

THE last of the proposed Northwest Central railway scheme has not been heard yet. The latest report is to effect that the original stock holders have commenced suit against Boss Boodler Beatty, to compel him to hand over the stock held by him in trust for some time, and which he refuses to surrender. An injunction will be applied for to prevent him from turning over the stock, and to restrain him from acting as president of the company, which position it is said he holds illegally. What use the stock of the bursted scheme may be to the "original stockholders" it is hard to see, now that the land grant has been turned over to the Clemow company, but if they want it, they no doubt have a right to it. They might, however, leave the "boy" the useless double of the presidency, with which to amuse himself.

THE shipment of cattle made from Winnipeg to Glasgow a few weeks ago, has not turned out a profitable investment, but it was not expected that any great return would be realized from the enterprise, which was undertaken with the object of testing the practicability of exporting cattle from Manitoba. At the present time the price at which cattle can be obtained here, with the freight to Liverpool or Glasgow added, brings their value up to above current prices in Great Britain. The freight charges are said to be as low as could be expected, and no further reduction in this respect is likely. Prices will, therefore, have to advance in Britain or come down here, before cattle exporting can become a profitable investment. The freight from here to Montreal is \$150 per car. The Manitoba cattle sent to Glasgow brought £12 13s. per head. We will have to await the opening of the Hudson's Bay route to thoroughly establish a profitable cattle exporting trade.

LATEST advices would go to show that all is not harmony in the labor organizations. It seems to be the object of the Knights of Labor to unite all trade societies in that organization, and form them into one vast general association. This idea has not been taken kindly to by some trades-unions of men engaged in similar occupations. A convention of delegates from the different trades-unions of the United States and Canada, will shortly be held at Columbus, Ohio, for the purpose of forming a trades' congress, and for the encouragement and extension of trades-union organizations. The proposal is to form an alliance of all the trades-unions, on the basis of the "strict recognition of the autonomy of each trade." From this declaration it would appear that there is a considerable difference of opinion among the trades-unions in regard to amalgamating with the Knights of Labor. The result of the convention will be watched with interest by all those interested in the labor problem.

SALT has been discovered at different points in this province, with good indications that the quantity and quality are such as to ensure its successful manufacture. As yet, however, nothing has been done toward developing our

pect for the gas. A syndicate in which leading iron and steel men are interested, has been formed at Chicago, to examine the vicinity of natural resources in this respect. There is now a sufficient quantity of salt consumed in the Northwest to make its manufacture a very profitable investment. Salt is a commodity which could be produced to the best advantage in this country. Owing to its bulky nature, in comparison with the cost of manufacture, the freight on a barrel of salt brought from the East amounts to considerably more than the first price of the salt, barrel included. The manufacturer of the article here would have thus heavy odds of freight charges in his favor. He could sell his product a good deal lower than the imported article could be laid down for, and still get a much better price than is obtained by manufacturers east. Here, then, is a profitable opening for the investment of a little capital in the manufacture of salt in Manitoba.

THE last issue of THE COMMERCIAL contained a paragraph in which the action of the Regina ladies, in presenting Nicholas Flood Davin with an address, was somewhat severely commented upon. It is with pleasure, therefore, that we note a letter from a Regina lady, who "utterly repudiates, on behalf of a large majority of the women of Regina," the action taken by the ladies who engineered the address business. The writer states the matter in that delicate and pointed manner which only one of her sex could do, and which portrays a real womanly disposition. She says: "A number of ladies, whose misguided zeal has, I fear, overcome the nice sense of propriety peculiar to their sex, have prepared an address and presented it to a political adventurer whose leading traits are, I fear, sadly at variance with such a display of womanly confidence. * * * What is the significance of this act which they have performed? Does it not mean that they endorse this man—his record, his character, his motives and his ambitions? Are they so acquainted with his past history, so satisfied with it that they will venture their fair name in holding him up to the world as their model of everything that is pure and upright in a man? Is this the example of purity and morality they would place before the young men of Regina? This the mould in which they would shape the character of their sons? For shame, ladies of Regina, what inexplicable web of fate has placed you in this unenviable position?" Our remarks would not, of course, apply to the Regina ladies who refused to sign the address. Others who did, may have done so without duly considering the matter, and would be the first to recognize their error afterward; or perhaps they were pressed into signing against their sense of propriety, by a lady acquaintance. These latter are to be pitied. The lady who writes to defend those who like herself refused to make themselves liable to the charge of unwomanly conduct, further intimates that there were but a few ladies who took part in presenting the address.

THE excitement about natural gas has become epidemic in the United States, and in all directions companies are being formed to pros that city and see if a discovery of this nature cannot be made. But why should our enterprising neighbors to the south have a monopoly of this gas business? and might there not be equally as good chances of discovering the coveted treasure on this side of the forty-ninth parallel of latitude? Indeed, at points along the C.P.R. good indications of natural gas have been met with, in sinking wells to obtain a water supply. Why not have an examination made to ascertain what prospects there may be for obtaining a supply of this valuable aid to manufacturing industries? A find of natural gas conveniently located to some of our rich iron deposits, would go a great way toward the development of the same, and would do away with any desire to ship the ore to the United States, in preference to manufacturing at home.

THE St. Louis *Leather Gazette*, which by the way is one of the best conducted class trade papers in the United States, gives place in its columns to an article taken from an exchange, regarding the styles of shoes worn in Canada. An excerpt from the article reads: "The average Canadian wears on his feet a shoe made of half-tanned leather, which is tawny brown, made like a moccasin, without regard to style. In summer they are low and in winter high top boots. Two pairs a year suffice, and they cost from \$1.50 to \$2. These cheap, ungainly products of the unskilled workmen of Canada are worn by the vast majority of people. This clipping will certainly be news to the "vast majority" of the people here who will read it. There may be isolated sections in Canada where the quoted paragraph would apply with force, just as there are similar sections in the United States to which it would apply equally as well; but if the vast majority of the people of Canada could get along with two pairs per year of \$2 shoes, we are afraid there would be great smash among our shoe-manufacturing houses. Indeed, the average Canadian has very little more sense in regard to the choice of his or her foot gear than the average American, and will work just as hard as the latter to get a small, fashionably built shoe upon a foot several sizes larger than the shoe, which latter is generally as unlike what nature would indicate as it possibly could be, and be called a shoe. No, no! they have no monopoly of corn doctors south of the boundary. The fact of the matter is, there is probably not another city on the continent whose people are as fastidious in the choice of boots and shoes, as the people of Winnipeg. A dealer who came from the States and opened with a stock of shoes similar to those he had been used to handling in his native country, found his stock utterly unsaleable here, owing to its not being "stylish" enough for our citizens. The bankrupt stock racket and auction sales were successively tried, and still the stock held out, after being carted from one part of the city to another. Finally the pick of the goods had to be shipped west to supply the Indian trade, and the balance went to Dakota. Will the *Gazette* make a note of this?"