

MINING NOTES.

Notwithstanding the dullness which has been felt in business circles generally, there has been some life in mining circles. The most encouraging reports from American cities as to the interest in North-western mining affairs taken by capitalists there, have reached this city during the past week; and Mr. Meagher, manager of the Keewatin and Lake Winnipeg companies, who has just returned from a trip to New York and other large eastern cities, claims to have interested numerous wealthy capitalists in these localities. It is confidently expected that with the opening of spring mining affairs will receive a great impetus, and operations will be commenced in at least a dozen new locations before the month of June has passed. Sales of stock in the city have livened up considerably; and the fact that at least two company's stocks are openly bought and sold in Toronto and Montreal, and in some instances at considerable advance on Winnipeg quotations, has given new life to stocks here. A letter which appeared in two local dailies asserts the sale during two weeks of one company's stock to the extent of over \$30,000 face value, a very large proportion of which we understand changed hands at 10c. on the dollar. As the capital of the company in question is fixed at \$2,000,000, and as yet scarcely anything in the way of actual progress has been made, outside of an advertisement and the purchase of stationery, the purchasers may not have secured much of a bargain even at the low figure above quoted.

The working manager of the Lake Winnipeg mine was in the city a few days ago, securing fresh supplies for the hands now engaged with him in the work of shafting. He reports a fine water power near the mine, which he will utilize when milling operations open up, which he will be ready to commence as soon as machinery can be placed. Operations on the Keewatin location are still being pushed, and a supply of quartz will be in readiness as soon as the spring opens up. The Winnipeg Consolidated are having their mill fitted up, and will commence crushing as soon as weather will permit. Several other locations are being got ready for work during the coming summer, and with the break up of this year activity will be general throughout the whole mining district of the North-west and there will be a race between several companies for the production of the first gold brick.

Bankruptcy Laws.

In the United States, in England and in Canada as well the want of a bankruptcy law is beginning to be felt. The London *Economist* of recent date has a long article on the subject, and the gist of the closing paragraph is given here "The fullest disclosure of the affairs of the debtor should be compelled by the court, whether desired by the creditors or not. No composition should have any validity until approved by the court, and the discharge of the debtor should be a matter of judicial decision, and should not depend in any way on the indulgence or connivance of the creditors,

Paper and its Uses.

Among the industries which seems probable to become a leading one in the North west is the manufacture of paper. The country abounds in material admirably adapted for the purpose, and all that is required is development. The mill in Portage la Prairie has been some time in operation, with very satisfactory results, turning out, it is generally acknowledged, a better article than is done elsewhere. So far attention has only been directed to papers of a coarse quality, but no doubt before long finer grades will be produced. Paper is now being used for a variety of purposes which a few years ago were little dreamt of. Houses are built of paper. Car wheels are made of the same material, and they are said to be far superior to those of iron. In Chicago an immense building is to be constructed largely of paper material. It will be six stories high, covering an entire block and will contain 100,000 feet of straw-board flooring, 48,000 feet of straw ceiling and a large amount of the same material for doors and counters. So the day may not be far distant when the straw from our prolific grain fields, now going to waste, and the large quantities of poplar wood used only for fuel will provide us with an ample supply of building material, at a cost much lower than now obtains. And now in Europe there is being manufactured a waterproof paper which is used for a variety of purposes, concerning which an English paper says:—"Waterproof paper is, perhaps, the most recent commercial success in what may be termed the utilization of paper material. A patent waterproof paper is now being manufactured at Willesden. The principle of this patent is very simple, but its value to commerce and to agriculture is very great; probably its utility to agriculture will prove greater than to any other branch of industry. It appears that paper, by a special chemical treatment, may not only be indurated and impregnated in the single web, but may be built up of several thicknesses with insoluble incorporated layers, and rolled under pressure into one solid sheet, of which the 'Willesden' 4 ply roofing is an example. It is not only waterproof, but practically unassailable by atmospheric influences, to the extent at any rate of the severe trials which have lasted now more than six years. So far as they go, the appearances are in favor of its practical usefulness, extending for an indefinite period. Specimens of this waterproof paper are to be seen at these works, which have been sustaining heavy weights for years, exposed to all weathers, and even at the collars of the copper rivets the paper is as sound as on the day they were first put in. There is a drain-pipe made of paper, which has been carrying steam from the machines and surface water for upwards of two years, and which is now as sound as when first laid down. Waste water from the works is conveyed away by means of a 'leaf' made of paper, which is as sound and as good as when the works were first started. This waterproof paper is manufactured in various thicknesses, or rather, the paper which is made waterproof is welded together, so to speak, by the process to form the required thickness, and one of the most curious forms in

which it is sent out, is that of a water-piping, which is made by simply forming the waterproof paper into a tube, binding it round with a spiral band of paper of the same kind, and fastening it with copper rivets. This piping costs a great deal less and weighs simply nothing as compared with iron; and this feature has been quickly seized upon by colonial buyers as a means of saving a large proportion of freightage. A large quantity of this piping and other forms of waterproof paper has been ordered, we are informed, to the Cape. By the way, it is claimed for this waterproof material that it is good for fencing inclosures, etc. Rats are usually accredited with extensive practical knowledge, and not one has ever yet been known to try it. Not only so, but the white ants of tropical regions, which devour all known substances outside metals and minerals, have, as yet, let this waterproof paper alone.

In respect to agricultural purposes, solely, there is great probability of this waterproof paper coming into very prominent use. It is useful for roofing buildings, Dutch barns, sheds, shepherd's huts, lambing-yard protection, and all similar farm purposes. Its light freightage makes it particularly servicable for colonial use for all such purposes, especially as the heat of the sun does not deteriorate it. It is also prepared with webbed edges, in which brass rings are inserted, and in this form it is easily and economically used for the temporary covering of ricks in bad or doubtful weather. In fact, there are a number of uses to which the farmer could apply it with advantage and economy.

A waterproof writing paper, prepared in the same way, has advantages for foreign and colonial correspondence, rendering letters indestructible by water, and preventing decay and illegibility of writing when exposed to damp or mildew."

Mining Matters Worth Remembering.

At present the mining interests of the North west are attracting the attention of large numbers of capitalists, not only in our own country, but also with our cousins across the line. The rich finds that have already been made will no doubt draw many to our land during the coming season, and much interest will be taken in their development. The Colorado *Mining Register* has an article under the caption which appears above and which will not be untimely at the present juncture. It refers more particularly to silver mining, but the remarks are not inapplicable in the case of gold. It says—"Because ten feet of development on a prospect does not show as large and rich a body of ore as a lead less pretentious on the surface does with a hundred foot shaft it is no reason why exaggeration should be resorted to in the description of the undeveloped prospect. Experience development in the San Juan county has taught us that a true fissure can easily be determined with even less than ten feet of development. All our true fissure veins that have proved themselves reliable were low grades on the surface, but large and well defined. A vein merely uncovered that showed a width of from five to ten feet, and even less, with well defined walls enclosing quartz and mineral,