

VIRGINIA

Has tobacco factories numbering.....153

Consuming leaf tobacco.....	48,544,639 lbs.
“ scraps	743,832 “
“ stems.....	15,821 “
“ licorice	3,379,621 “
“ sugar.....	2,449,362 “
“ other materials	336,877 “

Total..... 55,230,152 “

Out of this enormous quantity of material, amounting to no less than 27,616 tons, this one State of the American Union produced 38,629,912 pounds of plug tobacco; 2,910,019 pounds of cut smoking tobacco and 776,397 pounds of snuff. There is no record of the quantity of fine-cut (chewing) tobacco made in the Old Dominion, as Virginia is called. North Carolina produced 19,363,000 pounds of plug tobacco, 4,965,000 pounds of smoking tobacco and 70,870 pounds of snuff. This State is understood to rank next to New York in the quantity of cigarettes manufactured.

Some apprehension had been felt as to the condition and prospects of the growing crop of tobacco in the Vuelta Abajo, that district so celebrated for growing the finest cigar tobacco. But on this point the latest *Havana Weekly Report* says that the fears which prevailed regarding the tobacco crop in the Vuelta Abajo “have now totally disappeared, owing to the copious rains at the end of last week and the commencement of the one under review in the principal producing districts of said province.” It is expected that the crop, though short, will be a good one, so far as quality is concerned.

A MINING CONVENTION.

There is to be a great gathering of American and Canadian mining people in Montreal on Tuesday, February 21st, the convention to remain in session until Thursday evening, the 23rd inst. Apparently Friday is to be largely given over to holidaying, and Saturday reserved for a visit per special train to the works of the Canadian Iron Furnace Company, at Radnor Forges. This is supposed to be the oldest iron works in America, iron having been made there during the sixteenth century, and exported to France. Other visits will be paid by the delegates to the lumber camps and the ore deposits on the St. Maurice river. At first some 400 delegates were expected, but it is now said that 600 will more likely be the number, 200 from Ontario and Quebec, 100 or more from the Maritime Provinces, a train-load from Philadelphia, escorted by the well-known expert Mr. John Birkinbine; 169 gentlemen and 62 ladies under the auspices of the American Institute of Mining Engineers—so says their secretary, Dr. Raymond, M.E. It is intended to hold two organizing sessions on Wednesday, 22nd, during which day the American Institute of Mining Engineers will hold their annual meeting. On the same day the General Mining Association of the Province of Quebec, the Mining Association of Ontario and the Mining Society of Nova Scotia will also have their meetings in McGill College buildings and elect officers. Wednesday night is to be play night for the scientists, in the way of sleighing and tobogganing.

At the morning and afternoon sessions of Thursday, and the morning session of Friday, the united convention of all the societies is intended to be held, when only subjects of Canadian interest will be debated. Between thirty and forty papers will be read, which cover almost every branch of the mining business. On Thursday evening the governors of McGill College will formally open the new engineering buildings by a conversazione, at

which Lord Stanley and a number of the Cabinet ministers are expected to assist.

THE TELEGRAPH IN CANADA.

XXV.

If we have not kept the highway of continuous history in these papers, but have strayed into the by-paths of personal recollection, we make no apology to our readers, for we have had many very agreeable assurances that they are well pleased with the reminiscences thus far given. To-day it is the intention to sandwich together extracts from a number of the letters telegraphers have sent us in connection with this series. We have in preparation a description of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's telegraph, which will possibly run over several numbers.

First to hand on the desk is the letter of Mr. Albert B. Chandler, of New York, president of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, who says to the editor: “I have read your papers referring to the early days of the telegraph in Canada with great interest. What a wonderful change has been wrought since the early days of the use of that great invention. It seems strange to me now that the telegraph was less than ten years old when I first began to learn its use. It appeared to me to be a great business even then, but it was a mere trifle by comparison with its present proportions. I hope that you will continue the papers that you have so well begun, bringing your story down to the present time, and that you will send me a copy.”

