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AND MILLERS', MANUFACTURERS',
AND MINERS' GAZETTE

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BARYTES OR SULPHATE OF
BARYTA.

This mineral is of considerable economic value, being used for many purposes, but principally for mixing with white lead and for enamelling. It is scarce in the whole of North America, and consequently very large quantities are annually imported into the United States from England and Germany, but chiefly from the latter country. We understand that there are but two places in the United States where the raw ore is pulverized and prepared for use—the one, New Haven, Conn., and the other St. Louis, Mo. At the former there is, or rather there *was*, a mine—for we believe it is now exhausted—owned and worked by Mr. Sandford, President of the Stamford Manufacturing Co., New York, and who, it is said, has amassed great wealth from his ownership of this mine, although the article which he produces is by no means of first-rate quality. At St. Louis, we understand there is no actual deposit or mine, but the mineral is found in boulders, and the farmers, on whose farms it turns up bring it to the mill, and are well paid for it, as it is of a very fine quality, and when manufactured, brings the highest prices. In Nova Scotia considerable Baryta is found, but owing to its colour, it can be used only for mixing with coloured paints, and consequently is not in much demand. In the Ottawa Valley, however, nine miles from the city, and within three or four miles of the steamboat landing on the Gatineau, it is said the largest and purest deposit of Baryta, yet discovered on this continent is to be found. Its location is in the township of Hull and is referred to in an official report of Sir Wm. Logan, made to the Government some years ago. From enquiries made, we learn that some 250 tons of ore from this mine have already been manufactured into white paint, equal to any lead, by the late Alex. Ramsay, of Montreal, and that he obtained first prize for it at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia. It appears that, by means of a recent discovery in Scotland, patented there by the discoverer, and patented in Canada and the United States by Mr. Ramsay, Baryta is turned into excellent white paint, without a mixture of any lead whatever. We are informed that all the Admiralty ships are now painted with this material, and that it was for this mixture that Mr. Ramsay got the chief prize at Philadelphia. If this be so, and we do not doubt it, Baryta is destined to become an article of much usefulness and value, as, if found in the Ottawa Valley in sufficient quantity, it can be cheaply mined and manufactured, and the great expense of lead will be saved

to the consumer. For this simple grinding of the article, we are told that Mr. Bonny, Hospital street, Montreal, has mills capable of grinding two tons an hour, and it might be well for such as have any of the "raw material" to communicate with that gentleman. It would be well, also, for such as may find traces of this mineral in their lands, to look closely after it; for though valuable enough now, to pay well for mining, there can be no doubt that in a short time it must become of much greater importance and value. Sulphate of Baryta is usually found in thin veins, from half an inch to two inches in width at the surface, and widening as it goes down; though to this rule there are exceptions, as in the case of the Hull mine, to which we have referred, a surface width of two to three feet is shown, widening rapidly as it descends. It is also found in pockets, and it is from such, that the Nova Scotia Barytes is taken, consequently the quantity is more uncertain and smaller, than when found in regular and well defined veins. It is invariably found with galena, but not in quantity to pay for working. The demand for Baryta is at present limited to about 1,200 to 1,400 tons per annum in Canada, but over the border, the demand is nearly unlimited, although the import duty almost prohibitory, is:—half a cent a pound or ten dollars a ton. This is what has enabled the mine owners and grinders of it in the United States to make such large profits. The price in Boston and New York varies according to quality, some going as high as \$50 a ton—but if Canada can produce an article of the highest grade, of which there is not the slightest doubt, it is evident, we can, even with the enormous duty exacted, still successfully compete with the English and German importers. We earnestly hope some of our enterprising capitalists will take this Baryta matter in hand; for besides the great general advantage of developing the latent and unproductive mineral wealth of the country, we are satisfied "there's millions in it" to those who are willing to invest a moderate amount of money, with a speedy return. We propose returning to this subject—meanwhile we will be glad to hear from any of our correspondents regarding Baryta.

