

pharmaceutical establishments incident to manufacture of chlorate of potash and muriate of ammonia tablets was discussed and pointed out. The storage and uses of acids was clearly stated and the statement by Mr. Hexamer that nitric acid alone should be classed as dangerous was supplemented by Prof. Keller, who showed experimentally that nitric acid would ignite wood when brought in contact with it. Petroleum product and liquid chemical such as ether, acetone, amylacetate were then described. Coal tar products of interest to the underwriter were also mentioned."

The lecturer urged that a standard ordinance regarding the storage of chemicals, combustibles and explosives be prepared as a step towards uniform regulations by city councils.

RICHELIEU & ONTARIO NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The above Company held its annual meeting in this city on 19th inst., when a statement was presented showing a net profit on the business of 1901 of \$166,007, against \$129,322 in 1900. After paying two half-yearly dividends each of 3 per cent., the balance of \$26,145 was left. The sum of \$80,000 was spent last year on improvements to several steamers. The meeting decided to issue new stock amounting to \$626,400 at par, to be used for extending the Company's plant. The amount of bonds outstanding, after \$22,386 had been cancelled last year, was \$452,113.

The following board of directors was unanimously elected: Senator L. J. Forget, Mr. R. Forget, Mr. William Wainwright, Col. F. C. Henshaw, Mr. C. O. Paradis, Mr. George Caverhill, Mr. E. B. Garneau, Mr. J. Kerr Osborne, Mr. H. M. Pellatt, Mr. W. Hanson and Mr. H. Markland Molson.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

Rarely has the opening of the Dominion Parliament excited so little attention as this year. The so-called, but mis-called, "Speech from the Throne" was little more than a brief review of the principal events of the past year. No new legislation was promised, nor were there any indications of what would be leading matters for consideration by Parliament. "Happy is the land without annals" is an old saying; probably Canada will be all the happier for a Session of its Legislature being unmarked by any new measures. The general policy of the Government is too nearly parallel to that of the Opposition for any violent crash to occur between the two parties. "Parish politics," to use Sir John A. Macdonald's phrase, will chiefly occupy the attention of the Commons and Senate. Questions of administration, of departmental management, of the personal conduct and utterances of Ministers will be the principal topics before the legislators. To raise a lively debate out of such materials will be like the Israelites' task of "making bricks without straw."

As the House of Commons will have a short supply of work and a plethora of money the following modes are suggested for providing one and utilizing the other both to the best advantage to the country. It is admitted that Canada needs population, more especially of agriculturalists, to settle upon the unoccupied lands in the Northwest and in other provinces. Now there is a chance for Canada securing a number of immigrants of a British race. The Hon. Joseph Chamberlain has been interviewed by prominent Welshmen living in London, to ask that the Government provide a transport for the purpose of removing to Canada a number of their countrymen, and their families, who had migrated to Patagonia, who desired a change of settlement.

Mr. Chamberlain explained that when the reception of the deputation was first mentioned, he understood that the Welsh in Patagonia wished to emigrate to South Africa. Had this been the case the arrangements could easily have been made, but he was powerless to render them any assistance to emigrate to Canada. He suggested that the deputation should call on Lord Salisbury or that a subscription be started in the United Kingdom to raise the necessary funds or £10,000, or that the Canadian Government might increase their liberal offer of a pound per head. Why should not this opportunity be seized to secure settlers? Could any expenditure be more fruitful of benefit to Canada? If funds were available for bringing Russian peasants by thousands to Canada, surely now the revenue has left so large a surplus it would be easy and advisable to provide funds for bringing out these British-born Welshmen to settle in the Northwest, or wherever it was found best to place them. If our memory serves us, these persons were attracted to Patagonia by representations of its offering great advantages to labourers. They were deceived, no doubt, as some Canadians were who went to other parts of South America. The opportunity should not be lost of acquiring these settlers. The question is one to which Parliament should give earnest and prompt attention.

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The report of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company is very gratifying. The gross receipts last year were \$208,127 in advance of 1900, which indicates an enormous increase in traffic. The general prosperity prevailing has developed tourist business to a great extent, and as the attractions of Canada have become better known, the tide of travel has set in towards the St. Lawrence. This city has shared to some extent in this popularity, and would do so to a far greater extent were the authorities at all alive to the needs of the city in regard to better roads, pavements, general attention to sanitary matters and provision for the tastes of tourists.