

H. M. S. "DOTEREL."

At a meeting of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers held in London, Eng., April last, Lieutenant Dean Pitt, of the Royal Navy, gave an account of the diving operations carried on by him at the wreck of the "Doterel" in the Straits of Magellan. The wreck was laying in water twelve fathoms deep, which was comparatively clear. The whole of the ships guns, anchors, chain cables, yards, spars, etc., were recovered.

A careful examination of the steam-boilers and coal bunkers was made, and they were all found intact and in good condition, showing that the dreadful explosion which destroyed the ship so suddenly was not caused either by accumulation of gas in the bunkers, or by the rupture of any of the boilers. The explosion must have been an exceedingly violent one, and at the same time not that of some material closely confined, as out of 140 men who perished, the bodies of only twenty were found in perfect condition, the rest being dreadfully mutilated. Lieutenant Pitt found the body of one of the officers, an old friend and former ship-mate, still seated in an arm chair under the poop deck.

These diving operations were very successfully carried out, notwithstanding the difficulties and dangers of working under twelve fathoms of water so intensely cold that the ice was a foot thick on the shore.

The result of the divers' examinations would seem to confirm the theory some time ago suggested, that the explosion was due to leakage of "xerotine siccatur," a patent preparation used as a drier for paint.

OLD COUNTRY FARMERS FOR ONTARIO.

The poet Whittier has sung of what "might have been." Let us vary the drift of the thing from unavailable regret to active hope, and show what still might be, very easily, if only somebody were plucky and enlightened enough to try it.

Just at present there is a rush to the great North-west. We say nothing against this, the land is there, and that independence of enterprise and ambition together which prompts people to strike out for the prairies and make homes for themselves is highly to be commended. But may we not say a word meanwhile for "old On-ta-ri-o," as in a current campaign song she is called. We think we may venture, surely, and we begin by telling a story, a true one: Once upon a time, and not so very long ago, either, a certain two-hundred acre farm, long cleared up and supposed to be pretty well worn out, changed owners. The new proprietor thought he had a good bargain, and said so, but there were neighbours who said that they did not see how he was going to get the money out of that old, worn-out, and exhausted two hundred acres. "Ah, hut," says he, "I have four hundred acres." "How's that?" "Why," he replies, "there are two hundred acres four or five inches deep, that have been worked and pretty well run out, but under these, just a few inches below, there are two hundred acres more, and I am going to work that, and make a farm of it." And he did.

We hear a great deal about mortgaged farms in Ontario. If there be any of them worked only four or five inches deep, there is an opening for somebody to go in and work down to ten inches, and thereby find another hundred acres besides

the hundred he buys. Old country farmers, with no more than money enough to stock and work a rented farm "at home," could easily buy Ontario mortgaged farms in fee simple, if they were for sale, and live there as their own landlords. But what could they do then; how would they make it pay?

This is what they could do. They would in a great many cases find a new hundred acres of really virgin and fertile soil, four or five inches under the upper hundred acres already worked. What other improvements they might introduce we do not attempt here to suggest, with one exception. As scientific men and practical men together are agreed, phosphates are the making of wheat. Now there are in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec together enough phosphates, easily obtainable and at moderate prices, to produce *extra* crops of wheat alone, sufficient in a few years to pay off every mortgage on every farm in these Provinces. That is, let us add, provided it is a farm having a wheat soil, otherwise other crops would have to be tried. Now, can our old country farmers see their opportunity? They pay large sums at home for artificial or imported manures, many of them "bogus," and not worth half the price paid for them. They can get the genuine article here—the real wheat producer—from first hands and at moderate prices. What a splendid opportunity there is, in many parts of Ontario, for old country farmers to buy one hundred acres, and make two hundred acres of it with the greatest ease. With actually less trouble and expense they could do far more for their own land in Canada, than they are now doing for their landlord's land in England.

MANUFACTURERS' MEETING.

In response to a circular letter from Sir John A. Macdonald, a largely attended meeting of manufacturers was held at the Queen's Hotel, Toronto, on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. R. W. Elliot (of Elliot & Company), Toronto, was called to the chair, and Mr. C. A. Kelly, Junr. (of Booth & Son,) Toronto, was appointed honorary secretary. On the subject of the National Policy and its relation to the prosperity of manufactures and of the country generally, the meeting was addressed by Sir John, Hon D. L. Macpherson, and Mr. J. B. Plumb. After a hearty vote of confidence in the present Administration had been passed, these three gentlemen retired, and the meeting appointed a committee to set before the electors of Ontario the advantages that have already resulted from the National Policy, and the still greater advantages that will follow if that policy be persevered in and firmly maintained.

The following are the names of the gentlemen comprising the committee:—Toronto: Joseph Simpson, E. Gurney, Junr., O. Wilby, R. W. Elliot, George Booth, Samuel May, W. Heintzman, W. Hamilton, W. Dixon, J. Dixon, D. Lamb, Thos. Hutchinson. Hamilton: Jas. Watson, L. H. Brooks, Jno. Milne, Jas. Stewart, R. M. Wanzer, James Young, J. H. Killey, E. Gurney, Senr., M. A. Kerr. Galt: Adam Warnock, David Spies, R. Blain, H. McCulloch. Guelph: J. B. Armstrong, C. Raymond, W. Bell. Dundas: R. McKechnie, John Bertram. Almonte: B. Rosamond, A. Elliott. Paris: D. Brown, — Adams. Bowmanville: G. Piggott, J. Wesley. Streetsville: R. Barber. Markham: Jas. Speight. Glen William: — Williams. Georgetown: J. R. Barber. Newmarket: J. Nelson Gorham. Merriton: John Riordan. Cobourg: W. Rosamond. Acton: W. H. Storey. St. Catharines: Wm. Chaplin.