PRECIPITATION FOR NOVEMBER, 1908.

The precipitation was unusually heavy over the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. It was generally a little above the average in the more northern portions of Ontario as well as very locally in Eastern Nova Scotia, but over the large remaining portion of the Dominion it was everywhere below the usual quantity and with few exceptions to a considerable amount. In the Maritime Provinces the negative departure was usually from two to nearly three inches. In Quebec and the southern portions of Ontario the deficiency was also very marked, while in the Western Provinces the precipitation varied from nil in parts of Southern Alberta to a half or less of the usual quantity over the larger portions of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In the Upper Mainland of British Columbia the precipitation was locally deficient.

Depth of Snow.

At the close of the month snow lay on the ground in the northern portions of Alberta and Saskatchewan to a depth of from 6 to 8 inches, diminishing to little or none in the southern portions. In Manitoba there was a light covering in most localities, also in eastern Quebec and northern New Brunswick, elsewhere except very locally there was no snow.

The table shows for fifteen stations included in the report of the Meteorological Office, Toronto, the total precipitation of these stations for the month.

Ten inches of snow is calculated as being the equivalent of one inch of rain.

Station	Depth in Inches	
Calgary, Alta.	0.0	— 0.8
Edmonton, Alta.	0.9	+ 0.3
Swift Current, Sask.	0.4	— 0.2
Winnipeg, Man.	1.4	+ 0.4
Port Stanley, Ont.	1.5	— 1.7
Toronto, Ont.	1.6	— 1.1
Parry Sound, Ont.	4.7	+ 0.6
Ottawa, Ont.	2.6	+ 0.2
Kingston, Ont.	2.5	— 0.6
Montreal, Que.	2.8	— 0.7
Quebec, Que.	2.1	— 1.5
Chatham, N.B.	1.9	— 1.8
Halifax, N.S.	3.3	— 2.3
Victoria, B.C.	4.0	— 2.3
Kamloops, B.C.	0.1	— 1.1

BLASTING.

As the cold weather comes on more accidents are happening daily for premature or delayed dynamite explosions. The chief mining inspector in Victoria, N.S.W. makes the following recommendations for the handling of explosives:—

1. Use an efficient cap. Select for the particular kind of explosive, the cap (detonator) with the proper charge of fulminate—i.e., the explosive compound contained in the cap. The grade of cap to be on the strong rather than on the weak side. The longest charge requires the strongest cap; a weak cap will leave hole unbottomed. The cap to be freed from sawdust by gentle tapping. Used under water, the upper end of cap where it joins the fuse to be made watertight (grease, pitch, clay, etc.). The cap deteriorates by exposure to damp air.

2. Select the right fuse for the kind of work. The fuse to be cut clean across, and not slanting. The powder not to be shaken out of end of fuse. Fuse to be inserted in cap until it reaches the fulminate. The upper part of cap to be crimped with a broad-faced tool, and not grooved so as to choke the fire in the fuse. With fuse too ragged or too large to enter cap, the end to be swaged to proper size by broad crimper. The fuse should not be kept in a damp place.

3. Do not bury cap in primer, so as to cause the burning of latter. The cap to be pushed into primer, the fuse not touching the explosive, and securely tied in that position. The primer to be pushed home with a wooden rammer into contact with charge.

4. Allow no break in the contact of plugs, due to presence of borings, or to careless charging. The plugs to be rammed home firmly with wooden rammer to fill up spaces round charge, and so completely fill the hole to proper depth.

5. Tamp the charge sufficiently with clay, dry sand, or borings. Tamping not to contain any sharp particles that would damage the fuse.

6. Do not charge the hole with plugs damaged by storage in a damp atmosphere. The explosive to be stored in a dry and cool place.

7. Do not charge the hole with frozen or partially frozen plugs. The plugs to be soft and plastic. A stronger cap to be used under cold conditions.

8. Do not overcharge the hole.

MARKET CONDITIONS.

Toronto, Dec. 10th, 1908.

Building materials are not active. This is to be accounted for by the colder weather and moderate snow falls reducing construction. But in Toronto, at all events, a good deal of building is still going on, especially of dwellings. Cement makers are gloomy over the accumulating stocks and the dulness of business, but hopeful that 1909 will see improved conditions. The brickmakers have had a good season, and some of them are still busy delivering. Prices of lumber are in the main well kept up, although the stocks of pine in the Ottawa Valley are very considerable. Consumption is steady but not to say brisk.

The condition of the metals market is not satisfactory, in fact it is distinctly disappointing, for it was supposed that the feverishness and fluctuation of the various metals, owing largely to speculative dealings abroad, would by this time have steadied. The alleged great activity in production of late by the United States Steel Co. of structural steel caused by so-stated railway demand is negatived by the statistics of idle cars on United States roads. But with patience and economy, conditions in that country will improve steadily.

The following are wholesale prices for Toronto, where not otherwise explained, although for broken quantities higher prices are quoted:—

Antimony.—Price unchanged at 8¾c., with less enquiry.

Axes.—Standard makes, double bitted, $8 to $10; single bitted, per dozen, $7 to $9.

Bar Iron.—$1.95 base, from stock to the wholesale dealer.

Boiler Plates.—1-4 inch and heavier, $2.40. Boiler heads 25c. per 100 pounds advance on plate.

Boiler Tubes.—Orders are small. Lap-wielded, steel, 1 1-4 inch, 10c.; 1 1-2-inch, 9c. per foot; 2-inch, $8.50; 2 1-4 inch, $10; 2 1-2 inch, $10.60; 3-inch, $12.10; 3 1-2 inch, $15.30; 4-inch, $19.45 per 100 feet.

Building Paper.—Plain, 30c per roll; tarred, 40c. per roll. Business no longer brisk.

Bricks.—Common structural, $9 per thousand, wholesale, and the demand moderately active. Red and buff pressed are worth, delivered, $18; at works, $17.

Cement.—Market still weak; cement can be had in 1,000 barrel lots at $1.70 per bbl, including the bags, which is equal to $1.30 without bags. At this time of year building operations are closing down, demand is therefore naturally limited. The smaller dealers, however, are busy selling small quantities.

Coal Tar.—Season about over, price still $3.50 per barrel.

Copper Ingot.—There is more activity in the States, rather quiet demand here. Prices are higher, at 15 to 15½c. with a prospect of their maintenance for a while.

Detonator Caps,—75c. to $1 per 100; case lots, 75c. per 100; broken quantities, $1.