

BAY OF FUNDY STEAMSHIP CO.

Considerable discussion took place at the annual meeting of the Bay of Fundy Steamship Co., held in St. John last week. The financial statement of the company submitted showed current liabilities, including outstanding bonds, of nearly \$17,000 over all receipts in sight. Some of the bondholders said they wanted the shareholders to make provision for the payment of the bonds on the "Monticello" steamboat. One shareholder favored the appointment of a committee of shareholders to act with the incoming directors in a general investigation of the expenditure of the company. A director strongly resented this as a reflection upon the past management, to which another shareholder replied that something should be done, as there had never been a dividend. To this answer was made that the stock was excellent, inasmuch as only \$30,000 had been paid up and \$32,000 raised upon bonds, half of which bonds had been paid off through earnings. After some further explanations the following directors were elected: Jas. Manchester, W. H. Thorne, S. Hayward, H. D. Troop, H. B. Short (Digby), S. W. W. Pickup (Grenville, N.S.), and John E. Irvine.

FRASER RIVER INDUSTRIES.

At the quarterly meeting of the New Westminster, B.C., Board of Trade, held a week ago, attention was called to the importance of establishing a smelter on the Fraser River, near the town. It was thought that such an industry so located would yield a good dividend on the capital invested, and be most beneficial to the development of low-grade ores which are believed to exist in large quantities in this district. Negotiations are still in progress to this end.

Through the influence of the board the Dominion Pulverizing Company has determined to begin operations on the black sands of the Fraser River and valley, which are confidently believed to contain a considerable percentage of gold. A wharf and warehouse in the city has been leased by the company, and the machinery and plant has already been placed in position. It is expected that pulverizing will begin in the course of a week or so. Should the black sand prove to be as rich in gold as the tests already made have indicated, this industry promises to be one of vast importance to this city and district.

The board has also had under consideration the establishment of factories of beet-root sugar, linseed oil and cordage, for which the condition and situation of this district seem to be favorable. Very little progress has been made, however, with respect to these undertakings.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

The Household Hints given from week to week by the *Boston Journal of Commerce* are sometimes very serviceable. We subjoin a few:

Rub with a piece of crape instead of using a brush to remove dust from velvet.

To whiten the teeth take a leaf of common or garden sage and rub well on the teeth. It has a wonderful effect.

An easy way to open oysters is to place them on a hot stove for a few seconds, when the oyster will open and you will be able to get your knife in without the slightest trouble.

When the hands are dirty with household work they may be thoroughly cleansed by using a mixture of salt and vaseline, which must be well rubbed in and then washed off with ordinary soap.

Put new flannel into clean cold water and let it remain for a week, changing the water frequently. Wash well in warm water, using a little soap to remove the oil. Flannel thus washed never hardens or shrinks.

Persons who are accustomed to use tea leaves for sweeping their carpets, and find they leave stains, will do well to employ freshly cut grass instead. It is better than the tea leaves and gives a brighter and fresher look.

To obtain a good polish on boots mix the blacking with boiling water; it must be boiling or they will be a dull brown. If the boots are damp, sprinkle a little moist sugar on the blacking and apply with brush in the ordinary manner.

The best method of cleaning mirrors and windows is to rub them with a paste of whiting and water. When this dries polish with dry

chamois and remove the powder. A little alcohol in cold water also gives a brilliant polish. Soapsuds should never be used.

CROP PROSPECTS ABROAD.

The foreign statistics gathered by the Agricultural Department of the United States show the crop conditions throughout the year. The summary follows:

Great Britain—The crop outlook everywhere is good and promises a harvest about two weeks earlier than usual. This would diminish the imports for the remainder of the current cereal year by about 5,000,000 bushels.

France—With normal weather until harvest time the wheat will more than suffice for home requirements. A surplus for export is confidently predicted by French agricultural journals and statisticians, some expecting that it will amount to 40,000,000 bushels. This quantity would affect prices, especially if the French Government should pay a bounty on exports.

Austria-Hungary—The weather has been favorable and the crops promise well.

Roumania—Cold weather in April retarded the crops, but the outlook is generally promising.

Russia—Excellent prospects of a crop above the average in quantity and quality are generally reported. The unfavorable March weather in the south is found to have done no serious damage. Spring sowings have been completed under good conditions.

BURGLARY INSURANCE AND MR. BYRNES.

The United States Casualty Company has recently had two accessions to its directorate in John A. McCall, president of the New York Life, and Thomas H. Byrnes, the famous "Inspector Byrnes." Both of these gentlemen are said to have come into the company because of interest in burglary and theft insurance, and ex-Chief of Police Byrnes is to take charge of that department of the business. This illustrates the fact that in the economy of social affairs nothing is really lost. There are those, doubtless, who expected when the turn of the wheel put Mr. Byrnes outside the police department that all his marvelous familiarity with criminals and their crimes which he had acquired during long years of labor in the police department of the chief city in America would find no field for itself. But in burglary and theft insurance a wider and better field than any other opens, a wider field for more progressive activities than even the superintendency of police for Greater New York is likely to be.

