

kinds, being augmented by rosin and other substances. Borate of soda (borax) makes a soft, delicate soap, which, though well adapted for its purpose, is not as corrosive in action as some that are made directly from caustic soda.

All alkalies are neutralized by acids, and sometimes by other alkalies, and hence the consumer often makes mistakes in the quality of the soap used by not being familiar with such soaps as may best suit the waters used in its consumption. We venture to say that if it was possible for our soap manufacturers to know exactly what kind of water was intended to be used with their soaps they could please everybody, but as the matter stands, preference will always be given for certain kinds according to the locality in which it is used.—*Cash Grocer.*

### Cooling the Heated Air.

A rather novel system of tempering from eight to twelve degrees the superheated atmosphere has just been completed in Wanamaker's clothing house Philadelphia. A 150-horse-power Corliss engine in the sub-cellar at the southern end of the building operates three fans, each of which is capable of forcing three hundred thousand cubic feet of air an hour. The air is drawn from a chute on the exterior of the building at an elevation of twenty-five feet, and after passing through a spray of water, it is cooled and carried to the fans. From the fans it is forced into pipes that lead to every counter of the building. At intervals of about every eight feet there is a tube, through which the air escapes and which can be regulated so that the refreshing draught blows directly in the face of those passing through the rooms. There are eight hundred of these openings, called "injectors" distributed among the various counters, and it is claimed for them that by their contrivance they not only introduce fresh air, but they also set in motion the air already in the place.

In addition to these there are forty small revolving fans in use in open spaces, which are operated by escaping air. The same system can be used in winter for heating the building. The inventor of the system is John Fernie, an Australian, and this is the first place in which it has ever been introduced.

### Exploring Newfoundland.

Mr. Hall, one of the largest lumber manufacturers in the world, and one of Canada's leading merchants, arrived here, says the St. John, Newfoundland, *Mercury*, on Thursday by the steamship Polino. He brought a party of explorers with him, who departed in the Polino for the purpose of being landed in the Bay of Islands, where, should the explorers reports prove favorable, he proposes to establish a large lumbering manufacturing business. The initiation of the scheme also depends upon the terms upon which the Government will be able to make grants of land; and it is to be hoped that nothing will be left undone to assist in the establishment of an enterprise so well calculated to develop a portion of this country. Mr. Hall has also an idea of exploring the Exploits river. He has been looking at our dry-dock, and says

that in all his vast experience he has never seen finer timber used in such work—an opinion of great value because of his knowledge of the subject.

### The Potato Crop in the East.

A week or ten days ago, says the *Montreal Gazette*; fine early Rose potatoes were sold on this market at 45c to 50c per bag, and to-day were made at from 75c to 90c per bag, a few very fancy lots having commanded as high as 95c to \$1.00. Various reasons were assigned for this remarkable appreciation in values in so brief a period, among which is the report that the rot has made its appearance in the last sown crop, and that in quite a number of fields around Montreal the disease has been discovered within the past few days. The *New York Commercial Bulletin* has the following article on potatoes.—A serious danger is said to threaten the potato crop of Western New York. The foliage is being attacked by what is known as the black rust. It spreads rapidly, and two or three days are sufficient to ruin the entire growth. It has done its work on the fields of the bottom lands, and is now found spotting the vines in many hillside lots. As soon as the vines dry up thus prematurely the potato itself is affected and rots." A Warsaw, N. Y. correspondent says:—"A large number of potato growers, who a few days since were anticipating an abundant yield, see nothing now but the most complete destruction of their crop. The cause is attributed to the very wet summer. The potato vines in the garden of your correspondent look as if a black frost had occurred. the potatoes are just starting to decay in spots."

### Interesting Railway Statistics of the World.

The advance sheets of Poor's Railway Manual for 1883 show a mileage at the close of 1882 of 113,329 miles, 11,591 having been constructed within the year. The average mileage operated for the year was 107,158. The amount of share capital issued by the several companies up to the close of their respective fiscal years was \$3,456,078,196, an increase from the previous year of \$385,254,585. The funded debts of the several companies amounted to \$3,184,415,201, an increase from the previous year of \$352,554,496. Their floating or unfunded debts amounted to \$255,170,962, an increase of \$42,404,965 from the previous year. The total increase of share capital and of funded and floating debts from the previous year equalled \$780,213,776. The total amount of all liabilities at the close of 1882 was \$6,895,664,359. The total per mile for completed mileage was \$61,342. The gross earnings of all the roads for their several fiscal years of 1882 was \$670,356,716, an increase from the previous year of \$67,066,511. Of the gross receipts, \$202,140,755 were received from passengers, \$306,367,247 from freight, and \$61,848,734 from miscellaneous sources. The net earnings for the year were \$310,682,877, an increase of \$24,929,109 from the previous year. The amount of interest paid was \$149,295,380, an increase of \$20,708,078 from the previous year.

The amount of dividends paid was \$102,031,434, an increase of \$9,687,244 from the previous year.

### PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

J. N. Morton is in charge of the customs office here during the temporary absence of Mr. Marshall.

An early closing movement is on foot among some of our merchants and clerks. It is proposed to close all the stores at 8 o'clock during the winter months.

The Ogilvie elevator is nearly finished.

Strome & Henderson have rented the vacant store in the Methodist block, and are having it fitted up in good style.

Threshing has commenced in this district, and the yield is fully equal to what was expected.

On Saturday a deputation representing opponents to the by-law bonusing the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway visited Winnipeg to take preliminary steps in proceedings to quash the by-law if possible.

Rumors are afloat here that the C.P.R. Co. have promised backing to the Souris and Rocky Mountain Co., and are urging the latter to proceed rapidly in order to cut out the M. & N.W. in the Northwestern district. Another states that the Grand Trunk is about to purchase the M. & N.W. Railway. We shall see what we shall see.

The council has passed a by-law providing for the establishment of a free public market on Union Square, and the necessary buildings will be erected this fall.

### BRANDON.

Business is fair this week and promises to improve, certainly the dull times are nearly over.

The farmers in this district have been cutting grain for some days, and the crop promises well. The frost of Friday night did considerable damage to late wheat.

Building is somewhat brisker. Messrs. Cole & Saunders have purchased the southeast corner of Rosser avenue and 9th street at \$175 per foot; the highest price ever paid for property in Brandon. They intend building a fine tailoring establishment.

R. Dickinson is erecting a new building on the south side of Rosser avenue, just west of 9th street.

D. McMillan & Co.'s new mill and elevator will be commenced at once. Mr. McMillan is satisfied that Brandon will be the largest grain station on the line.

Alexander, Kerly & Sutherland are building their elevator and oatmeal mill next to their grist mill.

Ripple & Co. are having some trouble over their extension.

Wm. Schkell is master of his own store once more.

McLean Bros. have failed; also T. T. Atkinson.

The city council have not yet returned from the end of the track. The "Dads" are having a good time.