

creek, along the Kaslo wagon road from Sproules. Fifteen miles from Kaslo to the westerly limit of Three Forks, a distance of ten miles, not a solitary building is left. No lives were lost along the road, the people taking refuge from the flames in mining tunnels and sometimes in the waters of the creeks. Following are the estimated losses on which there was no insurance: Galena Trading Company—stock and building, \$13,000; R. E. Lemon, stock, \$10,000; Crane & Lowe's hotel, \$5,000; Brown's hotel, \$2,000; S. C. Boyd, building and fixtures, \$800; Pitts Bros., gent's furnishings, etc., \$500; Atkins' drug store, \$300, Burns, Wilson & Co., butchers, \$3,000; Additional losses at Three Forks will aggregate \$10,000. At Bear Lake, Arnold & McDermott's sawmill, valued at \$20,000; G. W. Hughes' wagons, sleighs and packing outfits \$10,000, and three other buildings were destroyed. At Watson, four hotels, one store and three stables were destroyed, the only effects saved being A. T. Horton's stock of dry goods and groceries, which were placed in an underground cellar. The loss at Watson will probably foot up to \$5,000. At Sandon Creek, ten buildings were destroyed, loss \$2,000.

The Cattle Markets.

The cable from Liverpool on July 23, says: On account of heavy supplies of Canadian and United States cattle the market was weak, and prices declined 1 to 1½¢ per lb since last Monday. The demand was weak and a number was left over unsold. Choice Canadians, 9 to 9½¢. Sheep are quoted at 11 to 12¢.

The Montreal Gazette of July 23 says:—As we stated in our last all the ocean space was taken up for this month, but evidently some of the shippers have cancelled their engagements as space was offered to day which could not be had this day week for any money. The market, however, is steady and rates are unchanged at 40 to 45¢ as to port.

At the Montreal stock yards, Point St. Charles, July 23, the feature of this market was the sharp advance in hogs of 35 to 40¢ per 100 pounds, which was due to the small run and the active demand both here and in the West for light weights. Business was active and sales were made freely at \$5.50 to \$5.70 per 100 pounds, live weight. The market for cattle was weak and prices slow, a decline of ¼ to ½¢ per pound on account of the heavy supplies and the large number of inferior beasts. There was some business done in export cattle this morning, but it was of a jobbing nature to fill up space, and shippers paid 3½ to 4¢ per pound live weight. In butchers' stock a few lots of the best changed hands at 3 to 3½¢, while common to inferior were offered down as low as 1½ to 2½¢ per pound without meeting with a buyer. A few choice bunches of sheep for export sold at 3½ to 3¾¢ per pound, and butchers paid for a few 3 to 3½¢ per pound live weight.

No More Smoke.

If the furnace which the Hamburg-American steamer Grimm has in her is a success the flowing pennons of smoke which mark the progress of a steamer over the ocean are likely to disappear from the seas. The Grimm arrived at New York from Hamburg, where she had her patent furnace put in. By means of a down draught the fire is made to burn on the bottom, instead of the top. The flames, after rushing between the boiler-tubes are caught in the down draught, and carried down into the fire again, instead of going up the funnel in smoke. Captain Krecht, of the Grimm, said that on the trip across the furnace worked perfectly. Usually the Grimm burns 350 tons of coal a day, but with the patent furnace she only consumed 250 tons a day. If, on the further trial, the furnace is a success the Hamburg-American Company intend to put similar ones in all the ships of their big fleet. It is an invention of E. A. J. Muller, a German.—Seaboard.

The Walsh Deal

The sheriff's sale of the stock of W. Walsh, clothing, boots and shoes, etc., Winnipeg, took place on July 21, under a judgment secured by his wife, Theresa M. Walsh. There was no one at the sale but a couple of lawyers, and no competition for the stock, which was sold to Mrs. Walsh for 50 cents in the dollar. Parties who might have bid on the stock, did not attend the sale, as it was a foregone conclusion that Mrs. Walsh would buy the stock, and would pay more for it, or at least bid it up to a price beyond what any outside party could afford to pay for it. The absence of any of the creditors from the sale is a matter of some comment, but this is explained by the fact that the claims of the three creditors who had secured judgment previous to the sale, as reported in The Commercial last week, and also the claim of the Bank National were privately settled by the Walshes before the sale came off. Thus the parties had no interest in appearing at the sale. The price at which the stock was knocked down to Mrs. Walsh, would just about cover her claim against her husband, with legal expenses, but as claims amounting to over \$8,000 were privately settled before the sale, the nominal cost of the stock to her is about 80 cents on the dollar, or in other words, the stock cost her about 30 cents on the dollar over and above the amount alleged to have been owed her by her husband. Retail dealers in the city think the wholesale trade should have protected them against "the slaughter of this stock, but even if there had been good competition for the stock, it would not likely have been bid up to above 65 cents on the dollar, and Mrs. Walsh would have secured it just the same, while this amount is really less than she nominally pays for it, adding the claims settled for to the purchase price. People are asking: "If Mrs. Walsh's claim is good, why did she make these private settlements while other creditors do not get a cent?" Perhaps it was for love of the favored creditors, but it seems a peculiar transaction. A large number of creditors are left without a cent, and "what are you going to do about it?" is the query. It is doubtful, however, if any attempt will be made to upset Mrs. Walsh's judgment, as even if such an effort were successful, the prior claims of the earlier judgment creditors, who have been secured, would then come in.

