

### Fort William Coal Docks.

The great coal docks and the immense work occasioned thereby, furnishing employment for scores upon scores of laborers, are a source of revenue to the business men of Fort William of no small magnitude. It is therefore a source of pride and pleasure to the average citizen to take a stroll alongside of the long chain of elevated tracks and watch the processes by which the large coal-laden vessels are emptied, and the long train of cars loaded for shipment to the cities and towns of the west. To one unacquainted with the machinery and methods adopted, the first visit to the coal docks is very interesting, and almost every day strangers may be seen singly or in groups watching with deep interest and evident satisfaction the steam coal baskets at work. It is the marvel of all with what rapidity and precision they perform their labor, each one having ability to remove hundreds of tons daily from the holds to the docks. Looking at the tremendous quantity of coal now on hand, the first question that presents itself for our consideration is: what shall be done with all this? Is not the supply greater than any immediate demand can be? And then learning that a large number of vessels shall even yet bring in cargoes of coal, it would almost appear that reckless extravagance was indulged in, in piling up such mountains of coal. But when we begin to ask on the other hand, what shall be the demands upon this accumulation of millions of tons? The answers flow in upon us in such a way as to leave no doubt but that even the present large stock will be none too large for the winter's drain upon it. The Canadian Pacific Railway itself has marvelous facilities for the consumption of coal. The engines devour it like great and greedy monsters, and the amount needed to drive her mammoth elevators, and run her machine shops is of no small measurement. These with a hundred and one minor enterprises lend their aid to demolish it. Cities, towns and villages all the way to the Rockies draw their fuel from here more or less, so that we would not be surprised if there should be but a small quantity left when navigation opens next spring.—*The Journal*.

### A Burmese Oil Corporation.

Dr. Noetling, of the Geological Survey of India, in a report on the petroleum industry of Burmah, which has recently been published in Rangoon, gives an interesting account of an ancient oil-digging corporation known as the Twinzayos. This body is chiefly concerned in working one of the chief oilfields in Upper Burmah, and it appears to have existed from very early times and to have preserved its peculiar customs. It is believed that the art of obtaining petroleum from the earth was carried into this part of the country by Arakanese prisoners of war, who were acquainted in their own country with "earth oil" and its uses. These seem to have got permission to dig for the oil, as the soil was of very little use for cultivation, and in course of time they and their descendants became established in the place, and acquired by prescription certain rights which were very generally respected by the

Burmese. About 1856, King Mindon, who granted monopolies of almost everything in the country, monopolised also the sale of oil, and compelled the diggers to sell their whole product to him at a fixed rate; but in return he confirmed the ancient rights of certain families to dig for oil. After the British annexation in 1886, the alleged rights of the Twinzayos were investigated by the British authorities, and were fully confirmed and defined, and they further had restored to them the right of selling their oil when and how they pleased. Captain Baker, who visited the place in 1889, found 200 families engaged in the industry, and the number has not greatly increased. Dr. Noetling does not appear to entertain a sanguine opinion of the future of oil digging in Burmah according to native methods, as natives cannot go more than 310 ft. below the surface, and a large number of the wells have reached that depth already.—*Colliery Guardian*.

### Nationalities in Canada.

The following table from the census returns shows the birthplaces of the people of Canada in 1891 and 1881 respectively:—

	1891	1881
Born in Canada.	4,155,014	3,085,545
England .....	218,961	169,492
Scotland .....	107,365	115,010
Ireland .....	148,842	185,522
Newfoundland..	9,331	4,596
Other British Possessions ..	4,432	3,545
United States ..	80,480	77,750
China.....	9,127	4,384
France .....	5,377	3,384
Germany.....	27,711	25,528
Italy and Spain.	2,851	992
Russia and Poland ....	9,196	6,376
Scandinavia ..	7,826	2,074
Other countries .	13,190	13,590

### Chemistry on the Farm.

Agricultural chemistry should form part of the education of every boy destined for the farm. Every public school in rural districts should teach it, not merely theoretically, but practically. All their work should be guided by an intimate acquaintance with that science which is not only the foundation of agriculture, but whose laws govern its operations. Chemistry affords definite knowledges to the amounts of the several constituents taken from the soil by field crops, thus indicating what must be restored if fertility is to be maintained, and lucrative yields obtained in the future. Such knowledge is well nigh indispensable at the present day to the grower of grains, roots and fruits, if he is to compete successfully with his intelligent neighbors. Chemistry can tell us in a large measure, of the relative fertility of the soil, and point out what elements of plant food may be lacking. It is the science that makes the barren waste lands fruitful, and is the chief agent in making "two blades of grass grow where there was but one before." To stock raisers and dairy farmers it lends its aid in showing the requirements of animals; the

daily waste of the animal organism; it ascertains the composition and relative feeding values of cattle food; it analyses animal products, indicating their comparative worth. Chemistry stamps the values upon artificial fertilizers. The intelligent investigator in the important subjects of insecticides and fungicides, must also prosecute his studies by aid of chemistry.

### Some Woods of British Columbia.

Between the Kootenay river and the Rocky Mountains, in British Columbia, maples are found quite abundantly, but compared with the pines and coniferous timber they are so small as to appear more like shrubs than trees. But on the flat lands of the coast the maple attains great size, being often two and a half to three feet in diameter, though the trunk is often forty to fifty feet in height. The settlers call it the vine maple. The wood is very cross grained, and when dressed resembles bird's-eye maple quite closely, the grain being really very fine and handsome, and polishes beautifully, but requiring considerable labor. It must, in time, be recognized as of value for a furniture or cabinet wood. Back from the coast, in the valleys, may be found vast quantities of common poplar, cottonwood, white birch, alder, willow and yew. Compared with the other timber these species are so small as to not be considered of any value by the explorers, but the time must surely come when they will all be wanted for lumber. That time will come with the building of railroads and the settlement of the country to the eastward, which is nearly all a comparatively treeless prairie.—*Canadian Lumberman*.

The *News-Advertiser* Co. of Vancouver have bought out the Vancouver Bookbinding Co.

J. G. Fitzgerald, C. P. R. land agent at Calgary, has returned from the State of Washington, where he had been working in the interests of immigration to Alberta, bringing with him some fifteen settlers, and reporting a number more to follow.

An Alberta paper says that the stockmen in the vicinity of Choteau have deemed it advisable to take steps towards the destruction of wolves and coyotes, and to that end held a meeting on Nov. 1st, at Choteau, to discuss the most feasible means, to elect officers, raise funds etc.

A few threshing machines are still operating, says the *Pilot Mound Sentinel*, but many have gone into winter quarters. The season has been most favorable both to the threshers and the farmers, and also agreeable to the men employed in assisting. With the exception of one or two short storms, nearly every day since harvest ended has been delightfully fine, and grain has consequently been prepared for market in excellent condition. Where the stacks that stood over from last season were well built, the grain proved quite dry, and as a rule the oats are good. Although in many cases grain in these last year stacks is by no means bad, the low price has caused many farmers to give up the intention of threshing them, and the grain will be fed to cattle in the sheaf.