MUSKOKA IMPROVEMENT COMPANY

A company has recently been organized amongst the lumbermen of Muskoka and Georgian Bay, for the purpose of regulating the driving and sorting of saw logs, constructing slides, booms, piers, dams, &c., on the Muskoka River, the Severn, Muskquash, &c. At a meeting which was held at Gravenhurst, the company was formed, and \$50,000 capital subscribed. Messrs. H. H. Cook, Richard Power, A. P. Cockburn, M.P.; G. W. Taylor and Hon. Alexander Mackenzie were elected directors. The directors at a subsequent meeting, after electing Hon. Alex. Mackenzie president, prepared estimates of the proposed works and made arrangements for immediately commencing work upon the most urgent of these. A similar company, namely, "the Upper Ottawa Improvement Co.," has been in existence for some years, with a capital of \$150,000. The directors are Messrs. Branson, Perley, Eddy, Gordon and H. Robinson, H. Robinson, president, J. R. Booth, secretary, G. B. Green, acting secretary. The operations of this company extend from the Des Joachim to the foot of Hull Slide. The organization has been found of great service to all parties engaged in lumbering on the Ottawa. The Muskoka Company will doubtless prove equally serviceable.

The sale of "gold" bricks, made principally of brass, is brisk in the West. One corner is pure gold, and from it is clipped the sample to be assayed.

COAL OIL FIRE TEST,

The testing of coal oil has hitherto been a source of great annoyance to producers and consumers, owing to the uncertain results of the instruments used for making the tests. A very simple and complete instrument has just been perfected by Mr. M. Battle, Collector of Inland Revenue, Ottawa, which defines the flash test in a uniform manner on the automatic principle. Mr. Battle has paid great attention to the matter of testing oil, indeed the greater number of samples sent to the Department at Ottawa were submitted for his test and report. Yet he was frequently at a loss to obtain a uniform result, although he had the best instruments manufactured in the United States, Great Britain or the continent of Europe. His Improved Automatic Pyrometer however, combines uniformity of action, correctness of results, and simplicity of using. Nothing is required to be done by the testing officer or merchant, but to place a small quantity of oil in a cup, light a small lamp and watch two thermometers—one immersed in water, in a chamber underneath the oil and the other in the sample of oil to be tested. As the mercury rises to the testing point a double valve is opened by the party in charge, and if no gas or vapour is generated the light will continue to burn, and the oil is safe; but will be extinguished as soon as gas is evolved up to the number of degrees indicated, making the oil dangerous at that temperature. It is likely that that Mr. Battle's Pyrometer will be made the standard for the Dominion, and if so, it should supersede all others now in use, whether operated by electricity or otherwise.

THANKSGIVING.

It was our lot to be in the City of Belleville on Wednesday the 3rd inst., and considering that lumbermen and their representative connected with this journal had much to be thankful for, in common with the rest of the community, we went to hear the Rev. Mr. McLean, (Presbyterian) on that occasion. The rev. gentleman founded his remarks on Psalm 103, verse 2, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

After referring to our deep obligations and many privileges, he said: It was cheering to think that the day had been set apart by the Government of our land for the observance of this sacred duty of thanks to God for his goodness to us as individuals and as a nation—cheering to think that our fellow subjects gather together to-day to acknowledge our common Father by the united recognition of his greatness and goodness throughout the land. The future of a land that thus recognizes its duty and privileges cannot be other than a great one.

