that is got out is stored in the shed, awaiting the operation of the crushing and dressing machinery and the smelting process. In carrying on the preliminary operations thus far, it is computed that ore to the value of \$20,000 has been got out. The work of tunnelling has more fully revealed the width and character of the vein. The fluted and columnar appearances on the wall rock, denoting a perpendicular movement and attrition, are held to be indications of great depth and permanence. The spar has proved richer in galena as the work has proceeded, and altogether the proprietors have met the encouragement to fortify themselves in incurring the heavy expenditure necessary to equip the works before they can expect to obtain any return.

The great labour of the summer, however, has been the erection of the crushing mill and smelting works, all embraced under one roof, in a capacious building of three floors, measuring 60x60 feet. This building has been erected, a steam boiler and engine of thirty-horse power, by Messrs. Davidson & Doran, of the Kingston Foundry, has been put up, a brick chimney stack 80 feet high has been built, two smelting hearths have been put up, and the place is being rapidly got ready for the crushing and washing machinery and the blowing fan intended to urge the heat of the smelting furnaces. The engine has already been started, and gave every satisfaction on trial. Massive spur gearing and shafting intended to move the crushing rollers is also in place, and the entire apparatus might be soon in working order; but the season for washing is fast approaching its close and the urgency for completing the machinery immediately is passing away. By spring, however, everything will be in readiness, though the company had hoped to be able to smelt the ore on hand this fall. In spring the work of stoping out the ore can be carried on in the mine, when it will be procured in large quantity and at a rate adequate to keep the machinery regularly employed.

In laying out the reduction works advantage has been taken of the sloping ground to move the ore to its destination by the force of its own gravity. A tramway from the shaft leads to the upper story of the building, and the waste spar obtained in separating will pass out by a tramway leading to the place intended for its deposit, while the washed galena will be passed on to the floor beneath and conveyed to the smelting hearths. Everything promises to be exceedingly convenient. Nature has stood them service in supplying a head of water wherewith to wash the lead. A stream which empties into Indian Lake has been dammed up by a substantial structure fitted with a sluice and flume, and the capacious pond so formed will give an ample supply of water at the required height. The existence of this stream is an important subsidiary advantage to the mine.

In washing the ore the following process is employed:—The water is led to a tank which is covered or decked over, and in the covering floor of the tank are circular openings fitted with tapering flanged cylinders of iron, open at the bottom, and formed so as to contain a deep and sound sieve. Some six or more of these openings are arranged in the top of the tank, and there is another opening fitted with a straight cylinder, in which an iron plunger about two feet in diameter is made to work up and down as if it were a force-pump. The strokes of the plunger cause a succession of waves or fluctuations to rise and fall in the sieves wherein the crushed ore is placed, and the effect of the movement is to cause the lead and spar to occupy two separate layers. The lighter spar from the uppermost layer is thrown over the side to the