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## SAN FRANCISCO COAL TRADE.

J. W. Harrison, coal and metal broker, San Francisco, reports Dec. 9, as follows: "During the week there have been the following arrivals: From the Coast mines, 26,011 tons, from foreign ports, 2,600 tons. Business in the fuel line is very dull, except for domestic purposes, for which there is a fair trade, thus keeping jobbers pretty busy. Prices remain stationary, except for Cumberland, which has been reduced, owing to sharp competition. The all absorbing topic among our principal merchants, and leading manufacturers, is the tariff, but principally regarding coal, as this is the leading dutiable article in which we are all most particularly interested. There has been some doubt expressed about loyalty of some of our Representatives, as to whether they will all be a unit in favoring placing bituminous coal on the 'Free List.' If any of our State Senators or Congressmen when the vote is being taken, shall be found recorded as opposing the placing of coal on the 'Free List,' they will have a sorry time on their return here explaining their position to their constituents. Party politics cut no figure here. We pay 75 per cent. of all the duties paid on fuel in the United States; we were taxed over \$830,000 in 1892. Who paid it? Our railroads, steamships, gas companies, shipbuilders, foundrymen, and all our principal industries, hence the stagnancy of business at present with all our factories, most of them running on barely half time. California-like, those most interested are passively awaiting the result, to ascertain then, what they should be actively doing now."

The following appears in the *Monetary Times*: "In British Columbia a keen interest is felt in the question of compensation to be paid to sealers for loss by reason of enforced idleness under the *modus vivendi*. The question is debated whether compensation for deprival of the right of sealing in Behring Sea is to be considered alone, or whether what the sealers actually made elsewhere is to be taken into account in abatement of the claim. What all should aim at is a fair and reasonable adjustment, neither more nor less. While the sealers are entitled to be saved from loss, they have no claim to make a profit out of the restraint put on their action. What they may fairly ask is, that they should be neither better nor worse off on account of the restriction put upon them. Beyond this nothing should be attempted, and no attempt, if made, would be likely to succeed. It should be the aim of Canada to present a claim that is not open to serious objection. If this be done, prompt payment may be expected; and this alone is likely to bring a speedy settlement."

**A. LEOFRED,**

(Graduate of Laval and McGill.)

**MINING ENGINEER.**

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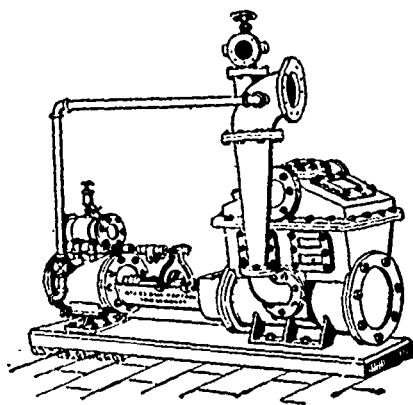
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