It seems a great thing in this country to have a wife as an appendage to a business establishment. These "deals," in which the wife is the most prominent actor, are becoming too frequent for the reputation of the country. Really, the frequency of these transactions is becoming alarming. The creditor of the married man can never know what moment the wife will step in, metaphorically kick her husband out of the store and take possession herself, leaving all outside creditors in the lurch. If the thing keeps on at this rate, married men will be obliged to give special security to obtain credit. This deplorable state of things indicates how badly a good insolvency law is needed. The advantage of the wife appendage is beautifully illustrated in the Walsh deal. The business went right along without interruption while the process of law was in operation, before, after and during the sale. The transfer of the business from the husband to the wife did not necessitate the closing of the store for a moment, and there was no interruption to the course of trade. Even all the old signs are still good. The business was advertised simply as "Walsh's Clothing Store," etc., and while presto—change—the ownership passed from the husband to the wife, to the obliteration of the creditors, there is no change which the public are supposed to know anything about.

Ontario Cheese Markets.

Brockville, Ont., July 19.—The cheese market to day was brisk, and competition among the buyers keen. The sales were 712 white at 9¢, and 1,977 colored at 9 7/16¢. Your correspondent hears of one factory that sold 75 colored after the board at 9½¢. For the corresponding week of last year the offerings were 2,577 white and 1,531 colored; the ruling price was, white 9½¢, colored 9½¢.

Woodstock, Ont., July 19.—(Special)—The market this week is strong, but no business has been done at bothagersoll and here. The buyers freely offered 9 5/16¢. At Woodstock 9½¢ was bid, and would, no doubt, have been paid for all the best factories if the salesman had shown any intention of selling.

Where Corn is Indigenous.

Dr. John W. Harshberger, in an interesting study on maize or corn, traces its origin to the highlands of Mexico, between the 21st and 22nd degrees of north latitude, from whence it spread through the agency of the tribes of Northern Mexico, and possibly by the way of the West India Islands also, into the area included by the United States. Following down the Isthmus of Panama it extended southward along the great Andean system, where we find tribes in no way related borrowing the name as well as the cereal itself. Maize was not introduced directly into the West India Islands from Mexico, but probably through South America. This is inferred from the fact that South American words designating this grain extended all through the West India Islands. These conclusions in regard to the introduction of this cereal north of Mexico are contrary to the generally accepted idea that the Caribs introduced it into Florida.

Not Sure of Himself.

Over confidence has been the ruin of many a man. It is better not to boast, but rather to remember ourselves, lest we also be tempted. So thought a venerable negro, mentioned by the Washington Star.

He had applied for work.

"So you want to do chores for us?" said the gentleman on whom he had called.

"Dead I do."

"Well, I don't know. You look as if you were honest."

"Colonel, I'll tell yer de troof 'bout dat."

"Very good."

"Well, yer see, I speeks I 'se pulfibly hones', but I kaint be s'oe."

"Why not?"

"Kase I aint had 'nough 'sperience. I 'se wif-stood watermillions all right 'nough, but I aint nebbber hsd no face-ter-face temptations wid chickens."

Drinking Cold Water.

The same person that would never dream of giving his horse cold water, when hot, and just off a journey, will drink freely of it himself, well knowing that it is equally dangerous for man or beast. One can scarcely hope to keep children from this bad habit, when they see their elders doing it every day. If a mouthful or two of water is taken, and rejected a few times before swallowing, thus rinsing out the mouth and preparing the way for a little drink at a time, in this way a very small quantity of water will satisfy thirst just as well, as gulping down a large quantity into the over heated body. It only wants a little, strong will to do this and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have done right, and perhaps saved a long illness, and may be a doctor's bill.