

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR MASTERS AND MATES.

WE understand the Council of the Quebec Board of Trade have had under consideration the subject of establishing a Board of Examiners for masters and mates of vessels in the Dominion of Canada. The matter was brought before them by a number of ship-masters, belonging to the Province of Quebec, and the Council at once approved of their recommendation, and entered into communication with the Minister of Marine at Ottawa, and the Imperial Board of Trade in England. The following letter will show that the subject is engaging the attention of the Marine Department at Whitehall, and our own Minister, the Hon. Peter Mitchell, has promised to urge its adoption by the Imperial Government.

Canada is fast becoming a large ship owning country, and the Dominion is now the fourth largest owner of sea-going and inland vessels. Under the present regulations, our sailors, than whom there are no more able and intelligent in the world, are compelled to pass their examination for masters and mates before the Board of Examiners in England, to test their efficiency in seamanship and navigation. We have in the Dominion, and especially in the Maritime Provinces, a large number of native born sailors, the majority of whom are unable to qualify for superior positions, owing to the cost of going to England, and the expense to be incurred in remaining some time in London to pass the examination at present required of all sailors desiring to procure certificates of competency. The organization, therefore, of a Board of Examiners in each of the Provinces, or if thought more advisable at Halifax and Quebec, would be a great boon to our sailors. Of course there is nothing to prevent our Government from establishing such a board in Canada by Legislative enactment, but it is highly important, in the interest of our maritime marine, that such a Board should meet with the approval of the Imperial authorities, in order that colonial certificates may be recognized in Great Britain, and in all the dependencies of the Empire. The Marine Department of the Board of Trade in London are now discussing several changes proposed to be made in the British Navigation Laws, and strong hopes are entertained that several improvements affecting colonial interests will be introduced:

BOARD OF TRADE,
WHITEHALL, 6th Nov., 1868.

T. H. GRANT, Esq.,

Secretary, Quebec Board of Trade:

SIR,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to acquaint you, for the information of the Council of the Board of Trade of Quebec, that they have had under consideration your letter of the 8th ultimo, transmitting a petition, presented to the Council by Canadian ship-masters and mates, upon the subject of the establishment of a Board of Examiners for masters and mates, belonging to the Dominion of Canada.

In reply, I am to state, for the information of the Council, that the subject of recognizing colonial certificates in this country is engaging the attention of the Board of Trade, but nothing can be done without Parliamentary sanction.

With reference to the assertion in the petition, that Canadian vessels, which come to this country, cannot return without certified officers, I am to observe that a Board of Trade certificate becomes necessary only when the colonial ship clears from the United Kingdom for a place not in her own colony.

I am, &c.,

C. C. TREVOR,
Assistant Sec'y.

—Quebec Chronicle.

MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURERS OF BRUSHES.

WE produce no bristles of any consequence in this country. A comparatively small quantity is annually saved, and goes into the manufacture of scrubbing, shoe, and other coarse kinds of brushes, but for bristles in general we depend upon transatlantic sources of supply.

There is another kind of hair that costs immensely. It is the hair of the badger. It is used for making the brushes of grainers. The tails of the animal alone supply it. The price in gold is \$30 a pound. Most of it comes from Germany. For the last four years none have been procurable. The Prussian government got into its noddle a notion to adopt the badger tail in its infantrymen's hats, much as our bucktail regiment sported the caudal appendages of the deer. The result was that grainers found their brushes about as scarce as shabby bonnets in fashionable churches.

The idea of camel hair brushes is surely a pleasant fiction. It is like calling a small-bladed knife a penknife. Nobody makes quill pens in this era, and no camels offer their hair for brushes of any kind. Mr. Clinton tells us that for the material of all this kind of brush we are indebted to the tails of the raccoon, opossum, silver martin, skunk and Hudson Bay sable. It is no less queer than true that, while all these furs are produced on our own soil, we must go to England to buy the tails. The furs are shipped to Europe, tails and all. The shipper won't cut them off, lest he mar the integrity of the skins.

There has also been an active demand for long goat hair for brush-making purposes. Every billy-goat carries an appendage beneath his chin from four to ten inches long. Eugene took a fancy to it as a trimming for her pelisse, and, presto! all the supply was lifted far beyond a price that would prove productive to the brushmakers, to be used as an article of trimming. The retail trades give to the article a fanciful

name, but the chances are that the tippet or muff known as Angora goat fleece was once sported by a four-legged ranger of the Schuylkill, with a pair of horns surmounting his caput.

