

better look out lest he share the fate of Dr. F. B. McCormick of Pelee Island, who was fined last week by the Medical Council of Ontario for practising without a license among the 400 dwellers on that sportsman's and vine-grower's paradise, and scorning to pay his fine chose to go to Sandwich gaol, where he is now in durance vile. Soliciting insurance, this agent had provided himself with a supply of vaccine-points, and made it a condition with any intending insurer that the latter must first be vaccinated, the agent performing the operation, and charging therefor, before delivering the policy. We may next hear of a fire agent proffering hand-grenades to his patrons, or insisting on their buying Fire-king extinguishers before he will take a risk on their property. Surely the Montreal small-pox scare has been "boomed" enough without extending its range 400 miles west.

—It is stated by the *Kingston News* that the St. Lawrence forwarding companies have agreed to advance the rates for carrying grain from Kingston to Montreal. The rates for wheat will be 2½ cents per bushel, and for corn 2½ cents per bushel, the advanced tariff going into operation on Sept. 1st. It will apply only to cargoes shipped from Chicago on and after that date; the advanced rates will not be charged on grain which may have been in transit before the 1st. The rates have no reference to canal tolls. This is an advance of ½ of a cent on the rates hitherto existing this summer, and is the same rate as that which existed before the tolls were reduced by the Government. The forwarders were bound by agreement with the Government not to advance rates until the 1st of September.

—In these days of overproduction and consequent low prices, good bargains are to be had at retail by such as are shrewd enough to take advantage of them, or have money to offer. An example is given by the *New York Tribune*, taken from the experience of a large retailer:—"A great many customers buy winter goods of us in the spring and summer goods in the fall," says this merchant. "They thus get the benefit of clearing-off sales, which now extend even to standard lines of goods. No one carries over from one season to the other so much as a spool of thread that can be sold at cost. The shrewd buyers have discovered this, and buy their flannels in March and their linens in September, and lay them away until needed for the season."

—Hamilton's exports to the United States for last month show more than the usual proportion of wool amongst shipments. That item forms half the value of the total, which is \$44,386. The principal exports were:—

Wool	Value..	\$21,695
Lumber	"	4,162
Skins	"	3,270
Eggs	"	2,153
Malt	"	1,821
Sewing machines	"	1,278
Lambs	"	1,366

—The steamer "Summerside," which left Montreal on the 16th ult., with a general cargo for Newfoundland, ran ashore close to her destination, and is likely to become a total wreck. The cargo is valued at \$13,000, which is covered by insurance. The vessel is owned in Prince Edward Island, and is valued at \$40,000.

—An order-in-Council is published to the effect that the Inspector of Grain in this city shall furnish regular returns of grain inspected by him to the secretary of the Board of Trade, Toronto, upon forms to be furnished by the board, under a penalty of \$5 a day for neglect.

Correspondence.

CALGARY MATTERS.

To the Editor of the *Monetary Times*:

The fever which has originated in the sweet grass country in Montana—though it is more likely to have had its origin in Benton, has reached here without any loss of intensity, but our people have had their eyes opened by auriferous sensationalism originating in Montana and its sister territories. They have had "Coeur D'Aline," and "Bear Paw" until these began to pall, and now a little sugar is put on the pile by way of "sweet grass," but some of our people have been bitten. They now know the location well enough and a dozen Montana newspapers with the press of Idaho and Washington Territory thrown in cannot put life into our people because there has been too much humbug already, and something more than the stereotyped method is necessary to make the western Canuck "catch on." Booming here in mining is played out, and the people are "sick" enough without being fooled by sweet or sour grass.

Lately I have given some attention to the mining prospects north of the 49th parallel. In the spring of 1884 a rush to the Columbia country was expected, but the rush did not occur. True there was a considerable number of gold prospectors went into the mountains and made their base the line of the C. P. R. but many of these prospectors were not well fixed nor did they possess the requisite experience. The old gold miners of whom I have met a number who are ex-Californians and British Columbians do not seem to have much confidence in the Rockies as an auriferous region, but they have unbounded faith in the Selkirk where they expect some day to make big finds. They claim that the Rockies are not worth the prospecting because they say it is too much rock, but I think their opinions are rather founded upon the question of placers than upon quartz mining.

