

the buildings are very nearly rebuilt and new machinery is being rapidly put in place in them. The company make nearly every thing in the way of saw-mill machinery and gearing, e.g., rotary sawmills, shingle and lathe machines, barrel making machinery, etc. Its proprietors are practical sawmill men, owning and operating large mills, we are told, for more than thirty years past. Their experience finds practical expression in the excellence of their products, which are finding a market as far away as British Columbia and Newfoundland.

There are other considerable industries in the picturesque town of Kentville. For example, the Nova Scotia Carriage Works, which have a good reputation throughout the Maritime Provinces; the Kerr Vegetable Evaporating Co., limited, and the Cornwallis Packing Co., which are well situated in an admirable fruit and vegetable district.

#### ABOUT MINERALS AND MINES.

The production of mica in the United States is increasing, within the last four years. During 1898 it amounted to 129,520 pounds of sheet mica valued at \$103,534, and 3,999 tons of scrap mica valued at \$27,564, giving a total value for the product of \$131,098. This is an increase of 46,850 pounds of sheet mica and 3,259 tons of scrap mica over the production of 1897.

The directors of the American Steel and Wire Company ten days ago declared a dividend of seven per cent. on the common stock, payable in four quarterly installments, beginning on April 2. It is stated that the net profits for 1899, after deducting a full year's dividend on the preferred stock, were equal to 13.72 per cent. on the common stock. There is \$40,000,000 of preferred and \$50,000,000 of common stock. The payment of the seven per cent. dividend on the entire capital, amounting to \$6,300,000, leaves a surplus of \$5,862,529.

In addition to the following list of purposes for which aluminum is now used, namely, most largely for electrical conductors as a deoxidizing agent in steel making, as a material for bottle and jar caps, and for the manufacture of advertising novelties, The Electrical Review says that owing to the advanced price of copper it is now coming into use for wires for electrical transmission. A line of aluminum wire, eleven miles in length, has been erected in Connecticut for the Hartford Electric Light Company to carry the electric force from a 2,000 horse water-power on Farmington River. A three-phase line is used, involving three aluminum cables of 342,000 circular mils area; it is designed to be the equivalent of 0000 copper wire. In addition to its transmission capacity, it is contracted to have a tensile strength of 27,700 pounds per square inch with an elastic limit of one-half this; and it is to be 99.6 per cent. pure aluminum. This can be supplied, it is said, cheaper than copper. The line has worked well so far, but its durability and satisfactoriness will require the further test of time.

It has been predicted, from the activity in mining, that the year which has just closed must be one of large gold production in Australia. We now have that expectation confirmed. The London Economist gives some figures going to prove that it was a record year. For the first ten months of the year the production (exclusive of South Australia) amounted to 3,616,666 ounces, against 2,809,784 ounces for the corresponding period of 1898, the increase being 806,882 ounces. At the same rate of production, says The Economist, the total for the year will be about 4,440,000 ounces, to which will have to be added the South Australian production, which may be put at 30,000 ounces, the aggregate quantity being therefore, say, 4,470,000 ounces, worth, at a minting value of £3 16s. per ounce, about £17,000,000. It is quite probable that this amount may be slightly exceeded, but in any case it may be regarded as certain that the value of the production this year will exceed that of last year by £3,500,000 to £3,750,000. Of the increase of 806,882 ounces for the ten months stated above, Western Australia accounts for 522,314 ounces, New South Wales for 156,135 ounces, and New Zealand for 91,037 ounces. Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania are only slightly progressive. The Victorian production ought to be much larger, but the habits of the mining people are on the whole unfavorable to the industry. Virtually all the gold produced this year has been shipped either in the form of sovereigns or in bullion as assayed for the mines.

#### SOME WINNIPEG STATISTICS.

The following instructive statistics emanate from the Winnipeg Board of Trade, and present in a strong light the growth of that city, and of the province of which it is the capital.

The grain crop of 1899, it is now admitted, was somewhat over estimated. While this may be true as to quantity, in quality it has rarely, if ever, been equalled, 88 per cent. of the wheat thus far marketed grading No. 1 and 2 hard. The quantity of wheat inspected at Winnipeg for the last half of 1898 was 4,271,250 bushels. For the same period 1899 it reached the handsome total of 17,368,410 bushels.

The export of cattle from Manitoba and the Northwest during the year 1899 was approximately 50,000 head, of which 34,000 represent fat cattle, and 16,000 stockers shipped by rail or driven across the boundary into the United States. As recently as 1888 the first shipment of Manitoba cattle, consisting of some sixteen head, was forwarded to Toronto as a novelty.

The population of Winnipeg has risen from 6,200 in 1880 and 18,600 in 1890 to (estimated), 45,000 to-day. The assessed value of property in the city was \$4,000,000 in 1880, \$18,612,000 in 1890 and is \$24,000,000 to-day, exclusive of probably \$5,000,000 worth of churches, schools and public buildings exempt from taxation. There are 45 miles of street water mains, and 1,900 services. By 1st March the city will have 212 electric arc lamps for street lighting. This year's figures as to paving, etc., are as follows: Pavements, 31 miles; sidewalks, 159½ miles; sewers, 47 miles. Besides this many miles of boulevarding has been done. In telephones, Winnipeg has adopted the metallic circuit system. There are 1,745 miles of poles within the city, and 502 miles underground, with 1,250 subscribers. While in 1898 the bank clearings were \$90,000,000, those of 1899 amounted to 107,000,000, indicating bank exchanges of more than \$2,000,000 per week. Truly, Winnipeggers are citizens of no mean city.

#### RICHELIEU AND ONTARIO NAVIGATION CO.

An encouraging statement was laid before the shareholders at the annual meeting of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company in Montreal on Friday last, 16th instant. The gross earnings show an increase of \$99,378.99, which is attributable in part to the activity of business and travel generally, in part to the improved service of the company. The following comparison with 1898 is instructive:

	1899.	1898.
The gross receipts were.....	\$328,322 96	\$728,943 97
Operating expenses .....	674,626 89	590,936 53
Fixed charges .....	24,966 00	25,979 89
Total .....	\$699,592 89	\$616,916 42
Net profit .....	\$128,730 07	\$112,027 55

There is thus an increase in gross earnings equal to about 12 per cent., while the percentage of operating expenses is about the same and the fixed charges were actually less. From the surplus of last year has been written off \$104,170.44, arising from claims now settled which have been in litigation for a number of years, and also from a reduced valuation of some of the assets. A very considerable writing off, but it is explained that the accounts are "now free from all outstanding of every kind whatsoever." The meaning of this is by no means clear, for among the assets we find, "Accounts receivable, \$30,055.17. Possibly it means outstanding claims against the company. The company's Tadousac hotel has done so well that they are building one at Murray Bay. There, too, we should think, the opening for a hotel is good. Praise is given in the report to the speed and economy of the company's new steamer "Toronto." Assets are increased from \$2,537,638 in 1898 to \$2,616,814, and among the liabilities we notice that bonds are a smaller item, having been reduced to \$490,073 by \$75,919 paid off. The surplus is now placed at \$128,730, having been increased by \$24,330 last year, after payment of six per cent. dividend. We are told that a contract has been given to the Bertram ship-building works for the building of another steamer for the company.

At a shareholders' meeting held after the annual gathering it was unanimously decided, on the motion of Hon. L. J. Forget,