It might be asked what are the reasons for thankfulness on our part. Are not the times dull? Do not many to-day feel that with the will to work, the opportunity is not afforded? Is it not a fact that our city is in a worse condition commercially, than it was in days gone by? While there is apparent ground for the spirit that is manifest in these questions, there may be, after all, reason for thankfulness in the very things complained of. Allow that our city has been in a bad condition in a business point of view for some time back; whose is the fault? To the best of my belief it lies at our own door. We have been going on too fast in one way and too slow in another. We have been overcrowding our different branches of commerce. For example, there have been too many young men, who, under the delusion that they were heaven-born merchants—have forsaken the sure, if slow, returns of farming life, for the swift but uncertain gains of merchandise. The result has been, as might be anticipated—many of these have come to ruin, and have

been taught by a bitter experience, that it really does need, at least, a modicum of training to succeed in any business or profession, in these days.

Again, merchants have been speculating too strongly on the likelihood of large sales, and, disappointed in their expectations, have been unable to meet their liabilities. Retrenchment has become the order of the day, of necessity. If these opinions are correct, then one great cause of present depression has been in overdoing things, and one result of the reaction will probably be a healthier commercial life in the future.

The same remarks as to extravagance may apply to general living in the past of the people themselves. The love of display among all classes of the community, has doubtless had much to do in lessening ability to meet engagements. The only cure for such a course is to live within one's income. Here again is one benefit that may accrue from the general stagnation that is complained of.

We certainly have to thank God for all the benefits He has conferred upon us. The common blessings of the earth such as air, sunshine, water, and harvests; each is needful for our well-being, and each given in all fulness. The preservation of our bodies, in all their senses, organs and faculties, so as not merely to enjoy life, but also to be serviceable—health and strength to do work and provide for families. All these are bestowed on us.

Living in a land of freedom, with wise laws honorably upheld, with property and life properly protected; with fair prospects for all who are willing to work; with a law-abiding, moral-living community, where lawlessness and crime are swiftly punished, and justice meted out to all—surely one ought to thank God for those benefits in these regards. Our harvest is plentiful, God has blessed the labours of the husbandman. No heavy floods "have disappointed his hopes, and sent dismay through the land." No bitter frosts have killed the ripening grain. For one grain sown, many are given back. He on whom we are dependent for rain and sunshine and fruitful seasons has again opened his hand and filled our barns with plenty.

And do we not see indications throughout the land of the return of cheerier times in the apparent growing briskness of business—of times when he who desires it may have work at home in plenty. Is it not a matter of thankfulness that in this Dominion of ours there is room and scope for all. That whosoever is able and willing to labour may find in it the place and the opportunity.

The Rev. gentleman concluded his excellent discourse with many practical and suitable lessons, bearing on "the life that now is, and the life that is to come."

A New Brunswick journalist displays a thankful spirit as follows:—It is very gratifying to know that there has been a vast increase of Inter-Colonial trade, as evidenced by the remarkable increase of traffic on the Government railways this year. Our exports, too, have been in great demand—our lumber (both in the United States and Britain), our grains, our cattle, the produce of the dairy and the orchard. We have to be thankful, too, for the remarkably favourable weather which has distinguished the season of 1880, weather so favourable for the full pursuit of the occupations of the industrial classes that we can scarcely hope to see it duplicated in 1881. We should also give thanks for freedom from epidemics and pestilences and tidal waves of crime and violence. We have to be thankful for the steady progress of education and temperance, the increase of the people in support of churches and Sunday schools. Among other causes for thankfulness may be cited the fact that Canada is regaining its old prosperity under the political leadership of the first Canadian of his generation, Sir John A. Macdonald; that the negotiations for reducing the public burthens by turning the building of the Pacific Railway over to a private company have been successful; and that the people of Canada have almost universally accepted the National Policy, as the Tariff policy of the country. In our immediate neighbourhood there is cause for thankfulness in the increased trade which has sprung up; the hopeful spirit which has succeeded the feeling of despair which had taken possession of too many of our citizens; and in the evidences of "the good time coming" which are apparent to many amongst us. We may indeed be thankful with our lot when contrasted with the circumstances of the people of most other countries; and while grateful to an all-wise Providence for the many blessings vouchsafed to us, let us resolve to do the very best for ourselves that lies within our power.