Burglary insurance is a distinct advance on old methods of dealing with wrong-doers, and will introduce even a greater reform, if we mistake not, than the students of reformatory methods of treating criminals are seeking to bring about. The old system punished the criminal, whether for revenge or reform, matters not for the purpose of this article; the point is that it did not reimburse the person who was wronged. Society took it upon itself to punish the wrong-doer, depriving the wronged of the privilege of taking personal satisfaction; it did not offer to the wronged indemnity for his injury. This was but half justice, if that much, and certainly not the most important part of justice. Society is composed of persons who, in proportion to their possessions, are all liable to spoliation by robbers; and the province of burglary insurance is to prevent individual losses and at the same time bring home to each individual his duty to protect others when they mutually insure one another. And it is fortunate that the private insurance corporations are already at work, teaching organized society this lesson, especially with so eminent a thief-catcher as Superintendent Byrnes in command.—*U. S. Review.*

—An idea of the prevalence of alcoholism in a part of France may be had from the following statistics by M. Magnan. They concern the Department of the Seine, in which the city of Paris is situated. Among 3,740 patients (consisting of 2,072 men and 1,668 women), admitted to the Asylum of St. Anne, in the year 1894, there were 775 suffering from alcoholism, a percentage of more than one-fifth. By far the greater number were men, the proportion being: women, 151 persons; men, 624 persons.

PROGRESS OF NITRATE OF SODA.

As the late Col. North, known in England as "the Nitrate King," was largely identified with the nitrate of soda industry, the following figures will be interesting, as showing the progress in the exports of nitrate from the West Coast of South America, as given by Arthur Robottom of England, who is good authority:

	Tons.
1830.....	800
1840.....	10,000
1850.....	23,000
1860.....	55,000
1870.....	136,000
1880.....	225,000
1890.....	1,050,000
1895.....	1,230,000

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, June 3rd, 1896.

Stocks.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Average price 1896.
Montreal	219½	219½	38	221	217½	220
Ontario					56½	84
People's					1½	113
Molson's	180	178			175	179½
Toronto			26	180	234	240½
Jac. Cartier						
Merchants'	164½	164	38	166	163½	167
Commerce	132	131½	41	133½	130½	134
Union				110	97	100½
M. Teleg.	164	164		166	164½	161½
Rich. & Ont.			25	90		102½
St. R'y.	209½	207	2341	209½	206½	199½
Gas	186½	185	1375	187	186½	203
C. Pacific Ry	62½	62	425	62½	62½	53½
Land gr't bonds					108	107½
N.W. Land pfd.				60		
Bell Tele.				156	153½	158
Mont. 4% stock						

WHY SOME MANUFACTURERS DO NOT LIKE EXPOSITIONS.

"In the present controversy, *pro* and *con* expositions, the one great fact has been brought out that many of the furniture manufacturers of America do not favor the idea of expositions, and would prefer to do away with them altogether.

"We do not doubt that at all, nor are we surprised at it.

"Neither do they favor the idea of sending out traveling men, and would like to do away with that expense, too, if they could. Neither do they like to issue catalogues or advertise, and would very much like to do business without that expense, too, if they could.

"This would be a glorious world if we could do business without expense, if it were all 'take in' and none 'pay out.' Now, wouldn't that be too nice for anything.

"People who would like to have business come to them without any of the aforementioned expensive efforts had better wait for the millennium. It can't be done in the present generation."—*Furniture Worker.*

—Mayor Kennedy and President Maitland, of the Owen Sound Board of Trade, have sent a joint invitation to the various chairmen and committees of the Grand Trunk Railway employees at London, Stratford, Hamilton and Guelph to run their annual excursion to that town.

—Mr. Higinbotham, the credit man of Marshall Field & Co., in a recent interview with a representative of the *Chicago Dry Goods Reporter*, repeats his old argument against a national bankruptcy Act on the ground that in the twelve years under the old bankruptcy law his firm realized on the estates adjudicated 22 per cent. of its claims, while in the twelve years after the repeal of the law it realized as high as 55 per cent. As we have previously pointed out, no stronger argument in favor of a national bankruptcy Act could be adduced. This statement simply bears out the fact that under the present system the big creditor, with his splendidly equipped credit department, whose ramifications extend over the entire country, is able to gobble up about all the assets, while the small creditor in the vast majority of cases gets nothing at all.