The business manager of the *Detroit Free Press*, Mr. Thomas Williamson, turns out to have been a telegrapher at one time. Having read some of these papers on the *Telegraph in Canada*, he writes to the editor: “Mr. H.—and I have both enjoyed the reminiscences of a telegrapher, and as well as your *MONETARY* fish stories. Funny—but I had a very similar experience to your own in the telegraph office at Simcoe, Ont., of the old Montreal Company. I had been playing with the key and gazing at the paper ribbon in that good old town but little over two months (being at the time a trifle over thirteen years of age), when my teacher ‘lit out’ one night for Uncle Sam's domain, to assist in the telegraph corps attached to Sherman's army in the war of the American rebellion. I felt much in the same predicament as yourself when thrown on your own resources as you describe, but braced myself to the keyboard, determined to stay until Mr. Dwight, the western superintendent, threw me out bodily. He, however, never showed up in the flesh for the purpose. I am certain that Mr. Townsend, the company's inspector, must have wished forty times a day that I were in a different region.”

Mr. Hosmer, superintendent of C. P. R. Telegraphs, says: “I only wish I felt as confident as you do about any article that I could write being of interest to your readers. I have canvassed the subject very carefully, and cannot conjure out of the past any personal experiences that I know would be of interest to the general public. I came into the business as an operator long after telegraphy had ceased to be a novelty. Mr. Dwight—he could tell you much that would be interesting, and you should get some of his reminiscences. He might remember of my meeting him once at Cornwall, when I was a little over fourteen years old, and urging him to appoint me manager of that office at that time. He thought I was a pretty youthful applicant, and I suppose I should thank him for not having

given it to me. Perhaps I would have been there yet.”

An old operator, who does not wish his name published, writes thus: “If I am to give recollections of earlier days in the telegraphic ranks, I would begin with the times when the Toronto office of the Montreal company was in the Exchange Building on Leader Lane. In those days ‘Chasse’ Wiman, as he used to be called, was as busy as a bee in a flower garden, dabbling in a little of everything, and with his other undertakings added to superintending the dingy old News Room upstairs, used to furnish market reports on ‘flimsies’ to various persons in and out of the city. He was as popular here then as he is unpopular now, but a good fellow, as we operators could testify. And I for one can't be made to believe that he is as black as he is painted.

“DW, as the superintendent, Mr. Dwight, was universally called by the boys, busy as he was, and stern as he seemed, had a good heart, and, what was more, did not ‘put on any style.’ He was approachable and reasonable, and had compassion on the long hours and close labors of the operators, and fitted up a gymnasium for us, where we could put in a spare half-hour with the clubs or on the horizontal and parallel bars. I remember well his brother Lyman, who, I think, is now in Detroit. We used to call him ‘Old Reliable.’ A little distant in his manner, not making many intimate friends, he was a good type of fellow, as true as steel, and had a sort of reserve power about him and a dogged resolution, too.

“Then there was Bob Easson, another standby, who must have begun life young, for he was working as an operator in Chicago as early as 1853, and he looks as fresh as paint to-day. He and Harry Keble copied all the reports of the Confederation debates at Ottawa in 1867, Bob receiving for the *Globe*, and Harry for the *Leader*. They began that long job, if I don't mistake, on a Saturday at noon, and worked till midnight, in that old long room that overlooks Wellington street, and had DW's office at the end of it. Then they recommenced receiving despatches at 9 a.m. on Sunday and kept at it until Monday morning at 6. Many a sandwich and a pint of beer Harry must have had in that long spell.

“The present Western superintendent of the C. P. R. Telegraph, Mr. Homer Pingle, is a York county boy, hailing, I believe, from near Markham. He learned the art of telegraphy at Stayner, on the Northern Railway of Canada, and while quite young was appointed to the responsible position of train-despatcher. In 1873 he entered the employ of the Dominion Telegraph Company, under Mr. I. D. Purkis, being stationed at Toronto. When that company extended its lines to the Maritime Provinces, Pingle was sent to open an office at Pictou, N.S., which he did in 1876; then he opened Halifax office in 1877. Returning to Ontario, he was appointed, in 1879, assistant inspector of offices, and two years later local manager for the company at Toronto. When the transfer was made of that company's lines to be worked by the G. N. W. Co., Mr. Pingle received the appointment of city manager of the Canada Mutual Telegraph, and he went from that position to be district superintendent of the C. P. R. telegraph at Toronto in 1886.

“I do not know anything, except by hearsay, of Mr. Hosmer, the manager of the C.P.R. telegraphs, who was an operator in Buffalo twenty years ago, but I feel satisfied he must be a fellow of a good deal of ‘snap,’