

constant development, the imports to the St. Lawrence by water of Scotch, English, Welsh and American coal reached 88,429 tons in 1895, and 86,367 tons in 1896, and in this coal there was a falling off in Montreal from 1895 to 1896 of 12,343 tons, yet, on account of the heavy importation for the Allan mail boats at Quebec, there was an increase at that port of 10,281 tons.

### THE COAL OF THE CROW'S NEST PASS.

The coal-fields in the East Kootenay district, in what is known as the Crow's Nest Pass, lie in a south-easterly direction from Fort Steele, the distance to the nearest available coal being about sixty miles. These coal-fields in the near future will have a world-wide reputation, both on account of the quality and quantity to be extracted, and are without doubt the best coal fields in America undeveloped. The western outcrop of the field is on the side of a mountain in the valley of Elk River, "one of the largest tributaries of the Kootenay River." On the eastern side the coal seams have been traced a distance of forty miles, with surface cross-cuts made at intervals, showing the seams and walls. The lowest known seam is some 1,500 feet above the drainage level of the valley, and is thirty feet in thickness. One hundred feet higher there is another seam thirty feet thick; then comes a seam fifteen feet thick; then a small three-foot one; then a seven-foot one; then another thirty-foot seam; and above these are five more workable seams from four to ten feet in thickness—eleven seams in all, making a total of 148 feet in thickness of coal exposed.

There are three large creeks cutting this coal-field, and the seams are exposed on the banks of these creeks, and openings can be made to mine the coal without much preliminary expense. The cuts made by the creeks are more valuable than so many tunnels to prospect the coal, because there is room to operate the mines on both sides of the creek, and the mines are proved to be permanent without any cost—in fact,

Nature did the prospecting. In addition to the coal on Elk River, further east on Martin's Creek, and other tributaries on Mitchell Creek, which is the fork of Elk River, there is another large body of coal above the Elk River field, but of smaller area, a great amount of the field having been carried away by natural causes through the different ages since the coal was formed. The aggregate of the depth of the seams of coal in the upper basin is somewhat more than on Elk River; so that, if a shaft be sunk through the whole field, there would be found 200 feet of coal in the workable seams.

It would be hard to find another field of coal with as much coal to the acre and so easy and cheap to work. The eastern outcrop of this field is near the summit of the Rocky Mountains, the average distance from the western crop being ten miles, showing a coal field forty miles north and south by ten miles east and west, and an area exceeding 250,000 acres.

The coals in this field differ, owing, no doubt, to the different ages of the coal, there being three different qualities. The lowest seams are anthracite in their nature, while the upper seams are the bituminous coals. In between, both above and below the bituminous coals, are a number of seams of coal different from anything heretofore known. It is somewhat similar to cannel coal, but superior to any cannel coal known.

These coals have been analyzed and treated by different parties, among them being Professor Hoffman, Government assayer at Ottawa for the Geological Department; and the results as shown in the department reports, prove that these coals would lose nothing by comparing them with the best coals of the same variety in Pennsylvania.—Fort Steele Prospector.

A large deposit of coal has been discovered at Codroy on the west coast of Newfoundland.

The Capital Cash Register Company, Ottawa, has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$15,000.

Taylor Bros' saw and shingle mill at Udora, Ont., was burned a few days ago. Loss over \$1,200.

Two of the buildings belonging to James McNally's cooperage works at Aylmer, Ont., have been destroyed by fire. Loss about \$2,500.

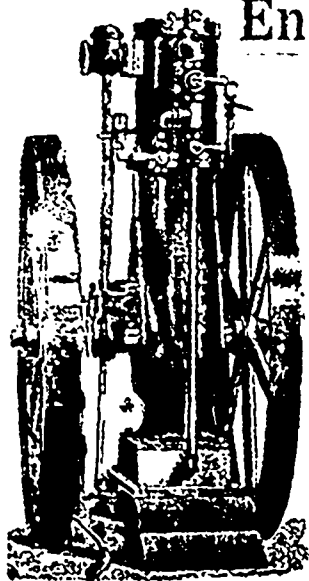
Messrs. Beauchemin & Sons' agricultural implement factory at Sorel, Que., was damaged by fire Dec. 12th, to the extent of \$10,000.

It is the intention of Messrs. Hamlin & Ayers, who are building a new dam across the North River at Lachute, Que., for the purpose of storing water power to let, to build a large pulp mill right at the dam.

The Hanover Felt Boot Co., has sold a plant and business in Hanover, to Mr. George Rumpel, of the Berlin Felt Boot Co., who will remove the machinery to Berlin, Ont., and add it to his present establishment.

By a recent decision of the United States Circuit Court at Cincinnati, O., the Dodge and Philon patent for separable wood pulleys, covering the compression fastening and interchangeable bushing system, is broadly sustained. Under this decision the user, the seller and the manufacturer of other than Dodge pulleys are all held to be infringers and liable as such to the owners of the patent. We are informed that the Dodge Wood Split Pulley Company, of Toronto, are taking proceedings against infringers of their patent in Canada.

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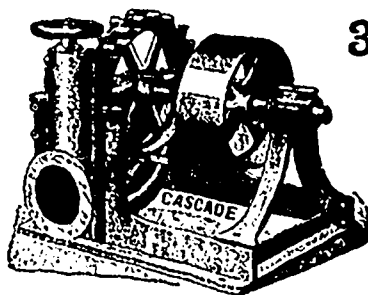
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