

Tremendous Power.

In these days of wonderful accomplishments we are so given to speaking of the transmission of power by electricity that we do not stop to consider its full meaning. Thus we consider the transmission of 5,000 electrical horse power from Niagara Falls to the Pan-American Exposition is a matter of course, accepting it as one of the possibilities of present day progress. However, if the engineering talent of the world was called upon to deliver this power of the Falls in Buffalo by another means, it would have to acknowledge its inability to do so. It is probable that a shaft two miles long would twist off before it could be turned, owing to the friction. But by means of electricity the power is transmitted along the solid cables and its force so sub-divided that it is carried right to the point of use for light, heat and power purposes. As L. B. Stillwell points out "The power which is transmitted silently and invisibly along six conductors, less than one inch in diameter, would easily break six steel cables of equal diameter moving at the rate of ten miles an hour."

All About Tea.

Discussing tea and its history, a writer in the New York Times says:

"Tea did not become a popular beverage for a long period, as the masses were precluded from drinking it by reason of its exorbitant price. The Dutch East India Company monopolized the traffic and supplied the limited demand for many years. Later, when England and other nations effected treaties with China, tea became an extensive article of commerce in Europe. It figured conspicuously as a bone of contention between the mother country and her colonies in 1773 in Boston and other ports. It was a luxury enjoyed by the aristocracy in the colonies up to 1790, in which year 88 pounds were imported direct from China in an American vessel. In the next decade the entire importation was 1,343 pounds. In 1801-02 came 2,451 pounds; in 1815-16 came 20,820 pounds. A portion of this was exported to England. The consumption in 1820 was less than one-half pound per capita. From this date up to 1850 the importations were about equal to the consumption, which had increased to 1.22 pounds per capita."

"At this period the treaty ports, namely, Foo-Choo, Shanghai, Amoy, Hong Kong and Canton, were declared open. The influx of China's productions increased slowly, as the transportation was made in old hulks, which required from twelve to fourteen months for each voyage. Later the clipper ships replaced these, and the time was lessened to five months. The Suez canal reduced the time to sixty days, and now the Pacific Mail steamers and railroads deliver goods from China and Japan in this city within thirty days."

Previous to 1856 China produced nine-tenths of all the tea grown. The varieties comprised green, English breakfast, or Congow, Oolong, Pow-chong and Bohen. The advent of Japanese tea in 1855-56 opened a new feature in the United States markets. Its first appearance was not inviting, as it was uncolored, and was packed in uncouth wooden boxes, unmatte. The science of preparation was then unknown to the Japanese. There was apparently no limit to the production of this tea, and its cup quality was delicious. When a treaty was concluded with Japan in 1859 Americans gained access to the tea markets of that country, and without delay proceeded to manipulate the leaf so as to make it more acceptable in our markets. The distinctive feature of the tea in infusion popularized it and the demand soon exceeded that of all other kinds. This remained the case for a number of years."

"In 1869 Formosa tea was introduced here direct from the virgin soil. Its advent produced no little excitement, as the tea was superior in every respect to any then imported. When it was excited in bulk it filled the room with a delightful odor, and from the infusion came a flavor resembling the extract of flowers—a perfect bouquet—the higher grades excelling in this respect. This character of tea is in great demand and consumption in excess of all other kinds."

"Tea is picked each year from May to September. The first picking is in May, the second in June, and the third in August and September. The latter comprises inferior grades and refuse. During the civil war congress im-

posed a duty of 20 cents per pound on tea. Gradually prices advanced, until the best grades of green tea sold from first hands at \$1.50 to \$2.50 a pound. The lowest grade was 90 cents; Formosa, \$1.75; Foo-Choo, \$1.50; Amoy, Oolong, \$1 to \$1.25, etc. These prices were maintained until the duty was removed in 1872, from which time prices declined down to 1883, when the Tea Adulteration bill became a law. Under the operation of this law millions of pounds of tea unfit for consumption was rejected. The government appointed examiners for the ports of New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and Tacoma. Under their supervision the rejections were submitted to a board of arbitrators. If their rejections were sustained, the tea was reshipped or destroyed. Like most laws a way was found to evade it, and relief was sought and found in the Standard law of April, 1897. This proved to be a sanitary measure, and no impure or unwholesome tea is now admitted. This law was rendered necessary by the fact that foreign capital was largely employed to throw upon the markets of this country the refuse and impure stock from China and Japan. No other country would admit it. No other country admitted tea free of duty."

