TOBACCO IN FLORIDA.

Some compensations may be in store for Florida, and they are needed to make up for the frightful frost that utterly devastated so many of her orange groves, and sent their proprietors out of business, ruined. The Cuban war has done one big thing for this country, says the Cincinnati Enquirer. It has compelled recognition, indirectly, of the value of Florida lands for the production of the finest tobacco in the world. In the course of his recent trip to the south, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson was astonished to discover that 160,000,000 Havana cigars were actually grown and manufactured at present on the Florida Peninsula. Already great areas in the western part of the State are planted with this crop, and extensive arrangements have been made for its introduction into the central region.

Thus, it may be expected that before long Florida will rival Cuba as a tobacco producer, in respect to the quantity of yield, while the quality of the cigar leaf seems to be quite equal to that of the famous Vuelta Abajo. All the conditions of climate in Florida favor the production of the highest grade of tobacco. The soil is much like that of Cuba, and, by the aid of the system of spraying that imitates natural rainfall, the plants are ripened in forty-five days after they are put out. Tobacco can be grown almost all the year, and crops can be set out in every month nearly.

RISING FROM THE RANKS.

A correspondent endorses the position taken in the editorial "Coming up from the Ranks," in our last issue—that holding up proprietorship as a goal has been somewhat overdone. He adds:

"It used to be a favorite saying of the self-satisfied, that it was 'possible for any boy to rise to be President of the United States.' This, of course, can be shown to be mathematically impossible. The proprietor of the thread mill bearing his name, rose from a machinist, who everybody thought was an idle dreamer, because he claimed he could do certain things in thread-making which he finally did do. He says it is possible for any one to rise to the same position that he occupies. Now his position positively involves a large number of other people in inferior positions, and the whole proposition is absurd as well as mathematically impossible. It is not conceivable to the human mind that everybody should live on 'custard pie and soda water.'"

There can be no controversy, however, on the proposition that every man by industry, a studious habit and a determination to conquer difficulties can greatly increase his skill and efficiency. We are not sure that the current preaching on the possibilities of employees becoming employers may not be overdone even to the extent of creating discontent because of the small number who reach the goal. We are disposed to consider this preachment of the self-made employer as quite as much a mistake on one side, as the effort of the trade union to create an artificial dead-level condition of fit and unfit, on the other. Let emphasis be put upon merit and achievement, in whatever rank or file it is found, for less and less will proprietorship be possible, though the standard for subordinate places is incomparably beyond that of three decades ago. —Iron Review.

A HURRYING-UP

The new Insolvent law, which comes into operation on the 1st of July precludes bills of sale or confessions of judgment (in business concerns), being legally given within 60 days of assignment. It also abolishes "preferences;" as the term has been understood and acted on. The occupation of the "sisters, and the cousins, and the aunts" of insolvency methods hitherto will be largely gone as practical receivers of what is left of an estate.

Commercial agencies note that there have been a most unusual number of bills of sale registered within a fortnight, dating back to before the 1st of May, the 60 days' limit. Some are rather in the nature of a revelation, presumably of course that the bills of sale were previously there; there are probably a good many more to come, made or registered in anticipation of the operation of the new law. —Acadian Recorder, Halifax.

COKE FOR KOOTENAY SMELTERS.

Robert Jaffray, of Toronto, one of the directors of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, and William Blakemore, general manager of the company, spent a couple of days in the city recently, on their return from a visit to Rossland and Spokane. The company has a capital stock of $2,000,000, and Col. Baker, provincial secretary of British Columbia, is president. To a Miner reporter Mr. Blakemore stated that the company is rapidly getting its mines into shape for delivering coal and coke to every part of the Kootenay country. They have at present sixty men at work opening up two seams of coking coal. The best and most expensive machinery has been ordered for the mines, and fifty coking ovens will be in operation before the line of railway is completed to Nelson. The coal has been thoroughly tested and the coke produced has been found to be superior to that produced in Swansea, Wales, or Pennsylvania. It is of the bituminous coking variety and contains 95 per cent. fixed carbon and 4 per cent. ash.

It is the intention of the company to supply the smelters of Kootenay at the very best price possible, which will be about half the price now paid for the Welsh and Cannelsville coke. It is estimated that one ton of coke is used in smelting five tons of ore, and the reduction in price made by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company will reduce the cost of smelting ore about $1.50 per ton. The present consumption of coke at the smelters in this section, when all are running, is as follows: Hall Mines, 40 tons daily; Trail smelter, 60 tons; Northport, 40 tons.

