

A machine for shearing sheep is said to be in successful operation in Victoria. It is made of brass, in the shape of a small trowel, and is actuated by a turbine wheel about three inches in diameter, geared into a wheel, on which is fixed a cutter. A comb serves as a guard against cutting the skin. The steam is conveyed from the boiler by an india-rubber tube, which is double, having one inside the other. The inner one is the injection, and the space between the two the ejection.

The Norwegian nickel and copper industries are suffering from great depression, the demand and prices, chiefly for the former metal, being reduced to a minimum. During the last few years several mines have been closed, and recently another nickel mine and a copper mine have had to follow this example.

For the purpose of maintaining a pool to control the production of spirits in the United States, the Western Export Association have organized an incorporated body, called the Western Purchasing and Leasing Company. All but four of the distillers came into the organization, and they subscribed the amounts assessed to make up \$200,000, which sum will take care of the closed capacity for three months. An assessment of 4 cents was made for July to pay the closed houses, and the running capacity was continued at 28 per cent. It was decided to maintain to market at \$1.07. The Chicago Tribune says the pool will be maintained whether the four outstanding distillers come in or not.

A German zinc combination has been formed, and will endeavor to enforce reduction in the production of zinc. The zinc industry has for a long time suffered from depression—though not like the iron and steel industries—but it is supposed that it will now, in all probability, receive a decided impetus.

The Great Central Belgian Railway Company has let a contract for 20,000 metallic sleepers. The sleepers are to be supplied by the Thy-le-Chateau Works.

A recent shipment of copper from South America to New York is said to have been made for the purpose of warehouse storage there, owners preferring not to add to the amount of copper "on hand" in the European market reports. The duty on copper entering the United States makes it evident, it is said, that it cannot be intended for consumption there. The production of copper throughout the world last year is estimated at 221,715 tons, as compared with a corresponding production of 217,483 tons in 1884, and 153,057 tons in 1880. The largest copper producing countries last year were Australia, 11,400 tons; Chili, 38,800 tons; Germany, 15,250 tons; Japan, 2,000 tons; Spain and Portugal, 45,949 tons; and the United States, 74,050 tons.

What strikes the average Englishman most, when he sees at the Colonial Exhibition the Canadian exhibit of agricultural implements in motion is the lightness of the Canadian machines. Many of them to an English farmer are shown to be able to do as good work as a much more massive English machine, which would require three or four horses to draw it around an English farm. One consequence is that many inquiries on the part of English buyers are being made from week to week. Already in nearly every case, says the *Globe* supplement, the duplicates of machines sent to London have been sold, whilst several of the exhibits themselves have also been disposed of, and will pass into the hands of English purchasers at the close of the Exhibition. Russia, the Cape colony and India are likely countries to sell in.

The following list will give, according to the *Timber Trades Journal*, the comparative toughness of different woods. Ash, 100; beach, 85; cedar of Lebanon, 84; larch, 83; sycamore and common walnut, each 68; Occidental plane, 66; oak, hornbeam and Spanish mahogany, each, 62; teak and acacia, each 58; elm and young chestnut, 52.

FIRE RECORD.

ONTARIO.—Parkdale, 11.—R. Hayes' butcher shop, and Edwards' dry goods store gutted, Ludd's flour and feed store damaged \$6,000.—Kingston, 10.—W. J. Byrne's clothing house damaged \$2,000, insured.—London, 11.—Frame house on Nelson st., loss \$400.—Highgate, 11.—Tolson, Scott & Co's oatmeal mill destroyed, loss \$10,000, no insurance.—Smithville, 12.—The barns of J. M. Lane and Thos. Hodgins burned; Hodgins insured \$1,000.—Alvinston, 12.—C. Wallis' stables burned, insured in Lon. Mut.—Springfield, 12.—A. W. Moore's barns, etc., destroyed, loss \$1,800, insurance \$1,800.—St. Thomas, 12.—The barn and outbuildings of J. Warren burned, insurance \$1,000.—Westminster, 12.—T. Carruthers' barns burned, loss \$2,200; insured \$2,100 in Lon. Mut.—Ekfrid.—D. Graham's barns consumed, insured \$900 in Lon. Mut.—Lobo, 12.—H. D. Johnston's grocery partly burned, insured. Belford, 14.—Mr. Kerr's general store and residence and Ireson's residence consumed, small insurance in Lancashire.—Aurora, 17.—Hy. Copson's barn and 1,000 bushels wheat consumed; insurance small.—Bayham.—W. Stratton and R. Griffin's barns burned.—Kingston, 18.—Armstrong's shoe shop damaged \$4,500, insured.—Aylmer, 20.—D. C. Davis' stable destroyed, insured in Lon. Mut. \$200.—Breslau, 17.—Jos. Mader's driving house, etc., burned, loss \$2,000, insurance \$1,500 in North Waterloo Farmers' Mutual.—St. Thomas, 21.—Mrs. Patterson's house burned, loss \$450, insured.—Hamilton, July 22.—Rolling mills slightly damaged.—Glencoe, 23.—Andrew Clanahan's planing factory and house burned, loss \$12,000, insured \$500 in Huron & Middlesex, \$500 in Ontario Mutual, \$1,500 in Commercial Union, and \$2,000 in Queen. The Presbyterian church destroyed, insurance \$2,000. Dr. Walker and E. A. Surley's dwellings damaged. Rockton, 23.—B. Cornell's store completely destroyed.—London, 24.—Stephen O'Dwyer's house damaged \$150, no insurance.—Eastman's Springs, 24.—Mr. Stewart's house destroyed, loss \$2,000.—Oshawa, 26.—Walter Fogg's house burned, loss \$2,000, no insurance.—Riversdale, 26.—John Lockhart's saw mill burned, insurance \$1,000.—Perth, 27.—T. A. Code's knitting mill damaged in picker-room and upper flats, insured in Commercial Union.

OTHER PROVINCES.—Montreal, Que., 9.—Sherrat's pottery in Griffintown, loss \$12,000,

insurance \$6,000.—Quebec, 9.—The engine room in G. Bresse's boot factory damaged \$500, insured.—Charles' Cove, N. S., 9.—Burnham & Morrill's lobster factory and 800 cases lobsters destroyed, loss \$15,000.—Westcock, N. B., 8.—The house and barn of Jos. Cook destroyed, insurance small.—Farwell, B. C., 17.—G. B. Wright & Co's warehouse destroyed, loss \$20,000.—Georgeville, N. S., 6.—James McInnes' barn burned, loss \$800; no insurance.—Mactaquac, N.B. 22.—The dwelling house, barns, sheds, etc. of James L. Grant destroyed, loss \$2,000, ins. \$800 in Northern.—Fredericton, N. B., 23.—Edgecombe & Son's carriage factory gutted.—St. Roch, Que., 23.—A Airolet's dry goods store, loss \$5,000, insurance \$4,000.—St. Thomas de Montmagny.—D. Cloutier's barn struck by lightning.—Montreal, 26.—Parent's lively stables damaged \$300.

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