"Previous to 1875 all engaged in the importation of tea prospered and made fortunes. During the civil war and up to that date every dollar invested paid from 25 to 100 per cent. profit, since there have been very few years when the profits exceeded the losses. Some of the largest and oldest houses in

1891, it was changed to 20 cents. June 1891, a 15 cent duty was imposed. December 21, 1891, it was changed to 20 cents. June 30, 1894, an additional 5 cents was added, making it 25 cents. This rate continued to July 14, 1870, when it was reduced to 15 cents a pound. May 1, 1872, it was made free, and until June 13, 1894, it was exempt from duty."

B. C. Fruits for Our Fair.

Mr. F. W. Thompson, general manager of the Ogilvie Milling company, and president of the Winnipeg Industrial exhibition, was interviewed a few days ago by the Victoria, B. C., Colonist. Seen at the Driford, Mr. Thompson said he was greatly impressed with the progress made in and about Victoria since his last visit, five years ago. The industrial and business improvements were very marked and he finds business generally much better than he expected. The northern trade, while it has not reached its maximum, yet promises to be fully as large as last year.

"I think," said Mr. Thompson, "there is a wonderful future for the whole of British Columbia. I may be optimistic, but I am fully of the opinion, from my intimate knowledge of that portion of Canada from Port Arthur, and the Great Lakes to the Pacific coast, that there will be a population in less than twenty-five years as large as the present population of the whole Dominion of Canada. You have wonderful resources on this magnificent island of Vancouver, which are



China have been wrecked in the last decade. These failures forced many here to retire. Many dealers of prominence in the trade here twenty years ago were forced into retirement and are forgotten."

"The increased production of tea in Ceylon and India during the last ten years, in addition to that from China and Japan, has tended to depress values. A review of the yearly importations for twenty years is interesting. In 1873 this country received 63,000,000 pounds, value \$22,000,000; in 1890 the receipts were \$3,000,000 pounds, and the value \$16,000,000; in 1895 the figures were \$8,000,000 pounds, and the value \$13,000,000; in 1896 110,000,000 pounds, and \$13,500,000 in value, and in 1897 95,000,000 pounds, and \$12,000,000 in value."

"It will be observed that receipts increased 75 per cent and values decreased 45 per cent. This is largely accounted for in the excess of inferior goods."

The consumption in the United States in 1896 was 100,000,000 pounds, or about 1.36 pounds per capita. At the same time in England and her possessions, 221,000,000 pounds were used, or 5.65 pounds per capita."

"It may be of interest to many to know the rates of duty on tea imposed by the United States from 1816 to 1872. These were as follows: In 1816, transported by United States vessels, 28 cents a pound; by foreign vessels, 34 cents a pound. This was changed in 1830 to 12 cents in the case of United States vessels and 20 cents in the case of foreign vessels. From 1832 to 1842, when entering by United States vessels, tea was admitted free, when on foreign vessels the duty was 10 cents a pound. During the civil war, on August 5,

only waiting development. When we consider that that portion of the Dominion from Port Arthur in the east, to Calgary, in the west, covering a distance of nearly 1,300 miles, and extending north at least 250 miles, in a fertile belt imports all the fruits consumed, I cannot see why, with your fertile agricultural lands and superb climatic conditions for fruit raising, you should not supply all that vast portion of Canada known as the Canadian Northwest. With this fact in view, I had the pleasure of discussing with Hon. Mr. Turner the great importance of making a suitable exhibit of British Columbia fruit at the Winnipeg Industrial exhibition this coming season. As president of the Exhibition association, I am anxious that every opportunity should be afforded for a suitable display, there being now a beautiful building which was erected especially for British Columbia exhibits."