The fact that all the streams which flow from the heart of the Selkirks contain fine gold is not to be disputed, and the circumstance that many of the small streams flow from the Rockies do not contain color, is taken as evidence against the auriferous character of its great chain, but fine gold is found on the bars of the Saskatchewan, and I can show any eastern man "color" in the Bow, and several other streams in this vicinity. This prejudice against the Rockies, entertained by old miners will disappear in the light of the next two or three years—perhaps sooner. The other day I went to Moose Mountain, which is situated about thirty miles south-west of this town, on the north fork of the Elbow River. At Moose Mountain an enterprising Scotchman named Mortimer, who resides in Calgary, has quite a bonanza. Specimens of quartz from his location have been assayed with a result of \$8 to \$12 per ton from croppings. The claim has been staked by the owner, and entered, but is not yet worked. Slate forms the foot wall of the location and granite the upper wall. A small canon gives access to the mine so that its lateral side may be worked by a drift easily made. There is plenty of fallen and growing timber, consisting of spruce and pine right on the location. The lead appears to run south-east. Singularly on the same location is an excellent quality of coal, called by some anthracite, but it is really *cretaceous*, though of a good kind, and containing sufficient carbon for steam purposes. Mr. Mortimer is forming a company, and it is their intention to work it next spring. This is one of many claims that must, sooner or later, be in working shape near Calgary, and although "placers" may not be the rage east of the Rockies, good quartz-mining will flourish. Placers soon run out, but it is not so with the quartz.

What a number of old miners hereabout expect is a big discovery in the yet inaccessible region of country in which the Athabasca and Columbia rivers head. This is about 100 miles north of the line of the C.P.R. It is not easily prospected,—in fact, it never has been prospected, but as the railway line now forms a base of supplies, next year will witness a systematic prospecting of this *terra incognita*, and if the old miners are to be believed rich discoveries will be made in the divide, where, according to Oliver Wendell Holmes, a pebble turns one stream into the Pacific and another into the Atlantic—the Columbia and Athabasca, respectively, so close to each other do the

sources of these great rivers come. So much for the gold prospects.

There has not been much activity in the other branches. The companies formed a couple of years ago, and which made Silver City their head quarters, are resting on their oars in earnest. There seems to be a want of pluck on the part of some of our capitalists who have invested in mining. They go in with a great deal of energy at first, but they soon weaker. This half-heartedness will never win. Better not "go in" at all than do the work with a faint heart. It would be no harm to take a leaf out of our cousins' book in the matter of mining. It is one of the leaves that may be taken. Of course, I do not mean that we should take the humbug along with it.

Another year must witness considerable development in the mining industry of this immediate district. Calgary in the future must depend upon the development of this industry. She cannot expect to depend always upon transient trade, and the ranche business. Much of the latter is already centered at Macleod, and it is not likely that an insurrection can be depended upon as a means to scatter plenty around, something of an *industrious* nature will have to be done if the grand ideas which many of the business men here entertain as to the future of Calgary are to be realized. The mines will have to be worked, and real industries set in motion. This will do the place more good than anything else that I know of.

Business has been fair. There has been some immigration in spite of the "war." There is not such a thing as a vacant house in the place, though a few weeks ago there were any number of them. The demand has arisen from the circumstance that quite a number of intending settlers have come into the place and have temporarily rented houses pending going on to their farms.

Singularly you do not often meet with a Canadian family among these new comers. They are chiefly English. The disposition of the Canadian seems to lean to the light occupation—keeping small stores etc. By-and-by, when land is wanted it will not be available and there will be a howl. Young men in stores in the city of Toronto and other cities—especially Canadians are doing themselves an injury by sitting still and seeing their heritage passing away into the hands of the man from abroad, who in many cases has little or no sympathy for Canadian aspirations which are supposed to be gaining ground so fast in the older places. But how is it to take root here when the disposition is for the lighter and unsubstantial kinds of pursuits. Certainly, the country is for the swift, but one naturally leans to his own countrymen—other things being equal, and I suppose it is a just predilection.

Lt.-Col. Whitehead, and Lt.-Col. Jackson are here looking over the outstanding claims against the government. I understand that there are about \$30,000 still unsettled. Most of the claims are just enough, but there will be some indirect claims which the commissioners will likely refuse; but taken altogether the management of this district has been good. Major McGibbon who was supply and transport officer here since the 20th of May, has kept a clean sheet. His business training has been of good service.

One of the chief topics in the train going west from Calgary to the mountains is the sulphur springs which were discovered some months ago near Laggan, in the Rockies. The springs are a reality. A company has been formed to run them; a hotel is being erected on the spot, and an architect is now at work on the plan of the baths. T. A. Maclean, Esq., who is Dominion registrar here, and who is well known in Toronto enjoyed the luxury of a bath in these springs the other day, and he vouches for their efficacy. The "Wonderful spring of San Joaquin," a few years ago, did not create more *furor* amongst tourists than our springs are doing now. The water bubbles out at a bearable temperature, and is highly charged with sulphur. When the water cools, as it does by flowing off, the sulphur evaporates.

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Calgary, Alberta, Aug. 26, 1885.

—A gentleman received an unpaid letter commencing: "Sir, your note of yesterday concerning: 'the stamp of falsehood.'" bears upon its face the stamp of falsehood. He answered: "Sir, I only wish your letter of yesterday bore upon its face a stamp of any kind."