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THE WINNIPEG LUMBER TENDERS.
The method adopted by the city in making contracts, is rather peculiar. Some time ago they advertised for tenders for 1,500,000 feet of lumber for city purposes. The tenders were opened in due time and the council at the first meeting thereafter awarded the contract to the lowest at \$24.66. The winning tenderers are now comers to the city. Local pressure was brought to bear upon the council and the august body met again, rescinded their former resolution and awarded the contract to the next highest. Such a mode of dealing with tenders is certainly not according to the ordinary rules of doing business. The whole object professedly arrived at in inviting tenders was to obtain the lumber at the lowest figures. The tenderers presented their offers in perfect good faith believing that whoever was the lowest he would be sure to get it no matter who it might be. The lowest tender was accepted in the first place, then after all the figures are made public one firm thinks fit to amend his tender so as to bring it below the one which had been successful. The council allows this to be done, and the party who should have got it, and did get it in the first place, is left out in the cold. Further comment is unnecessary.—*Winnipeg Commercial.*

A CANADIAN ELECTRICAL FACTORY.
Electricity is no longer a subject of unmixed wonder and amazement. Science has revealed it as a servant to man, capable of doing him service in a thousand ways. Probably its application to the wants and comforts of humanity is but in the very infancy of discovery. There is a vastness in electricity as boundless as space itself, and there can be no limit to its usefulness. As a purifier of the atmosphere it is without rival in nature; as a medium by which intelligence may fly through space it has no equal, and it bids fair to substitute candles, lamps, and gas by its more pervading light-giving power. Even heat and motive power may yet find its highest perfection in electricity. But none of the modern applications of this marvellous force are more valuable to humanity than those which are directed against personal suffering, and "the ills which flesh are heir to." As a curative or remedial agent, electricity bids fair to rank amongst the very highest and best of the vast resources and unlimited varieties of nature. To apply electricity in a practical way, so as to bring it into actual contact with the many weaknesses and complaints of physical life is a great study, and one which we venture to say has but just begun to develop. It will be interesting indeed to Canadians to know that one of the most direct applications of the electric fluid to the human body has given birth and growth to an industry. We recently visited the establishment of Mr. A. Norman, of No. 4, Queen street east, Toronto, and were surprised to find it quite a factory for the production of great varieties of appliances for conveying electricity to the various parts of the human body. Mr. Norman is a practical thinker, and endeavors to work out the problem of the application of nature's forces by numerous agencies simple in themselves, but capable of accomplishing the desired end in proportion to the degree of mechanical perfection in which they are made. The manufacture of electric appliances was commenced in Toronto by Mr. Norman seven years ago. He then started to make insoles for the feet, and charging them with electricity so as to apply to the extremities. Very speedily his business developed into the manufacture of belts for the back and chest, waist, head, and indeed all parts of the body, so as to bring the application of the vital fluid to the parts affected. In the manufacture of these various appliances, Mr. Norman has provided himself with the newest and best machines, so as to turn out the work efficiently and to make them comfortable as well as effective to the wearer. Here are the cutting benches with numerous presses and suitable shears—a large dieing press with a variety of dies of various shapes to stamp out the metal as required, machines also for cutting metal to the sizes, sewing machines for stitching the materials together, &c. Here are coils of many pounds weight of copper, of zinc and

other metals and numerous smaller matters which did not escape our notice, but would weary our readers to detail them. The electric battery which Mr. Norman uses is believed to be the largest in use for this kind of purpose in Toronto. "What metals do you find to be the best conductors of electricity?" we asked. "I use zinc and copper—zinc and silver—zinc and gold—zinc and platinum—the latter combination is decidedly the best, and is also the dearest," was the reply. "And do you make many of these various kinds of belts?" "We are never idle," was the reply, "our business is constantly on the increase and orders come from far and near. There—pointing to a goodly pile—is a shipment for the States." "So you export them, do you?" was our next enquiry. "Oh yes, we ship great numbers to the States, as they cannot get our kind of belt except through us." "What is the best article you make as a belt for general use?" "THE ACME," said Mr. Norman, "is my own invention. I have travelled much through the States and elsewhere, and have been an observer always, and I conscientiously believe the 'Acme' to possess all the advantages of every belt yet made, without any of the drawbacks of others." The one thing which surprised us most, perhaps, was the great variety of these belts, and the large stock—carefully arranged in sizes—which Mr. Norman finds it necessary to carry in order to keep pace with the demands of his business. As to the practical value of all these appliances, we can only say that Mr. Norman possesses abundant testimonies to their worth, and furnishes more than sufficient proof of the genuineness of these testimonials. How they affect this end can best be learned from Mr. Norman, who will gladly send circulars, pam-

phlets and all particulars on application to his address at 4 Queen street East, Toronto.