"I was delighted to find the Hon. Mr. Turner fully seized of the importance of the matter, and I have no doubt no efforts or pains will be spared by those specially interested to bring about a suitable display of your various products, which our people are most anxious to buy, if they are properly packed to compete successfully against United States fruit, large quantities of which are shipped from the Pacific coast states past your door into Manitoba and the Northwest. Mining is very good in its way, and its importance cannot be over-estimated, but you have other equally valuable resources, why not develop them?"

Rollax—Some people are pretty swift, but they can't get ahead of time.
Tomlin—Yahaw! Every band leader in the country beats time.

Railway Freight.

Monthly papers contain extended interviews with Mr. G. M. Bosworth, the freight traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific railway, who has returned to headquarters after two months' absence in the Northwest and British Columbia, during which he visited all the principal gathering grounds of traffic and made a thorough inspection of the main line and its feeders north and south from a traffic point of view.

The outlook in the Northwest and Manitoba he described in glowing terms. The crop prospects could not be better, and the weather was extremely favorable. The cattle shipments will be greater than last year, but the movement of stock will not commence until late. The backwardness of the spring is responsible for this.

This year's immigration into the Northwest is exceptionally large. There is a great influx of new-comers from the Dakotas, Montana, Kansas, down even as far as Nebraska—experienced, practical farmers, who find the agricultural conditions in the Northwest, particularly in Alberta, more favorable than in the United States. A good many of them had come out from England originally or had left Canada and were now returning. They find the land cheaper than in the States, and in some cases they have the advantage of free homesteads.

Mr. Bosworth, on being asked as to whether there was any foundation for rumors which have been in circulation with regard to changes in the official staff of the department, replied that he was not in a position to make any announcement on the subject. Mr. Laneyman was still acting as general freight agent at Toronto, and there was no announcement to make touching any change with regard to the general freight agent at Montreal.

The present resources of the company in the matter of equipment were, he thought, equal to the present requirements of the traffic. As to complaints about freight rates, he had heard of very few. He had met the members of the boards of trade in the cities and towns that he visited, and these bodies had made representations to him, but there were very few complaints.

As to the criticism directed against the company on the subject of the small earnings made per train mile, he remarked that the large stretches of unproductive country through which the system still passed, reduced the average per train mile as compared with both the Northern Pacific and Great Northern. These companies ran only from St. Paul to the Pacific coast, picking up local traffic all the way, whereas the C. P. R. ran all the way from St. John to Vancouver. The handling of the traffic on the C. P. R. was, he thought, just as efficient as on the American lines. Then the Northern Pacific and Great Northern charged higher freight rates than the C. P. R., and this was for the benefit of the Northwest farmers."

Mr. Bosworth added that he did not think the acquisition of the Northern Pacific Manitoba lines by the Manitoba government and the leasing of them to the Canadian Northern would materially change the competitive conditions in Manitoba. Instead of two competitors there would now only be one, because the Northern Pacific now dropped out altogether."

Bounties on Lead.

Ottawa, May 17.—Mr. Fielding has given notice of the following resolution: "That the governor-general-in-council may authorize the payment of the following bounties on lead refined in Canada from materials produced in Canadian smelters from Canadian lead ore:

"On every ton of lead refined during the calendar year of 1902, \$5. On every ton of lead refined during 1903, \$4. For 1904, \$3. For 1905, \$2. For 1906, \$1."

"The bounties shall be paid half yearly on the first day of July and the first day of January each year. The total sum payable in such bounties will not exceed \$100,000 in each year and not more than \$50,000 in each half year. If one half year is short of the \$50,000, then the balance can go to the next half year."

This complies with the request of the big Slocan delegation which came here about a month ago.

Cultivate cheerfulness and amiability. A smiling face chases away gloom. Say pleasant and kindly things when you have the opportunity.