

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

Another gushing natural gas well has been struck near Ruthven, Ont.

The balance of season cheese in Kingston district has been sold at 9½c to 10c.

The Western Union Telegraph Co. has declared a quarterly dividend of 1½ per cent.

The City Council of London, Ont., has authorized the purchase of a site for a cholera hospital.

The Duke of Connaught will succeed Lord Roberts next spring as Commander-in-chief in India.

The proprietors of the paper mills at Holyoke, Mass., talk of shutting down owing to the scarcity of rags due to the cholera scare.

The new Ontario Parliament buildings were opened, Monday, Sept. 19 with much ceremony, it being the 100th anniversary of the first meeting of the Upper Canada Parliament.

The returns for the month of August show a continued falling off in the traffic of the Erie Canal. The shipments of grain for August amounted to 4,601,518 bushels, as compared with 6,515,600 for the same month last year.

The New York and Cuba Steamship Company bid \$1 a mile each for the mail contracts from New York to Havana, weekly trips, third-class vessels, and from New York to Tuxpan, weekly trips, calling at Havana, Progreso and Tampico going and Vera Cruz, Frontero, Progreso and Havana returning.

Advices from Rat Portage announce the sale of the Sultana mine to a company of English and American capitalists, who will put in the necessary machinery for developing and treating the rich output of this valuable property. The price has not been made public, but it is reported the owners have received a cash payment of \$125,000. Dr. Scovil has also disposed of his gold properties at a handsome figure.

A drummer with a quick and pleasant "good morning," sells more goods than the bore who sometimes gets an order from a customer to get rid of him. These are busy times with tendency in all directions is toward condensation. A business man has no time to hear long-winded arguments or funny stories. When he is approached he wants straight business talk, and the men who have tact enough to observe this rule are the ones who generally sell the goods.

A model of ocean currents is to be exhibited at the World's Fair, which will possess great practical value. This model which is a huge scientific tank, is made to represent the surface of the earth spread out on an area of about 30 feet square, the ocean and seas being shown by actual water. Small streams of water are ejected through pipes under the model, so that the whole body of water moves exactly as the ocean currents move. The direction of the currents is shown distinctly by a white powder on the surface of the water. Near the model will be placed a large map, giving fullest details of the force, volume and direction of the various ocean currents.

Russia has concluded a treaty with China whereby she will establish consulates for promotion of her trade with China.

The *Memorial Diplomatique* says that Lord Rosebery will discuss with M. Ribot the basis on which the English forces shall evacuate Egypt.

The Chamber of Commerce convention in London recently decided in favor of commercial union between Great Britain and the colonies.

The Marine Department have sent out plans to British Columbia for a new fog alarm building on Active Pass. Tenders will be asked for immediately.

The Mutual Life has tendered to the Mayor of that city \$20,000 in case it should be needed, to be used in connection with the threatened cholera epidemic.

By a fire at Rockaway Beach, N. Y., hotels, bathing houses, etc., covering from 30 to 50 acres of land, were destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$1,000,000.

The latest insurance company in England is called the "Brewers and General Fire Insurance and Guarantee Corporation," and proposes to conduct any and every kind of insurance excepting life.

The English press and Government are earnestly discussing the question of supplying the police of London with noiseless shoes. We had supposed they escaped pretty easily as it is. The next thing will be to furnish them with bicycles.

The master of a steamship from Bilbao writes to the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* to protest against the use of colored blinds for the screening of lights in the ports of deck saloons. He recently left Bilbao for north of England, and when in the Bay Biscay he fell in with a strong breeze, accompanied by driving mist. On the clearing of the atmosphere he suddenly saw looming through the mist a large steamship, with a long deck saloon, bearing about three points on the port bow. The electric light most completely obscured the side light, and as the saloon curtains were green he could not at the instant determine what to do. The big steamer was on his ship's port side, and he was puzzled by the green blinds. He, however, ordered the helm hard a port, and turned away to starboard, narrowly averting a collision.

There is a steady extension of the sugar growing area of the world. Queensland is the latest heard from, and the *Sydney Mail* says: "The extension of the Polynesian labor in Queensland has so far invigorated the sugar growing industry of that colony that large areas of virgin soil are likely to be cleared and placed under cane. There is being seriously considered a proposal to erect at a cost of £100,000, four central mills in the Bundaberg district. It is shown that there is at present in banks of the district more than this sum, the savings of farmers who have small blocks of rich land. The interest at present obtained for this money is 4½ per cent. The supporters of the four mills in question say that the venture will pay at least 10 per cent. on capital invested, and, more than this, that the mills will make land much more valuable than it is at present."

A mob in Sydney, N. S. W., recently demanded of the Premier the release of some labor agitators, and being refused became riotous.

A good deal of well founded apprehension exists with regard to the liability of a great fire at San Francisco at any moment. It is well known that not only is there a preponderance of wooden buildings in the city, rendered unusually combustible by the long dry season, but that the fire department has not kept pace with the growth of the town, and while good so far as it goes, is wholly inadequate to cope with a large fire under existing conditions. The *Examiner* of San Francisco freely calls attention to the serious condition of affairs, and asserts that the city has relatively less protection from fire than it had ten years ago. British companies carry the bulk of the risk in that city, and would do well, in connection with other companies, to give due consideration to the conflagration hazard involved. A great San Francisco fire may speedily have a place on the pages of history with the great fires of Chicago, Boston and two St. Johns.

The Supreme Court of Georgia has decided that goods fraudulently purchased under circumstances which entitle the vendor to rescission for fraud do not become the property of the purchaser so as to enable him to mortgage them to an existing creditor as security for an antecedent debt, and thus create a mortgage lien superior to the title of the vendor, who, on discovery of the fraud, rescinds the sale and claims the goods, the mortgagee not paying anything nor parting with anything as a consideration for the mortgage, but the consideration being the antecedent debt only. The court further held that a mortgage in Georgia passes no title, and while the rights of a mortgagee who parts with value at the time he obtains the mortgage are protected the same as if he had purchased and required title; the principle on which such protection is afforded does not apply to the case of a mortgage taken purely as security for a debt already in existence.

It is a well-known fact that the accident insurance companies on this side of the Atlantic are far in advance, at least most of them, of those in Great Britain in the matter of liberal policy provisions. A gratifying indication that a more rational policy is likely to prevail over here, however, comes to us in the announcements recently made by the Palatine of Manchester, which transacts accident as well as fire insurance. The company proposes to cover, at the standard rate, without unnecessary conditions, all kinds of accidents excepting death or disablement from intentional self injury, suicide, or if caused by war, usurped power or invasion. The company adopts the American plan of paying the full amount of the policy for the loss of two limbs or both eyes, and half the amount in case of loss of one limb or one eye. It also gives the sixth year's insurance free where no claim for the preceding five years has been made. The Palatine has a wide awake management, and will undoubtedly meet with deserved success on its new lines.—*Insurance Chronicle*