There are many ways of preparing hair and bristles, and some ways, also, of faking out the supply. Manila produces a grass that in second-hand brushes can be so intermingled as to deceive the eye of anybody but an expert. Shred whalebone was formerly employed to no inconsiderable extent, but the only available kinds of whalebone are very nearly now as dear as bristles.

In the manufacture of brushes the struggle now is between this country and Europe. The French make goods showy and poor. The government, in advertising for supplies of paint and whitewash brushes, invariably invites proposals for "Clinton's" for which reason it is fair to suppose that Philadelphia in this particular line has made its mark. The scarcity of material of all kinds for making brushes is gradually increasing, and endeavors are now being made to utilize the vast quantity of American bristles that annually go to waste in the big porkeries of Cincinnati and Chicago. At the Asylum for the Blind the manufacture of the commoner kinds of brushes is a prominent branch of industry, and it is touching to see the manner in which the absolutely sightless can perfect their work.

In a mechanical point of view the art of brushmaking is a difficult one. Few branches of industry prove more remunerative to the artisan. The home manufacture, owing to circumstances that he cannot avert, has to compete with foreign workmen but no better brushes are anywhere produced than in this city. The only trouble is that the French and English manufacturer, can put into the market an article at \$4 a dozen only distinguishable after being used from an article costing treble the money. And that's what's the matter with the brush trade.—Philadelphia North American.

MINING INTELLIGENCE.

WE have very little to record this week of an encouraging nature by way of mining news. No water is still the cry that comes from every creek and gulch in Cariboo; and although the weather is warm and scarcely a sign of frost in the country, yet the miners are all idle for want of water.

WILLIAM CREEK.

On William Creek the wash ups for last week were as follows:—

	ounces.
Barker Company.....	46
Baldhead ".....	36
Cariboo ".....	45
Mosher ".....	80
Sheepskin ".....	30

HARD SCRABBLE CREEK.

Considerable activity prevails on this creek; several new claims were taken up last week, and confidence is still strengthening, in its importance as a good mining creek. The Discovery Company commenced on Saturday to open up a breast with about four feet of pay gravel. The Slide Co. immediately above, are down with their shaft about 30 feet. The Caradoc Company have got down 30 feet, and are in good hard clay. The Mary Ann Company, in conjunction with the Cambrian, have run a tail race, and are down with a shaft about 15 feet. The Greenhorn Co. have started a shaft, and a new company of 600 feet has just been located above them.

TOM CREEK

Messrs. Orr, Sargent, and J. Cain, have gone down to prospect on this creek for the winter. They took down on Friday last 1,400 lbs. of grub and mining tools.

MUSTANG CREEK.

Mr. Allan has taken out 1,500 lbs. of grub, and intends to remain and work through the winter. He has every faith that the creek will prove rich.

HARVELY CREEK.

Dr. Carrall and George Devos start out to-day for this creek with a pack train and a supply of goods, with the intention of working the Minnehaha claim through the winter. By last accounts a fine prospect had been struck on this claim.

DEITHLY CREEK.

The Baxter Company are doing well. The Stonewall and Doadbroke Companies are prospecting. On Little Lake the Chinamen are making about \$12 per day to the hand.

CHISHOLM CREEK.

Robertson & Co. are running in a tunnel below the mouth of Jackson gulch. Halliday & Co. are also running in a tunnel below Robertson & Co. White & Co. are down seventy-six feet with their shaft, and are still in clay.

PETERS CREEK.

No companies are working at present, except the Discovery Company. The company of Cornishmen who have been sinking in the creek, immediately below the Discovery Company, have suspended operations until the spring, when they intend erecting machinery over their present shaft, which is down about 70 feet and on bottom.

BASFORD CREEK.

The Harvest Company have commenced a tunnel which will enable them to work all winter, and wash with the waters of Peters creek.—From the Cariboo Sentinel, 20th October.

THE TIMBER TRADE.

MEMORIAL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO.

