

INTERESTING RELICS.

Mr. Thomas Bates, a Government official in Montreal, is the fortunate possessor of a unique relic of the birth of Canadian journalism, which demonstrates what an insignificant origin it had; as compared with the vast development of the press throughout the Dominion in the present era it is like a tiny acorn growing into a forest of stately oaks. The memento, to which your correspondent's attention was called by an Episcopal clergyman whose taste is decidedly for the antique, is a copy of the first newspaper published in this Canada of ours, entitled the *Quebec Gazette*, which made its appearance on the 4th of May, 1794. It is in a state of excellent preservation, and measures about twelve inches long by six inches broad, one half being printed in English and the other half in French. The first page contains a salutation to the public, claiming support for the enterprise. Its old world news was dated three months before publication, so that it must have been an arduous undertaking to cross the Atlantic at that time. Part of the English news was to the effect that the British Government had resolved to impose a duty on tea entering the ports of the eastern colonies of British America. The resolution must have remained in abeyance for fourteen years, as it was not carried into effect until 1776 when the colonies revolted. There is only one solitary advertisement in the publication. The copy which Mr. Bates prizes so highly was found in a box in an old warehouse belonging to an importing firm here, and had evidently come out from England packed around some kind of goods. The present owner has had several liberal offers for this first specimen of a Canadian journal, but he rates it at the sum of twelve hundred and fifty dollars, which of course is far beyond the mark. Another antique find has also been made of two hundred engravings of large size, executed in London, England, about half a century ago as, illustrative of Hawkin's History of the city of Quebec, published at that time. The picture, which is very finely executed, represents the old city, with views of the gallant Wolfe's military exploits in the foreground. The original price of the engraving was over five dollars, twenty-one shillings, but those lately discovered are selling rapidly here at two dollars and a half each.—*Mail*.

IRON AS A PRECIOUS METAL.

Iron and copper were the only metals known to the natives before the arrival of the Europeans, and they were both called in the Herero language by the same name. The civilized Hereros now use foreign words for copper, silver, and gold, while lead was received its name from the bullets into which it was cast. The pastoral tribes of the Hereros and Ovambandiers have but few smiths of their own, but are served by itinerant smiths from other tribes, who wander around, working in small companies, among the chiefs, till they have earned enough cattle to satisfy them in returning to their homes. Some times they are political refugees, who have excited the anger or jealousy of their chiefs in Ovamboland, and are compelled to turn their backs upon their homes till a change of dynasty takes place. These Ovambo smiths brought iron from their native country, where the art of extracting that metal and copper from the ores is understood, and rich ores are found. Iron could formerly be got in Ovamboland only at the cost of great labour, and the smith had then to carry his store on his back some fifteen or twenty days' journey. The metal, therefore, commanded a very high price. As late as 1840 a simple bracelet of iron wire was an adequate guest's present, and a large fat wether could easily be bought with a span of the old hoop-iron with which trucks were bound. The natives were greatly astonished at seeing the costly metal wasted by the Europeans in boat-malls. Iron had thus the value of a precious metal, and rusting and changing but little in the dry climate, was worn in ornaments by the Hereros, while other tribes preferred copper and brass. The native smiths now use European iron, and seek out good steel, such as is found in files and bayonets. But iron forged in the old-fashioned way into ornaments and weapons has still considerable value.—*Popular Science Monthly for November*.

RAFTS ARRIVED.

The *Quebec Chronicle* has the following list of rafts arrived:—
Oct. 3.—R. & G. Strickland, waney square white pine, Sillery cove.
McArthur Bros., New London cove.
Bolduc, Collet & Talbot, deals, Grand River.
Oct. 6.—John Bailie, birch, Bailie's wharf.
Oct. 7.—D. D. Calvin, oak and pine, sundry coves.
Robt. Dollars, waney white-pine, New Liverpool.
E. L. Kelzey, staves, Bowen's (Sillery.)
Thomson Smith, red pine, Woodfield Harbor.
Oct. 9.—Stokes and Kelly, staves, Dobell's (Sillery).
Oct. 23.—Cook & Gibbons, ash and elm, St. Michael's cove.
Oct. 30.—J. M. Irvin, white pine, &c., St. Lawrence Docks.

THE WRECK IN THE GULF.

