

can supply hickory handles for same, in quantity. Manufacturers of sauces wish to hear from Canadian firms prepared to take up the sale of their goods. A Liverpool house exporting grocers' sundries and specialties wishes to hear from Canadian importers of same.

—Recent reports speak well of the probable future of Nova Scotia gold mining in several localities. One instance given is that of the Baltimore and Nova Scotia Company's property at Caribou, where a 40-stamp mill has just been put in. Work on that property lately has been confined to the 800-foot level, though the company has levels at every 100 feet. Three hundred and fifty tons of ore lately taken from the former depth has been found to contain 32 dwts. per ton or a total yield of \$11,200. The ore is expected to increase in richness the deeper it goes, and the company proposes shortly to deepen the level to 1,000 feet.

—The amount of shipping which passes through the Canadian Soo canal in the four months ending with July 31st last, was 2,305,118 tons, compared with 2,155,696 in the same period of 1902, and 1,331,011 in 1901. The freight carried amounted to 2,602,496 tons this year, 2,174,688 in 1902, and 1,663,358 in 1901. While this is a good showing, the relative increase, comparing with the American canal, is still better. In 1901, the Canadian Soo carried 2,872,516 bushels of wheat eastward, or 21.14 per cent. of the whole, while in 1903 the quantity was increased to 14,710,655 bushels, or 57.55 per cent. This year nearly 46 per cent. of the whole quantity of flour went by way of the Canadian canal, against 20 per cent. only in 1901. The eastbound freight travelling through the United States Soo canal shows a decrease.

—It was stated last week by Mr. L. B. McFarlane, superintendent of the Bell Telephone Co., that that company has not less than twenty-seven miles of conduit in the city of Montreal containing 648,266 feet of duct, besides another 100,-

000 of duct in the branches leading into lanes and other points of distribution. The company has found that while, generally speaking, the original cost of laying a conduit is five times as much as one of poles and wires, the expense of maintenance is only about 15 per cent., owing to the immunity from storms and other sources of damage existing above ground. The principal danger and cause of deterioration in underground stock so far, Mr. McFarlane says, has been found to be from electrolysis, as a result of so much electric current going back from the trolley car tracks to the power-house. The current follows the lead coverings of the telephone cables, and where it leaves the cable electrolytic action sets in, resulting in the lead covering being eaten off the cable. Only the watchfulness of the company's engineers prevents serious damage in this connection. The most serious objector to the use of a common conduit by low potential concerns like telegraph and telephone companies and high potential electric light and power systems, is well known to be the difficulty in maintaining complete isolation between the two, particularly in the manholes.

#### CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures for Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, August 13, 1903, compared with those of the previous week.

| CITIES             | August 13, 1903     | August 6, 1903      |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Montreal.....      | \$21,851,027        | \$19,449,841        |
| Toronto .....      | 14,570,710          | 12,961,870          |
| Winnipeg.....      | 4,016,099           | 4,305,312           |
| Halifax.....       | 1,995,560           | 1,958,965           |
| Hamilton.....      | 1,095,150           | 1,063,977           |
| St. John, N.B..... | 1,185,601           | 1,127,119           |
| Vancouver .....    | 1,322,470           | 1,472,349           |
| Victoria .....     | 837,184             | 645,364             |
| Quebec .....       | 1,385,820           | 1,851,156           |
| Ottawa.....        | 2,073,687           | 2,161,812           |
| London .....       | 816,706             | 911,189             |
|                    | <b>\$51,150,014</b> | <b>\$47,915,954</b> |

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