

in the shape of unsightly idols, deformed quadrupeds, caricatures of patriarchs, dogs, ships' birds, and was made into a paste for protecting the electric core. The copper wire was received from the wire mills in hanks of fifteen or twenty pounds each; each hank being tested on its arrival to ascertain its conductivity, none below a certain standard being allowed to be used. The conductor consists of a strand of seven wires, 0.56 inch in diameter, or a little less than one-sixteenth of an inch, six being twisted round the central wire. The seven wires are rendered perfectly compact by the coating of the central wire with an adhesive matter known as "Chatterton's Compound." The weight of the complete strand in four hundred pounds per nautical mile. It is of lengths of about one mile, and wound on reels ready to be covered with gutta-percha. The strand is passed through a vessel of Chatterton's Compound, and through a die corresponding to the size of the first coating of gutta-percha, which is forced round the strand as it passes through the die. Four successive coats are thus applied, and between each coating the wire receives a film of the compound, which improves the insulation and binds the coats together. The total weight of the core is eight hundred pounds per nautical mile, equally divided between the copper and the gutta-percha. The total length of the cable, for the section between Brest and St. Pierre is 2,788 nautical miles, with smaller wire consisting of a conductor of one hundred and seven pounds per nautical mile, and a covering of one hundred and fifty pounds per mile. The cable thus prepared is finished with a serving of jute yarn and ten wires of homogeneous iron, each of which is covered with manilla yarn steeped in tar. —*Mining Journal*.

**GODERICH SALT WELLS.**—The Goderich correspondent of the *Guelph Mercury* says:—"Since my last our town has been quite excited over the salt question. I mentioned then that in a few days Platt's Patent Evaporator would be thoroughly tested in two of the wells. Since then the test has taken place, and the result is that the Evaporator is doing all that the inventor claimed for it before it was applied. The Maitland well, with a pan of 94 feet in length by 8 or 9 feet in breadth is now producing, every twenty-four hours, 90 barrels of first-class salt, with a consumption of six cords of wood, and the labour of seven hands, they working 12 hours, that is, three hands for the day and one man to attend the engine while pumping, which usually works from 12 to 14 hours in the twenty-four, and three hands for the night. Under the new system a saving of at least nine cords of wood is effected, besides the labor of two or three hands, in the production of 90 barrels of salt. In the Goderich well, as yet, the pan is a failure, owing to the want of draught in the chimney; but, doubtless, when the defect is remedied, the Evaporator will be as great a success in the Goderich as in the Maitland well. Mr. Platt, the patentee, gave, through the *Signal*, the result of the working of his pan, claiming that by it salt could be produced at such a figure as to defy competition by our neighbors over the line in every place west of Kingston, and even to send it to Chicago, and pay the duty of 70 cents in gold."

**PEAT.**—The Hodge machine set to work at Welland by the Anglo-American Peat Company was found to be defective in some of its arrangements, and an engineer from Montreal is now engaged in putting it to rights. The machine takes the peat out clean five feet deep. The Ontario Peat Company have a number of men at work and have made a large quantity of peat; as they press their peat into bricks, they are enabled to manufacture despite the wet season.

**EUREKA, N. S. GOLD MINING COMPANY.**—Mr. McDonald the Vice-President of this company has just returned from Halifax. He had a special blast made while he was on the company's property and had a crushing, the result of which was over 5 oz. to the ton.

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### The Canadian Monetary Times.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1869.

#### ANNEXATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

Many of the writers for the press of the United States are fond of harping on the subject of the annexation of Canada to the republic which overshadows us with its greatness. They break out, again and again, in thread-bare hyperbole over their greatness and our littleness, their progress, and our inertness, and express their astonishment at our stupid indifference to the glory we might achieve. The advantage of reciprocal trade will be conceded by all of us, and we do not deny but some parts of the Dominion would benefit greatly by such an arrangement as the old reciprocity treaty was based upon. But it has been shewn that we can get on very comfortably without reciprocity, and after an experience of several years, we find that our prosperity is not dependent on their forbearance or our existence endangered by their hostile tariffs. The closing of old channels of trade did affect various branches of industry, but taking everything into consideration,

we cannot consider that the lesson of self-reliance was too dearly purchased. We did not know our own strength, and the various provinces which now constitute the Dominion were as distinctly separated as if they lay in different quarters of the globe. Political economy has in it little of what is called sentiment, but a desire for nationality begot confederation, produced sentimental results which cannot be ignored, and which the political economist, as well as others, must acknowledge. Interests clashed, selfishness ruled, the power which unity of purpose gives lay dormant. Now interests are reconciled, selfishness is swallowed up in the recognition of a common future, and we have got our hands on the rope, pulling all together at the car of progress. A provincial boundary surrounded ambition; now we talk without boasting, of a domain bathed by either ocean, and have visions of imperial greatness. This may be to some but an indication of folly, yet it certainly proves that we have been awakened from lethargy and have received new ideas.

A country without enthusiastic hope is like a man lacking in respect for his own ability. We were kept in leading strings by the Mother Country, until we became a by-word. Travelers made comparisons between us and our neighbours, greatly to our prejudice, or ignored us altogether. Shrewd go-a-head Yankees laughed us to scorn. While half the population were engaged in chopping down trees, the other half were either in office or trying to get in, afraid of sullyng their gentility by work, but not ashamed to live on the hard earnings of the toilers of the forest. Many an immigrant who would, if landed in the States, have taken off his coat and gone to work, when he settled down in Canada exhausted more time and energy in finding out who his neighbour's grandfather was, than would have sufficed almost to earn a competency. Then again, the political fever seized us, and for years our people tinkered the constitution of the country, until one day we woke up and discovered that the rivets were loose, and the whole political fabric so much out of joint as to be incapable of successful working. Politicians berated each other with such heartiness as to leave almost every one under the impression that his neighbour was a rogue, and the members of the Government unfaithful stewards. Instead of wholesome legislation, we were overwhelmed with speeches. According to one political party, the country was going to the dogs, it was bankrupt, it was ruined; according to the other, everything was in perfect trim, our credit was good, our prosperity certain, so much, indeed, as to call for no useful measures. However, when both sides united in a coalition and began to look around, it was