

LATE SPRING.

New Brunswick Shares Trials of Unusually Backward Season—St. John City Finances—Commercial Notes.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

St. John, June 3rd.

During the year ended December 31st, the city's receipts from all sources were \$1,675,046, and the expenditures \$2,063,859. The bonded debt of the city was reduced \$22,186 and is now \$4,345,682, while the sinking fund account was increased by \$60,000 and is now \$671,208. The interest account was cut down \$1,331. This year some \$18,000 of bonds falling due will be paid for by the sinking fund. Altogether the financial statement is considered a very satisfactory one. The total revenues from the harbor were \$60,734, an increase of \$21,514 over the previous year. With greater accommodation in future years, these figures should be increased very considerably.

Mr. Butler, general manager of the Intercolonial Railway, while in St. John recently, said the Government will begin at once the erection of a large modern flour shed in connection with its railway, they will carry through also important alterations and improvements in the I. C. R. yards, equipping them to handle the local business much more satisfactorily than is now possible. These improvements are greatly needed.

The Star Line Steamship Company has been endeavoring even before the opening of navigation on the St. John River, to secure a better rate than in previous years for the carriage of mails to up river points. They get \$1,500 for the service and demanded \$2,500, claiming that a very considerable portion of the grant had to be spent by them in the side services. The Government and the company failed to agree, and on Saturday the company refused to carry the mails. This brought matters to a climax, with the result that there was an amicable adjustment of the difficulty that evening.

Within the past week most of the millmen employed in the lumber mills hereabouts have been granted increases of 10 per cent. in their wages. This affects almost a thousand employees. The scowmen also have secured an increase of 25 cents per day. These and increases to the cotton mill operatives, railway employees and others will put into circulation a large amount of money.

Louis Cote, of the Marine and Fisheries Department, was here recently arranging for the installation in the Bay of Fundy of submarine signal bells for the better protection of shipping. One will be sunk off Tiner's Head, near the entrance to St. John harbor, and in inclement weather, will give incoming steamers warning of their location.

Meetings have been held here within the past few days by the Federal Grain Commission and by the Special Committee appointed by the citizens to consider matters connected with the further development of the shipping facilities of the port. The Grain Commission looked carefully into all the conditions surrounding the conduct of the grain business in this city, while the local committee in conference with Deputy Minister Butler, of the I. C. R., outlined plans for continuing their work so as to prepare a scheme that can be submitted to Parliament this fall.

The weather in New Brunswick continues very cold and backward, and crops are progressing slowly.

The lumbermen are well satisfied with the conditions, as the water continues high in the rivers and streams, and for the first time in a number of years practically all the logs cut during the winter will reach the mills. It does not look now as if any of the drives will be hung up.

Carleton County farmers are planting large quantities of potatoes. Within the past two or three years they have succeeded in building up a good business with Ontario dealers. The returns last season were so satisfactory that the crop this year promises to be at least ten times as great. It is said that upwards of \$40,000 worth of fertilizer is being used this year in connection with this business, while not more than \$4,000 or \$5,000 was used last year.

ALBERTA SCHOOL DISTRICTS BORROWING MONEY.

The particulars are given in the order of name and number of school district, amount required, and correspondent.

Big Fish Lake, No. 1494, \$800. O. K. Olsen, Brosseau.
Lake Bend, No. 1511, \$1,000. C. W. Shipley, Lamerton.
Mountain Grove, No. 1617, \$1,600. W. H. Waddell, LaCombe.
Strathmore, No. 1587, \$2,500. W. S. Bush.
Poznan, No. 1555, \$1,200. A. Holm, Camrose.
Cochrane, No. 142, \$5,000. D. C. White.
Willow Hollow, No. 1579, \$1,000. F. Weymouth, Strome.
National Park, No. 102, \$3,000. W. Mather, Banff.
Dowling, No. 511, \$1,000. J. Hodges, Battle River.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

Nova Scotia Needs More Modern Methods to Exploit its Fisheries—Grain Commission at Halifax—Industrial Notes.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Halifax, June 3rd.

Fish exporters in the Maritime Provinces learn, perhaps with satisfaction that the efforts of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies to establish a fish-curing industry in Barbadoes have been abandoned. Attempts to salt and pickle flying-fish and other varieties, have been made repeatedly.

Some years ago, an English syndicate spent a large sum of money on this work in Jamaica. The experiments in Barbadoes have been carried on since 1903, but now have been finally abandoned, largely due, it is understood, to the difficulty in obtaining adequate supplies. The West Indies are the best markets for Nova Scotia fish, the Newfoundland cure being generally preferred in other foreign markets.

Needs of the Fishing Industry.

It has been pointed out here that the great fishing industry of the Maritime Provinces is being prosecuted without the modern methods which have been applied to other industries, particularly with respect to placing of fresh fish on the market. At present Nova Scotian fish reach the tables of Ontario via Boston. The development of this industry, already producing over eight million dollars annually, should be taken care of by the Federal Government. Some effort is being made in Cape Breton now to introduce auxiliary schooners to exploit the valuable off-shore fisheries of that island.

The Halifax Board of Trade has circularized various neighboring authorities asking their support of the proposed appointment of a Fishery Board by the Federal Government.

Fishing generally has been interfered with by the large quantities of drift ice off the coast. Those fishermen who have ventured to set nets and traps have in some cases lost heavily by the ice sweeping ashore.

All Ports May Handle Crops.

The members of the Grain Commission have been in St. John and Halifax, inspecting terminal facilities, etc., including all the grain elevators. In their opinion, all the ports in Canada would have, ere long, a share in handling the Western wheat crop.

A member of the firm of John Monks & Sons, dock contractors and engineers, New York, has been in Halifax inspecting terminal arrangements. He was brought here by the Board of Trade, as an expert, to prepare a plan of the terminal requirements of the port. The idea of the committee is to secure a comprehensive plan of terminal facilities on both sides of the harbor for present and future requirements, so that the shipping accommodation of the port may be developed on a well defined and permanent basis.

Cape Breton Industrial Progress.

E. A. Walberg, of Moncton, has been awarded the contract for the plant of the National Rolling Mills at Sydney, C.B. The expenditure will exceed \$500,000, and the plant is expected to be in operation before the end of the year.

Negotiations are in progress for the purchase of the Nova Scotia Steel Company's stores and houses at North Sydney, by a syndicate of Provincial capitalists, the whole deal involving about one million dollars. The dwelling houses number 650, and the stores do a business of \$300,000 a year.

A number of Cape Breton collieries have been closed, as only small shipments are being made, and a large quantity of coal has been banked. Steamers cannot get into North Sydney owing to the unusual quantities of ice on the coast. Had it not been for this delay, coal shipments this year would have broken all records. The Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company have this season eleven steamers, besides one or two bunker boats, and some sailing craft.

Coal Areas Change Hands.

The Maritime Coal, Railway, and Power Company, have acquired the property of the Canada Coal and Railway Company, consisting of seventeen square miles of coal areas, and twelve miles of railway and equipment running from Macan to the coal dock on the Bay of Fundy. This places the greater part of the Cumberland coal fields in the hands of the two concerns, the Maritime and Springhill Mining Companies.

The Lumbermen's Association of Western Nova Scotia held its fourth annual meeting at Yarmouth this year. This province is taking a very active interest in forestry. There is an excellent system of forest ranging which has done much to check fires, and it is probable ere long, that some definite scheme of reforestation will be undertaken.