

bound west, imperfectly ballasted, with her bow up in the air and her stern well down with the weight of fuel and engines, was so buffeted by the waves of the angry lake one wild night that she collapsed and sank, carrying owner and crew down with her. And the cases are numerous where rivet-heads could be picked up by hundreds in the holds of lake steamers, the result of twisting and straining of plates in a sea-way. If therefore our contemporary finds it necessary to warn British ship-owners and builders that the structural strength of vessels built on the Tyne or the Clyde should be increased, we think it not less so that Cleveland and Duluth ship-yards should be similarly warned. In many cases, it is to be feared, they are presuming too much on the placidity of such great masses of water as Lakes Superior, Huron and Erie.

LABOR DAY.

In response to the demands of organized labor the Canadian Government granted a public holiday in September of each year to be named "Labor Day." Although at the time it was pointed out that much loss would result to the business community as a result of the closing down of shops and factories, and the stoppage of traffic for a day on the very threshold of the autumn season, it was scarcely anticipated that Labor Day would be a source of such inconvenience and loss as time has proven. In the present organization of industry, it is impossible to calculate just what it means to have a complete cessation of business; the effects are far reaching and extend beyond the loss of returns from a single day's trade. It must be remembered that after all the members of the trade unions represent a small part of the community. We hear on all sides of the inconveniences which farmers were put to on last Monday. Visits were made in some cases from long distances to the villages and towns for supplies, only to find the stores and shops closed by reason of Labor Day. There might be some compensation for their loss if it were certain that workingmen appreciated the holiday. We are advocates of reasonable and necessary recreation for the man who labors with his hands, as well as for him who labors with his brain. But holiday-making by power of law may be overdone. The games and speech-making in connection with the Toronto celebration of the day were attended by only a few hundred men, women and children, while in Montreal (which has had much and unpleasant experience with religious holidays), the holiday-makers divided into two rival factions to carry on their proceedings, and in no place were the holiday festivities carried out with the vim and spirit which usually marks a Canadian holiday. The fete-day had a decidedly artificial flavor.

COAL ADVANCES.

It was scarcely to be expected that hard coal would continue to be sold at the exceedingly low prices which have ruled all summer, and the advance of 50 cents per ton announced by the trade last week occasioned little surprise. The depression has been due to the disorganization of the producers' association, and it is as yet uncertain how far the market has regained its strength. The September letter of the Anthracite Coal Operators' Association says of the market: "There has been a slight improvement during the past month, though little increase in the buying movement has been noted, and prices are practically the same as at its beginning. The general tone is somewhat stronger, and while buyers still hesitate to lay in supplies other than for their immediate needs, they are watching the situation closely so as to place their orders promptly should there be any assurance of an advance in price. The general tendency is toward a condition which may place the market again in the hands of the selling companies, and, if this comes about during the month of September, further strength may be anticipated for the remainder of the year. A fair amount of coal has been sold at present prices for optional delivery at a later period, but whether this is in greater quantity than usual cannot be ascertained with any degree of certainty. This practice has always had an injurious effect upon the market, and it cannot be fore-

told what will result from it this season. From the care with which most buyers are watching the movement of prices, it might be inferred that such provision for their future needs has not been greater than usual.

ONTARIO'S MINERALS.

It may be confidently expected that the current year will show not only considerable development in the mineral output of the Dominion, but also of the Province of Ontario. The industry in Ontario may not make a large showing when compared with the world's ore producing districts, but there are modest beginnings which foretell greater production in the future. Statistics from the Bureau of Mines for the three months ending March 31st, give an indication that the output of 1898 will double that of 1897. We give the values of the production in these three months as compared with the preceding twelve months of 1897:

Gold.....	\$ 86,175	\$190,244
Silver.....	5,287	
Nickel.....	119,970	359,651
Copper.....	75,369	200,067
Iron ore.....	9,488	4,689
Pig iron.....	155,126	288,128
Totals.....	\$451,355	\$1,042,779

The gold ore treated in the three months of 1898 amounted to 13,939 tons, or more than half the total of 1897, viz., 27,580 tons, while the value was 50½ per cent. of that of 1897. Of nickel the returned value of three months' product was 33 1-3 per cent., and of copper 37 2-3 per cent. of that of the previous year. Iron ore production for the three months of 1898 was 202 1-3 per cent. of that of the twelve months of 1897, although, it is true, in both periods the output was very small. Pig iron, which is produced in larger quantities, was 54 per cent. according to this comparison. Taking the total product of all metals and ores in the two periods, that of the first quarter of the present year was exceeded by that of the twelve months of 1897 by only 57 per cent. Some of the capital sent out of the province on visionary Klondyke expeditions would yield better results if devoted to mineral deposits nearer home. From Northern Ontario we constantly hear the plea that more capital shall be turned to the development of the resources of that district and certainly results thus far accomplished would warrant capitalists in turning their attention in that direction.

WINNIPEG BOARD OF TRADE.

At the meeting of the Council of the Winnipeg Board of Trade last week Messrs. Nanton, Strang, Drewry, Carruthers, Russell, Richardson, Girvin, Griffith, Georgeson, Ashdown and Bole were present. The resignation of Mr. Redmond from the Council, owing to his removal to Montreal, was accepted, and five new members of the board were elected. Report was made by a committee on the demand made on the Postoffice Department of a daily mail service on the Deloraine branch of the C. P. R. No satisfactory reply had yet been received. The Guelph Board had written suggesting that this Board petition the Government to the effect that the charges made for inspecting weights and measures should be reduced; and that no charge should be made where weights and measures are found correct; and that the Government should pay the inspector by salary, as the inspection is for the benefit of the public. The Council held this matter over for further consideration.

Other business considered was a request from a sugar refining firm in Hamburg asking the Board to recommend a suitable agent for the sale of refined sugar to wholesale dealers in Winnipeg. An enquiry will be made of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture as to whether anything has been done in the direction of securing sugar beet seed for distribution to farmers and market gardeners for experiment as to the suitability of our soil and climate for the growth of the sugar beet root. Notice was read to the Council of the establishment in Canada of an agency of the Manchester Ship Canal Co., a representative of which will call on members of the Board at an early date.