

dian concern carried off the gold medal from United States exhibitors in this class. The show of animals, as we have said, was most creditable, Ayrshire, shorthorn, and polled cattle were all present in large variety. It seems to be admitted that the shorthorn is the best breed for our North-West. An excellent showing was made of grade cattle. A very fine display of horses was made. The Clydesdales and roadsters shown were of a good kind, and there were some fine carriage horses. A deficiency of saddle horses was to be remarked, however. Sheep were only of fair quality, and the exhibit was not great, but the swine were admirable—the size of some of them enormous. Perhaps the most pleasing feature of the show, from an agricultural point of view, was the great and cordial interest displayed by the great cattle breeders of the Eastern provinces.

By means of an arrangement with Eastern manufacturers, a greater display than ever before was found possible at this Fair of Canadian products of machinery. It may, perhaps, be said that a greater variety might have been shown; but considering the distance goods had to be taken, the array deserved praise, some of the individual exhibits being large and most striking.

The attendance was very large, indeed the crowd was sometimes enormous, and one would have thought embarrassing. In fact, the doubts held by the management as to whether the second week's duration of the Fair would justify itself were all dispelled. Of course the greater scale of things, the erection of the colonnade, and the great new sheds, must have run away with a lot of money. But we are glad to be told that the financial results were so satisfactory that there is likely to be a balance on the profit side.

#### SAINT JOHN AND THE FIRE UNDERWRITERS.

The City of St. John is now seriously considering a large expenditure for an improved water supply. Engineer Frank A. Barbour, of the firm of Snow & Barbour, Boston, has made a report on the St. John water service. He finds that while sufficient for domestic and manufacturing uses, it is inadequate for fire protection. He recommends a connection of the existing system with Loch Lomond, a large lake eleven miles from the city. This lake can supply water sufficient for a city seven times as large as St. John, and the service will be a gravity one, the lake being about 230 feet above the level of the city. Mr. Barbour estimates the cost of the extension he recommends at about \$200,000, but there is a fear in the city that if the work is undertaken, claims for very heavy damages will be presented. The Mispec river drains Loch Lomond, and at its mouth is the Mispec or St. John Sulphite Pulp Mill, owned by an English syndicate. This mill has not proved a financial success, and is advertised to be sold by order of the courts on October 1st. The company built large dams on the Mispec river and used the water in connection with the mill. If the city sought to take water from the lake the mill owners might set up a claim for big damages. This is the present fear. The fire underwriters are demanding the improvement of the water service. Recently that body added 40 cents to the insurance rate, promising to take off 15 cents when two chemical engines are added to the city's fire fighting apparatus, and the remaining 25 cents when an adequate water supply is secured. The chemical engines have been ordered, so that the 15 cents will soon come off, and the other work is sure to be done, no matter what the cost is.

Wholesale druggists from different Maritime Province points are here to-day. The object of their conference has not been learned, but it is generally believed that the meeting is part of a move now general over the Dominion to compel the retailers to buy from the wholesalers. It is understood that many jobbers have been in the habit of placing orders for proprietary medicines direct with the manufacturers. The wholesalers want to get a share of this trade, and it is understood are taking steps to secure from the manufacturers promises to sell only to the wholesale trade, and from the retailers pledges that they will buy only in the same way. Some of the manufacturers have agreed to the demand of the wholesalers, and of course the small jobbers, who are dependent on

the wholesale houses for their very existence, also agree not to buy elsewhere. Some St. John dealers, who have been placing orders with manufacturers for years past, have had them turned down lately.

The company that is working the New Brunswick oil fields now has about sixty wells bored. All these are producing oil, some of them quite freely. It is intended to keep on boring until 100 producing wells have been put down, and then a small refinery will be built. Recently some of the oil was given a test in the I.C.R. shops, at Moncton, and the report on it is understood to have been most satisfactory. While the development is slow, the owners of the property express themselves thoroughly satisfied with the outlook, and appear to think the time is not far distant when New Brunswick oil will be on the market as a commercial product.

New York capitalists have deposited \$10,000 with the Provincial Government as a guarantee of good faith. They have been granted permission to harness the water power at Grand Falls, next to Niagara the finest water power in Canada. The company intend going into the manufacture of manganese from bog ores, and say they will build an extensive plant at the falls. The water power is such a fine one that when once harnessed other important industries are likely to be established at Grand Falls.

Word has been received by the city authorities from the Bertram Iron Works, Toronto, that the hull of the city's new ferry boat has been completed. Thirty cars will be required to bring the steamer to St. John, where workmen of Messrs. James Fleming & Son, the local machinists who took the contract, will put it together. This firm is building the machinery.

Bakers in New Brunswick are talking in view of the advance in wheat of increasing the price of bread. Two pounds is the standard loaf in this section, and the price of it is seven cents.

St. John harbor fishermen have been unusually successful this year. The catches of salmon, shad and gaspereaux were all above the average, and prices were good. The bay fishermen, on the other hand, have had poorer luck than for fifteen or twenty years past. Catches of cod, halibut, pollock and other deep sea fish have been very small. The foggy weather and the ravages of the dog fish are the reasons assigned.

Lumbermen in the province of New Brunswick have made a demand on the local Government for a reduction in the new stumpage and mileage rates. The lumber trade is very dull and the manufacturers say the business will not stand the increases put upon it. The Government has promised consideration. The question is apt to be a troublesome one for the Government at the provincial bye-elections now pending in St. John.

A commission appointed by the Provincial Government is taking evidence over the province with regard to the necessity of a factory act. St. John, Campbellton, Chatham, and Newcastle have been visited. The Government is pledged to the St. John labor organizations to pass an act, but the evidence so far given shows there is little need for one.

St. John, N.B., 23rd August, 1904.

\*\*\*

#### MONTREAL REAL ESTATE.

"Real estate is legitimately in demand and there is no signs of any falling off in its earning power; on the contrary, there is little doubt but that Montreal at the present time is underbuilt, and until a good deal more housing accommodation is furnished to meet the requirements of a growing city, rents will still have a tendency to increase." Such is the statement of Simpson's Real Estate Record for August, which considers, all things being taken into account, that the real estate market in that city must be regarded as in an exceptionally safe position. Building operations are going on pretty steadily, we are told, but it will likely take another year or two to restore the equilibrium between supply and demand.

The record shows one hundred and eighty-two transfers in the seventeen wards of the city and the municipality of Westmount during July, and the aggregate of them was \$729,363. The largest figures are shown by Westmount, \$105,202; St.