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Editorial Notes.

Another large coal seam has been found on the North Saskatchewan; and, as a contemporary observes, the importance of these coal discoveries in the North-west is incalculable.

It is only ten years since the drying and packing of raisins was commenced in California: now the State supplies the entire Pacific coast trade, and ships some forty or fifty thousand boxes overland besides, to Eastern markets.

A week or two ago it was said on good authority that, in view of the small general consumption of hard coal, owing to the mild weather that prevailed up to that time, the anthracite mines would be worked only three days per week up to March 1st. Perhaps the polar waves since experienced may have changed the programme.

We see that Mr. Robb's article on "Motive Power in Factories," which appeared in our paper of Jan. 6th, is copied entire by the *Northwestern Miller* (Minneapolis). Through a mere inadvertence, doubtless, our esteemed contemporary forgot to mention that it was taken from the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER.

Sir Henry Parker, a leader among Australian statesmen, has been commissioned by the Governments of New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania to represent them in an endeavour to have the duties imposed by the United States on Australian wool modified or repealed; and will arrive in America at an early day. Our antipodean Free Trader will find a tremendous strength of Protectionist opinion to "buck against" in the Great Republic.

Rumours of expected tariff legislation at Washington are not worth much so far. No "probabilities" to be relied upon can be issued until it appears which way the Democratic cat is going to jump on the question of Protection or Free Trade. That party, until recently almost a unit for Free Trade, is now

divided on the question, especially in the Southern States, where a strong development of Protectionist sentiment is one of the features of the time. It is expected that a Democratic caucus will soon be held to agree upon some certain and united tariff programme, if possible. And it is something to interest ourselves, by the way, that a Canadian Opposition caucus is expected to be held in Ottawa soon after Parliament meets, in order to lay down such a tariff platform as the party can unitedly take its stand upon.

The financial event of the day is the money panic in Paris, precipitated by the collapse of the Union Generale. This concern had a capital of nearly twenty million dollars, and, at the end of December, was accountable to the public for deposits to the amount of about twenty-seven million dollars. The panic has spread to other European financial centres, and rates of interest have gone up with a bound. Thirty-one of the Union Generale's strong boxes, supposed to be full of metallic treasures and valuable securities, were found to be empty; and it has been shown that recently, at a time when a profit of 57,000,000 francs was claimed, an actual loss of 96,000,000 francs had been incurred instead. The belief prevails that one man, M. Boutoux, who practically controlled the institution, is mainly responsible for the mischief. Whether the panic is to abate shortly, or to continue spreading, does not yet appear. One thing need not be doubted—that it will to some extent curtail French investments in Canada.

Here is a warning to manufacturers using boilers. Late on the evening of Saturday last Mr. E. O. Champagne, Inspector of Boilers, discovered that the boiler of a large sawmill situated in one of the most densely-populated parts of Montreal was in a very dangerous condition, being liable to blow up any moment, and carry death and destruction through the immediate neighbourhood. A fissure of considerable length was found in the drum head of the boiler, and during the day every pulsation of the engine must have enlarged the flaw and increased the danger. The inspector ordered the proprietors to suspend operations until the damage was thoroughly repaired, which would necessitate the replacing of the defective drum head with an entirely new one. A week must be consumed in this operation, during which time about 300 employees will be out of work, and considerable loss will be incurred by the proprietors. As the *Witness* says, however, this is a very small matter compared with the loss of life and property which would probably have occurred had the danger not been discovered in time.

EVERY CANADIAN will wish success to the new enterprise set on foot with the intention of promoting direct trade between the Dominion and Brazil. Each country produces many articles which the other wants. Our fish, lumber, flour, milk, butter, cheese, and all kinds of produce will bring high prices in Brazil, while the coffee, sugar, cotton, tobacco, and furniture woods of the South American Empire will furnish profitable return cargoes. As it is, a great many of our products reach Brazil by way of England. The Government of the Dominion should be careful not to hamper this trade by any foolish restrictions.—*Globe*.