The product of the 50 coking ovens to be installed at an early date will be 200 tons per day, and the company expect, as soon as transportation facilities are available, to supply the smelters above named. Besides supplying the Kootenay market, Mr. Blakemore is in negotiation to supply a number of large smelters across the line.

At the Everett smelter the daily consumption of coke is 60 tons: Tacoma, 40 tons; Great Falls, 150 tons; Helena, 50 tons; Butte and Anaconda, 400 tons. Owing to the advantages of quality and geographical position, and the cheapness with which the company will be able to manufacture coke, he expects to be able to supply most of the coke used at all the points mentioned.—Nelson Miner.

THE LEAD PROBLEM.

The agitation for the imposition of a heavy import duty on lead products is everywhere throughout the Dominion meeting with hearty approval. Those who have given the matter any attention realize that so long as the lead smelters of the United States continue to control the lead market of Canada, silver-lead mining, silver-lead smelting and kindred industries will remain non-existent in this country.

It is a foregone conclusion that legislation will ultimately be enacted for the fostering and protection of the Canadian lead industry. The only question is, How long shall we have to wait until the required revision of the tariff is made? From present indications it would seem that at least a year will elapse before anything is done. The boards of trade of Southern British Columbia have taken the matter to Ottawa, having sent delegates there to put the facts of the case before parliament. The efforts of these deputations are mainly directed to obtaining the appointment of a parliamentary commission to inquire into the matter, and it is generally believed that an investigation will be made on these lines. There is, however, the probability that nothing further than the appointment of a commission will be done until the next session of parliament. Should this be the case, the lead smelting and kindred industries of Kootenay will continue to suffer greatly for another year.

The Miner fails to see why so much delay should be occasioned. If the proposed commission finds that the contentions of the lead miners of Kootenay are worth favorable consideration and recommend the increase of the present import duty on lead products, it will be an unnecessary and disastrous delay to let the matter rest there until parliament meets again.—Rossland Miner.

NOT SO GREEN AS HE LOOKED.

The travelling man who had been royally entertained by the prosperous farmer, in the outskirts of the little town, where the only hotel had burned down a few days before, was a little uncertain, when about to depart, whether he should simply return his thanks or risk offending his host by offering pay.

"You have placed me under great obligations, Mr. Millsaps," he said. "When I come in from a trip of this kind I am accustomed to turning in an expense account, and it seems to me I ought to have put down in it something pretty handsome for the excellent entertainment I have had at your house."

"You can turn in what you durn please," replied Mr. Millsaps. "My bill will be $16."—Chicago Tribune.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

Montreal, May 18th, 1898.

Stocks.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Closing Prices. Sellers.	Closing Prices. Buyers.	Average price same date 1897.
Montreal	243	243	10	245	238	225
Ontario	....	....	....	110	100	80¼
Molsons	202	202	10	210	200	183
Toronto	230	230	3	235	225	226
Jac. Cartier	....	....	....	108	101	....
Merchants	174	174	2	175	167	171
Commerce	....	....	....	140	135	125
Union	....	....	....	115	103	100
M. Teleg.	....	....	....	175	173	167
R. & O. Nav.	97¾	96	100	100	98	92½
Mont. St. Ry	255	249	1371	251	249¾	211¼
new do.	250½	248	70	250	247	....
Mont. Gas Co.	186	181	995	183⅛	182	187
Can. Pac. Ry	84¼	81	4400	83⅜	83¼	54⅝
Land Grant bds	....	....	....	....	....	....
N.W Land pref.	....	....	....	50	47¾	....
Bell Tele.	170	170	25	173	169	161¾
Mont. 4% stock	....	....	....	....	....	....

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, May 19th, 1898.

Dairy Produce.—Deliveries of dairy butter continue to come forward freely and holders in the country evidently prefer to take a low price for their fodder butter rather than pack it. Large rolls are worth 12 to 12½c. per lb. and the few tubs offered bring 13c. per lb. Deliveries of creamery are heavy, and the market, not having recovered from the deliveries of winter creamery prices, are low at 17 to 18c. per lb. Old cheese is practically out of the market, and the few cheese held from last season bring a premium of ¼ to ½c. per lb. over new goods selling in a local way at 9c. per lb. Deliveries of eggs are heavy, and dealers quote 10c. per doz. Prices have been too high for picklers' purposes, and merchants