

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

The annual general meeting of the Great Northern Railway, not Jim Hill's American road, but the G.N.R. of the Province of Quebec, took place last Friday in Quebec city. The annual report says that the section of ten miles then under construction, from St. Tite to Grand Mere, and the steel cantilever bridge over the River St. Maurice at Grand Mere, have been completed and opened.

On the 16th September a contract was signed with Messrs. Paquet & Fortin for the construction of ten miles from Grand Mere to Shawenagan, and they now have about 300 men on the works, which are progressing rapidly.

The directors are now arranging to place under contract an additional section of ten miles from Montcalm eastward. This has been delayed, owing to the town of Joliette having urged that the line should pass through that town, and having offered a bonus of \$40,000 if this should be done.

The town of Hawkesbury and the parish of St. Elizabeth have also offered to vote bonuses in aid of the railway. The completed sections of the road have been kept in regular operation, and are doing a fairly satisfactory local business. A beginning has been made in the shipping of pulp to England via Quebec, which it is hoped may develop into a large business.

It is believed that the Ontario connection of the railway from Hawkesbury and Ottawa to Parry Sound will be completed this year. "It will probably," says the report, "take another year to build elevators and docks at Parry Sound, by which time, if our financial arrangements should soon be completed, it would still be possible to have the Great Northern line finished to Hawkesbury, so as to have the through traffic directed to Quebec from the beginning."

The following gentlemen were elected directors for the ensuing year, viz: Hon. P. Garneau, Hon. John Sharples, and Messrs. Frank Ross, V. Chateauvert, T. H. Dunn, John C. Eno (New York) and Vesey Boswell.

EXTRACTS FROM THE BUREAU OF MINES REPORT.

IRON.

Of recent date 600 acres [of iron-bearing territory] have been purchased by the Calabogie Mining Company with a view to early future operations. The company's capital stock is \$100,000, with paid-up stock of \$80,000. The head office is at Perth. President, J. G. Campbell; vice-president, Hon. P. McLaren; secretary, Mr. J. A. Allan, all of Perth. The principal part of the stock is held by Canadian capitalists. The property consists of lot 16 in the eleventh concession, the east half of 16 in the ninth, the east half of 16 in the eighth, and lot 14 in the seventh, all in the township of Bagot, and county of Renfrew. Two hundred acres are held in fee simple, and four hundred acres by mineral rights. Some ten years ago considerable mining had been done on several of these lots. A shaft 7 by 8 feet had been put down at an angle of 40° under the escarpment to the depth of 300 feet, following the ore to the entire depth. A large quantity of magnetic ore was taken out of the shaft and stopes, averaging 60 per cent. Recently 1,000 tons was shipped to Radnor Forges, north of Three Rivers, Quebec, to mix with bog ores, which gave satisfactory results as to quality. Two vessel-loads of the ore were previously shipped to furnaces in Ohio, the report from which was equally encouraging.

The Hammond iron deposits on the Mattawin River were examined by American experts for the Bethlehem Iron Company, Pa., last fall, with a view to purchase. Mr. P. McKeellar, of Fort William, writes that he had been recently informed by Mr. Hammond that an agreement of purchase was made, and that the first payment, which fell due a few days ago, was promptly met.

MICA.

The mica of South Burgess, county of Leeds, when taken out from the mine goes to the mica house, where it is cobbled, put into barrels and then hauled a distance of twelve miles over an excellent road to the mica house in the town of Perth. Here it is carefully culled and packed in barrels, and shipped via the C.P.R. to the American market.

On the white mica mine at Pike Lake, North

Burgess, mining had previously been done at intervals, and about half a ton of sorted white mica was on hand, with a large quantity in the rough lying on the dump. An open cut, 15 by 35 feet, and to the depth of 25 feet, had been made. Immediately by the side of this pit a vertical shaft of irregular shape had been sunk to the depth of 80 feet from the surface.

At the Grant mine, six miles from the Sydenham, on lot 8, in the tenth concession of Loughborough, county of Frontenac, six men were employed in September under the management of Mr. J. E. Chown. The property is owned by Messrs. Webster & Co. The small quantity of mica mined at this date had been hauled to Sydenham and sorted for market. Several open cuttings had been made, the deepest 20 feet. A derrick with horse-power was in use for hoisting rock. In a late letter received from the manager he says, "Since meeting you we have made five openings, and all excepting one of the veins punched out with hard rock at a depth of from 10 to 20 feet. The opening we are now operating with a force of four men and a horse-power derrick, is on the north part of the lot. The shaft is nearly perpendicular, and is 35 feet deep. The vein runs north-west by south-east, dipping slightly to the south-west."

At the Harris mica mine, ten miles north of Parry Sound, large crystals had been obtained, some of 500 pounds weight, and although many of them were twisted, yet 20 per cent. of the product was merchantable, some of which had cut as large as 8 by 10 inches. Between two and three tons had been marketed, the return from which had covered the entire expense of mining. At this date over \$500 had been expended on opening the mine and handling the product.

GYPSUM.

