

Messrs. Cargill & Co. ask for free water and tax exemption from the city of Vancouver, B.C., as an inducement to erect a 300 barrel grist-mill.

Recent storms have done much harm to the nets and traps of the fishing industry along the north side of Prince Edward Island. The lobster packers of Kings county, P.E.I., have perhaps suffered the heaviest losses.

Assistance is asked from the Quebec city council to aid a company in building refrigerators for the export trade in perishable articles.

The sturgeon fisheries on the Fraser and other rivers of British Columbia closed on the 15th ult., according to departmental regulations. They remain closed for two months.

The exports to Canada from the islands of Barbadoes, of sugar and molasses, up to May 9th of the present year, were 824 hogsheads of sugar and 13,782 puncheons of molasses. In 1893, for the same period, the export of sugar was 1,015 hhds., and of molasses, 11,656 puncheons.

TEXTILE NOTES.

The Stormont and Canada Cotton Mills in Cornwall opened up at beginning of the week, considerable repairs having been made during the close-down.

The citizens of West Selkirk, Man., have decided to build a woolen mill, and the work will be proceeded with at once.

The loss incurred by the Montreal silk mills in the fire of the 24th inst. is stated by the manager, Mr. H. J. Joseph, to be between \$35,000 and \$40,000. The future arrangements of the company have not been decided upon, and it may move elsewhere. The company has sold its whole output for the next twelve months, and is therefore under the necessity for getting under way again as rapidly as possible.

The wool clip of Australia for 1893-94 is estimated at 1,860,000 bales, or 52,000 bales in excess of that of the previous clip, being the largest ever recorded. The London selling value, however, appears to be smaller than for some years past.

The St. Stephen, N.B., cotton mill has recently been taking out American machines and substituting machines of an English make. It now requires, says the *St. Croix Courier*, only three-eighths of the number of hands for the particular work the machines are required to do.

The St. John cotton mill resumed operations at the beginning of the week. Most of the women who struck on account of the reduction in wages have returned at the reduced rate. The reduction has been made general, the employees concluding that employment at a lower rate of wages was better than none at all. The New Brunswick mills in St. John were ready to start on Thursday if the operatives desired to work at the reduced wages.

For some time the St. Croix Cotton Mills, at Milltown, N.B., have only been working 35 hours per week. The mill is now closed down in consequence of a proposed cut in wages of 12½ per cent. As the operatives appear determined not to accept the reduced rate, it may be some time before operations are resumed.

The shoddy department of the mills of J. T. Huber, at Berlin, Ont., has been destroyed by fire. We understand that the loss is a heavy one, all machinery having been burned.

SHOE AND LEATHER ITEMS.

The shoe factory of Messrs. A. J. Webster & Co., at Shediac, N.B., is now running full time with 25 hands employed. The proprietors contemplate adding new machinery to their plant.

Messrs. Robin & Sadler are building a new leather belting factory in Montreal.

In Quebec, the export trade to England of buff leather is not giving much profit to forwarders. And it is reported that one large tanner intends to abandon the manufacture of black leather, and confine his attention to the sole leather trade.

Messrs. Cassidy, Bonner & Co., of Montreal, who make leather belting, straps, etc., are moving to more commodious quarters.

Two girls in a Cincinnati shoe factory were running stitching machines side by side, when one of them said: "I'm tired of this; I wish that I was dead." "Keep still and finish your work," responded her companion; "business before pleasure, always."

The shoes for misses now resemble those of their elders pretty closely in every æsthetic point. Apart from the school and bicycle shoes of these embryo women, their tastes for high art in foot covering seem fully matured.

With summer-like weather, says the *Shoe and Leather Reporter*, colored shoes are seen in great profusion. Manufacturers of Russia calf, genuine and imitation, and of goat, designate their colors by numbers rather than shades. By this arrangement they can fill orders by number, and always insure a perfectly matched skin. The popular color is designated as number two, and in shade is a rich golden brown. This shade sells fully four to one of any other.