A LARGE and influential meeting of the gentlemen engaged in the timber trade, representing holders of Crown timber licenses in the Ottawa, Belleville and Ontario lumbering districts, was held at the Queen's Hotel, in this city, on Thursday evening. The Hon. Billa Flint was called to the chair and Mr. G. H. Wyatt appointed Secretary. The object of the meeting was to consider a memorial proposed to be presented to the Lieut.-Governor in Council respecting the action of the government in regard to last year's issue of timber licenses. After some discussion this memorial was adopted. It sets forth that ever since 1825 the right of the holder to annual renewal of his license, on complying with the regulations, has been recognized; that each right has been recognized in orders in Council issued from time to time, and is not restricted or taken away by the Act 12 Vic., cap. 30, that on the faith of the licenses being so renewed the memorialists have invested their capital in the lumber business in many cases paying a large bonus to the government on first acquiring the timber limit; that upwards of fifteen millions of dollars are now invested in that branch of industry; and that without the assurance of a sufficient supply of timber for a long term of years no one would be warranted in investing thus largely in such permanent improvements as are absolutely required to carry on the business successfully. The memorial proceeds:

"That your memorialists viewed with much uneasiness and alarm the action of the government in withholding the issue of the licenses in the early part of the present year, a policy that had the effect of seriously depreciating the value of their improvements, and of unsettling the stability of the trade.

"That while your memorialists do not believe it is the intention of the government to disturb the tenure under which they acquired their limits originally, your memorialists, nevertheless, feel that, considering the large interest at stake, it would be just and reasonable that the tenure under which they hold their limits should be more clearly defined, by providing that the licenses should be renewable for the term of twenty-one years, a policy that has been adopted by the Quebec government. Licentiatees would then feel their interest to husband the merchantable timber with greater care to cut it more economically than at present—to take measures to prevent the spread of fires, and thereby very materially augment the revenue to be derived by the government from the public forests, and also preserve timber for the purposes of commerce for a much longer period of time.

"That in fixing the proposed term for renewals of the present licenses, your memorialists do not desire that it should in any way conflict with the question of settlement. The territory under license, where fit for settlement, would at all times be subject to such regulations in favor of the bona fide settler as the government might think just and equitable.

"That your memorialists believe that the government of Ontario will receive for the present year, in dues and ground rents, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars collected at a cost of less than twenty thousand dollars, leaving a large net revenue to be applied for the general interests of the Province, and by the proposed renewal system, and increasing revenue may be relied on for an indefinite period.

"That the value of the trade to the Province may be estimated at seven millions of dollars a year, as shown in the trade and navigation returns, which sum is brought into Ontario annually in gold, in exchange for the square timber and sawn lumber exported to Europe and the United States; and as the larger portion of that sum is expended in wages, and in procuring supplies of hay, oats, beef, pork, flour, and other farm produce, some idea may be formed of the great benefit the Province derives from the trade.

"That the present system of ground rents is alike injurious to the interests of the province and of the licentiatees. It is oppressive to the limit holder, because it forces him to work on several limits at the same time, to a manifest disadvantage, and induces the cutting of more timber than the state of the markets may justify. Your memorialists would respectfully suggest that the whole area of territory held by each licentiate or firm should be considered as occupied when sufficient square timber or saw logs have been cut on any portion thereof to meet the requirements of full occupation of the whole.

"Your memorialists, therefore, humbly pray that, for the reasons named, an order in Council may be passed providing for the continuance of the renewal system for twenty-one years, as the licentiate may desire to hold the limit; and providing also that no increase of ground rent for non-occupation of limits shall be imposed when any licentiate or firm shall cut, on any portion of the territory under license, a quantity sufficient to meet the requirements of the whole by the present regulations."

The meeting appointed a committee of three—the Hon. Billa Flint, Mr. R. W. Scott, M.P.P., and Mr. Wyatt—to present the memorial to the Government. They did so yesterday, and were received by the Commissioner of Crown Lands who promised to lay the papers before his colleagues and said the subject would receive the attention so large and important an interest as the timber trade demanded.

The memorial was signed, among others, by the following extensive list: Hon. Billa Flint, Belleville; Hon. J. Sked Ottawa; Allan Gilmour, Ottawa; Wm. McDougall, Peterboro'; R. C. Smith, Falls Mills; D. W. Sind (Sage & Co.) Belle Ewart; George Hilliard, Peterboro'; W. Shaw, Peterboro'; A. H. Campbell, Peterboro'; D. N. Chambers (Dodge & Co.) New York; C. A. Clark (Clark, White & Co.) New York; James Little, London; Cook Brother, Toronto; John Cameron, Toronto; Hotchkiss & Nechem, Collingwood; H. F. Brown, Ottawa; George Kemp, Lindsay; E. S. Hooper, Napanee; G. W. Wyatt, Toronto; and E. W. Rathburn, Mill Pond.—Toronto Leader.