THE NORTH-WEST TRADE.
The *Winnipeg Commercial* says:—The vast quantities of logs and timber that are being taken out during the present season in the Lake of the Woods and Lake Winnipeg districts, and which will be manufactured into lumber in the spring, points to a supply of the home product far in excess of what has yet been known. Enterprising capitalists, many of them at the same time practical men, have gone into the business of supplying lumber from our own forests in earnest. There seems to be little danger this year of the dearth of building material in this line which occurred last season. There may perhaps be somewhat of a scarcity for a while early in the season, but so soon as the mills get fairly running the supply will be equal to all demands. Besides the local product there will also in all probability be a considerable supply from outside. This must according to the usual course of events, result in a more reasonable rate being charged for lumber. The city has already made a contract for a million and a half feet at a price considerably below that of last year. Private parties cannot but reap a corresponding benefit. Even at a figure below that of last year the manufacturers will have a good margin of profit left. Of course the demand from the rising towns outside and from the farmers in the country will be largely in excess of any previous year, but the supply in sight is correspondingly increased. The whole country will reap a benefit by the large supply. Last year the great drawback to building operations in many cases was the inadequate supply, but it does not seem as if this would occur again. In the United States there has also been a slight fall in prices. At a recent meeting of the Lumberman's Exchange

in St. Paul, reductions were made in all descriptions of timber and lumber, so that if it does happen that we have to fall back upon the yards across the line for some of our supplies that could be provided at a figure under that of last year. So that on the whole the prospect of cheaper lumber this year is good all around.

On Thirty Days Trial.
The Voltaic Belt Co., Marshall, Mich., will send Dr. Dye's Celebrated Electro-Voltaic Belts and Electric Appliances on trial for thirty days to men (young or old) who are afflicted with nervous debility, lost vitality and kindred troubles, guaranteeing speedy and complete restoration of health and manly vigor. Address as above.—N.B.—No risk is incurred, as thirty days' trial is allowed.

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LIVERPOOL STOCKS.

We take from the *Timber Trades Journal* the following Comparative Table showing Stock of Timber and Deals in Liverpool on Feb. 28th, 1882 and 1883, and also the Consumption for the month of Feb., 1882 and 1883:—

	Stock, Feb. 28th, 1883.	Stock, Feb. 28th, 1882.	Consumption for the month of Feb. 1883.	Consumption for the month of Feb. 1882.
Quebec Square Pine.....	191,000 ft.	170,000 ft.	135,000 ft.	184,000 ft.
" Waney Board.....	177,000 "	229,000 "	"	"
St. John Pine.....	8,000 "	14,000 "	"	0,000 "
Other Ports Pine.....	46,000 "	32,000 "	1,000 "	2,000 "
Red Pine.....	56,000 "	27,000 "	2,000 "	3,000 "
Pitch Pine, hewn.....	541,000 "	620,000 "	83,000 "	231,000 "
" Sawn.....	440,000 "	346,000 "	121,000 "	102,000 "
Planks.....	62,000 "	69,000 "	23,000 "	33,000 "
Dantzic, &c., Fir.....	34,000 "	28,000 "	10,000 "	18,000 "
Sveden and Norway Fir.....	21,000 "	10,000 "	"	3,000 "
Oak, Canadian.....	230,000 "	294,000 "	74,000 "	3,000 "
" Planks.....	131,000 "	62,000 "	28,000 "	40,000 "
" Baltic.....	25,000 "	60,000 "	9,000 "	1,000 "
Elm.....	35,000 "	50,000 "	8,000 "	"
Ash.....	4,000 "	15,000 "	5,000 "	2,000 "
Birch.....	54,000 "	101,000 "	14,000 "	35,000 "
East India Teak.....	66,000 "	12,000 "	"	1,000 "
Greenheart.....	136,000 "	25,000 "	5,000 "	9,000 "
N. B. & N. S. Spruce Deals.....	15,103 stds.	13,633 stds.	5,833 stds.	4,993 stds.
" Pine.....	1,340 "	726 "	"	"
Quebec Pine & Spruce Deals.....	7,279 "	6,577 "	760 "	670 "
Baltic Deals.....	3,984 "	2,075 "	724 "	350 "
" Boards.....	361 "	90 "	"	55 "
" Boards Flooring.....	2,567 "	1,876 "	623 "	724 "

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