Describing the gypsum mine at Paris, Mr. Slaght, the Inspector of Mines, says: "A large demand has grown up for the output of the company's works, especially the product alabaster, which was being put up in 5-pound cans for shipment. It is used for decorating walls in a great variety of shades. . . . I have examined some of the walls treated by this finish which present exquisite beauty. The alabaster also, it is claimed, serves as a disinfectant, a quality which cannot be secured in wall papers, especially when old. I was told by Mr. E. Hare, foreman of the mill, that shipments in cans to the extent of 15 tons of alabaster had been made during the year to Australia. At the Garland mine on the Grand River, about 250 tons of plaster had been taken out during the present year and hauled to the mill in Caledonia. About 200 tons was obtained at the Martindale mine as the season's output. The Excelsior mine was closed in August, but about 600 tons had been taken out early in the year and shipped to Paris."

FRENCH LAW.

Contributory negligence does not seem an acceptable plea in French courts. A man dining in a Narbonne restaurant drew a 100-franc note from his pocketbook to pay for his dinner while his soup was cooling. The bill flew into the soup, was fished out and placed on the edge of the table to dry, when it fell to the floor. An intelligent poodle in the room thought it was for him and swallowed it. The owner of the note then sued the poodle's master for the hundred francs, and the local court has decided that the latter must pay.

TORONTO STOCK TRANSACTIONS.

Stocks on the local Exchange have been active and more than steady. Cable sold at 156, where it closed. Postal sold down to 80½, but closed at 86. Toronto Railway was weak at 69 to 70. Assurance stocks had a firm tone, but business in them was light. Brit. America sold a few shares at 119½. Western was fairly active at 158½. There was some activity in Commerce stock at 136.

We append our usual list of the week's transactions:—Bank of Commerce, 198 at 180½-136; Imperial Bank, 28 at 180-181; Brit. Amer. Ass. Co., 50 at 119½; West. Ass. Co., 200 at 156½-158½; C.P.R. Stock, 50 at 58½-59½; Commercial Cable, 635 at 145½-156; Bell Telephone, 25 at 156½; Toronto Railway, 200 at 69-70; Postal Telegraph, 621 at 80½-86; Can. Lan. and Nat., 18 at 180; Huron and Erie, 19 at 162.

MINING SHARES.

Quotation of Standard Mining Stocks of Trail Creek, Rossland, B.C., furnished by Wyatt & Co., Stock Brokers, Can. Life Bldg., Toronto, November 5th, 1896:—

Company.	Par.	Asked.	Remarks.
Big Three	\$0 10	
Caledonia Consoli-			
dated	\$1 00	
California	1 00	0 15	
Cariboo	1 00	0 45	
Centre Star	1 00	
Crown Point	1 00	0 50	
Commander	1 00	0 25	
Deer Park	1 00	0 17	
Enterprise, \$1,-			
000,000	1 00	0 20	
Eureka Con.	1 00	0 07	
Evening Star	1 00	0 28	
Gertrude	1 00	0 15	
Good Hope	1 00	0 10	
Great Western ..	1 00	0 23	
Helen	
High Ore	1 00	0 10	
Iron Mask	1 00	0 68	
Iron Queen	1 00	0 04	
Idaho	1 00	
Josie	1 00	0 62	
Josie Mac	1 00	0 10	Development
Jumbo	1 00	
Little Bess	1 00	0 07	
Le Roi	5 00	8 00	
Lily May	1 00	0 16	do.
May Flower	1 00	0 17½	do.
Monarch	1 00	0 10	do.
Monte Cristo	1 00	0 20	do.
Morning Star	1 00	0 12½	
O.K.	1 00	0 36	
Old Ironsides	1 00	0 15	
Phoenix	1 00	0 10	
Poorman	1 00	0 11	
Rossland — Red			
Mountain, 1,-			
000,000	1 00	0 25	
Silverine	1 00	0 12½	do.
St. Elmo	1 00	0 15	
Virginia	1 00	0 25	
War Eagle	1 00	1 70	
West Le Roi and			
Josie	1 00	

The above prices show a range from which buyers and sellers arrange definite prices.

—The present week is an eventful one among the direct importers of dried fruits. It is the occasion of the annual arrival of an ocean steamer at the port of Halifax, direct from Mediterranean ports. This year the cargo consigned to Halifax will be distributed amongst three of our principal jobbers, and through them find its way to the dealers throughout the Maritime Provinces. The importing of dried fruits by direct steamer was instituted by the late firm of Seeton and Mitchell, in the fall of 1879, and was continued with success by them until the surviving partner, Mr. Arthur S. Mitchell, retired from the jobbing trade to accept the management of the Great West Life Assurance Company, a little over a year ago. —*Maritime Grocer*, Oct. 27.

—The Chicago *Record* notes a photographer's sign in that city, which reads: "Remember! Babies Reduced to \$2 a Dozen." A cobbler in the same division of the town has this cheerful sign hanging in front of his place: "Stop! Get Your Souls Saved for 50 Cents." The next one, found in Fifth avenue, needs to be repunctuated or reconstructed before the public will clearly understand it. It says: "Cockroaches Caught on Sticky Fly Paper For Sale Here."

—Of eloquence Lord Russell, of Killowen, says: "The desirable thing is to have something to say; and as for the manner of saying it Daniel Webster spoke truly when he said, 'Clearness, force and earnestness are the qualities which produce conviction.'"

—Zola says he likes the bicycle for the forgetfulness it confers. "It is all in vain for me to walk and walk; I simply keep on thinking. But on the wheel I go with the wind. I no longer think, and nothing else gives me such absolute repose."

—At the coal dock of B. Uhrig & Son, Milwaukee, the steamer "Fred Babst," carrying 2,900 net tons of coal, was unloaded recently in 9 hours and 55 minutes, actual working time.