A contributor to *Printer's Ink* writes: Out in Elkhart, Ind., the other day, I passed a shoe store that had recently failed. Over the door, extending across the front of the building, in vivid red letters on a canvas background, was this sign:

BUSTED !
COME RIGHT IN.

Whether the proprietor had been an advertiser or not I don't know, but this sign struck me as rather frank and original.

The hemlock trees in Pennsylvania and New York are being stripped for tanners' supply. Bark is worth \$6 a cord on the cars. Most of the hemlock tanners are experimenting with canaigre, quebracho, gambier and other substitutes. These lessen the drain on their supplies of material.

Advices from Leicester, Eng., say: "The boot and shoe trade is extremely active, and in many branches the demand is in excess of the supply. The sales of leather are very heavy. Prices, however, are extremely low all round, and both American and Australian tannages are offering in abundance at rates which are very much in favor of consumers."

The Amherst, N.S., Shoe Co. contemplates building a large warehouse for rubber goods.

The tannage of elephant leather is increasing in France. It is found to be suitable for shoes, purses, bags, cigar cases and the like. It is displacing, to a large extent, the use of crocodile hide.

Toronto wholesale leather merchants are not satisfied with the present trade movement. The shoe factories are not, as yet, making

purchases for fall operations, but will probably start to buy about the middle of the month. In the meantime business is more than seasonably quiet.

The wholesale shoe and leather houses of Montreal have, according to their usual custom, entered on an early-closing agreement for the summer months.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

Mr. J. R. C. Honeyman has been appointed says the *Leader*, local agent for the London and Lancashire Life Assurance Company for Regina and vicinity.

The Confederation Life Association paid last year, in addition to \$165,000 in death claims of 1893, to policy-holders, the sum of \$62,663 for matured endowments. This is a larger proportion of endowment payments than any Canadian company except the Canada.

A Mutual Assistance Bag Company was organized in New York in 1803, by some of the best citizens. Each member was required to have a large bag, and in case of a fire they rushed to the rescue of such property as could be bagged and carried to a place of safety. There was but little insurance in those days, and hence the importance of securing all valuables.

"Life insurance tends to make a man economical, methodical and frugal in his expenditures; cuts off many petty indulgences which would waste his means; and gives quiet to his mind in business troubles, and especially in sickness and in prospect of death."—*Henry Ward Beecher*.

Our *Monthly*, the journal issued by the Manufacturers Life and Accident Company, has a very interesting issue for May, especially so to Scotchmen. Here is an extract: "Our esteemed contemporary, the *Ensign* of St. Thomas, herald-advocate of assessment life assurance, assessment general insurance and building and loan societies, is giving away a monkey-wrench attachment with the *Ensign* for a year. Personally, we 'joke wi deeficulty,' but there is something funny about a monkey-wrench being given away with an assessment journal."

Messrs. Thatcher and Postlethwaite will, on June 1st, become eastern managers of the London Guarantee and Accident Company, Limited, with headquarters in New York. The *Bulletin* says Mr. Thatcher was formerly general agent for Illinois of the American Casualty, and is an experienced casualty underwriter.

The warehouse of Rhodes, Curry & Co., Amherst, N.S., containing manufactured doors, sashes, hardware, etc., was burned this day week, together with four tenement houses. Two residences were badly damaged. At one time the warehouse, six houses, and two railroad cars were on fire. Eight families were burned out. The views of the residents on the subject of fire protection have been considerably enlarged since this fire.

In reply to a correspondent, we would say that according to the Superintendent's preliminary return, the only assessment plan companies which have made a return to Ottawa for 1893 are the Provincial Provident and the Home Life. The former reports \$98,637 claims paid, and \$25,000 unsettled, not resisted; the latter, no claims paid, but \$3,000 unsettled.

During 1893, Messrs. Scott, Gillies & Co., Strathroy, paid out \$120,000 for eggs, handling about 400,000 dozens.