QUEBEC, Nov. 11.—The schooner "Emelle," wrecked in the Gulf, had sixteen men on board and was on her way up to Quebec from Percé. Ten men are reported to have been saved through the exertions of Charles and James Jourdain, of Pointe de Monte, who lost all they were worth in the act. These men are on Caribou Island, near Pointe des Monts, and are entirely destitute of provisions. It is not known here whether all the ten on the island have been saved from the schooner, or whether six of the number are the survivors from the wreck of the "Nanna." At all events there are reasons to fear that the loss of life will be from eight to fourteen souls. Fears are also entertained that Victor Eafford, son of the lighthouse keeper at Pointe de Monte, who is missing, has been drowned. Urgent telegrams have been received here, applying for provisions for the destitute. At Pointe de Monte and Trinity Bay adjoining buildings, bridges, vehicles and boats have all been swept away, and fishermen and others reduced to pauperism. The platform was washed away from around the lighthouse and the sea beat into the tower. At Point de Monte it is believed that serious disasters have occurred all along the coast.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Since our last notice of the canal here the contractors have pushed the work and completed the first or entrance lock. It was their intention to raise the wall of the upper lock to such a height that a permanent bridge could be put on but a sudden and unexpected turn in the weather has taken place, and, having no reliable weather prophets to consult, they fear that they will have to close work for the season. The long talked of mill-race has at last been decided upon and we are informed that the rock excavation will be gone on with this fall, and that next summer it will, as proposed, be connected with the canal and made part and parcel of the Government work. In order, however, to cut the mill race, the present temporary bridge will have to be removed, and another one built across the canal facing Colborne street. There is also a stone pier to be built for the swing bridge on the railway line, and the railway authorities intend, we believe, to avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded to build piers of stone and put on an iron bridge in place of the present wooden structure. The lock which is completed has been admired by all who have visited the Falls, the only fault found, as far as we have heard, being that the wall has not been raised to the height of the rock excavation; but we have no doubt that this rock face will be removed for some distance back, or in some way be made to present a better appearance before the work is handed over to the Government. We are informed that the gates will be built and put in their places as early as possible next season and if the contractors make as good progress as they have made this year, boats will be able to pass through the canal by the fall of 1885. The single lock at Buckhorn has been completed, and Mr. Ross has been engaged with his dredge and scows, to remove the remaining portions of the dam. The gates are not made yet, but stop logs have been placed in position, and it is expected that the coming season will see that part open for navigation. We must now await the next session of Parliament to see whether the other portions of the Trent Valley scheme will be gone on with.—*Fenelon Falls Gazette*.

RUN TO EARTH.

A day or two ago the *Sentinel* contained an article depicting the terrible state of affairs existing at Michipicoten, and how the outlaw Wallace, formerly chief of police there, had with three of his companions, taken possession of the steamer *Steinhoff* and threatened death to all who interfered with them. Mr. Wallace and his friends got down as far as the American Sault on the boat and then they got drunk and commenced relating their outlawish exploits at Michipicoten; whereupon the American authorities arrested them, and passed them across the line. Their trial comes off on the 11th, and it is safe to say their reign of terror is over for ever. Instead of Winchester rifles and huge revolvers, they will probably, for several years to come, handle the pick and shovel in the Kingston quarries. The whisky traffic is being put down with an iron hand, and since Magistrate Moberly's arrival there no less than nineteen boarding house keepers have come forward and paid fines of \$100 each and costs for selling liquor. The newly appointed chief, Joe McKinnon, will, with the assistance of Magistrate Moberly, likely make it warm for law-breakers, and doubtless a better state of things will soon exist at Michipicoten.—*Port Arthur Sentinel, Nov. 6*.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Florida to the *Northwestern Lumberman* that Mrs. Harriet Smith, of Tuckertown, Hernando county, is running her own saw mill, managing every department herself, "and," the correspondent adds, "no mill in the country is run better." So far as we know Mrs. Smith is the only saw mill woman in the United States.

AN Ottawa despatch of Nov. 8th says:—The square timber outlook in the woods this winter is unfavorable, and other kinds of lumbering promises only slightly better. For the first time in 27 years Mr. Peter McLaren will take out no square timber this winter, having last season's yet unsold in Quebec, with no market offering.



Notice to Contractors.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Timber," will be received at this office until Monday, the 17th day of November, next, inclusively, for the supply of timber required in connection with the Dredging Plant of the Department, according to a specification to be seen at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, where printed forms of tender may be seen. Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied and signed with their actual signatures. Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque, made payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, for the sum of \$150, (one hundred and fifty dollars), which will be forfeited if the party declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned. The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
F. H. ENNIS,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, 28th Oct., 1884. Sd108cod1122

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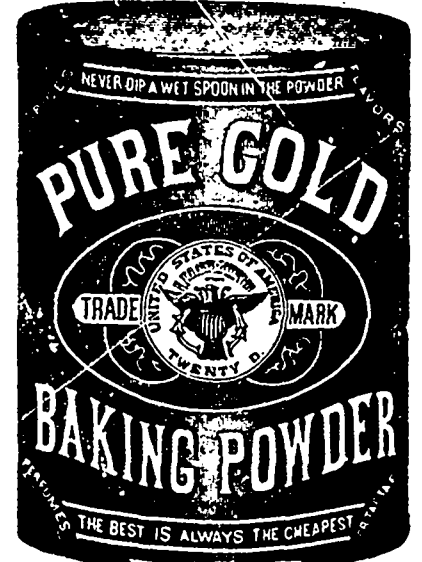
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