

a consequence the united Company became owner of the Dominion lines, and in a position to inflict great injury on the Montreal Company. It must be borne in mind that up to the amalgamation of the United States lines the Montreal Telegraph Company had taken no steps whatever that could be complained of. It was natural, under the circumstances, that its shareholders should be willing to accept a reasonable proposition for amalgamating the Canadian lines at a great saving of expense, and accordingly it appears that by a vote of 23,204 to 1831 the transfer was ratified by the shareholders.

We are ready to admit that the public interests will be benefited by competition, but we have had reason to believe that both in the United States and Canada new companies have been formed to operate new lines. Nothing is more improbable than that any company will be permitted to exact unreasonable rates from the public, or to realize undue profits. This point is, however, altogether beside the legal question, and is intended rather as a criticism on the refusal by Parliament to grant to the Montreal Company what it had previously yielded to the Dominion Company. There is doubtless force in Mr. Justice Rainville's remark, that the fact that an application was made to Parliament to sanction the transfer, and that it was refused, is evidence that the Montreal Company did not believe that it had the power to transfer its franchises without the sanction of Parliament. It is unfortunate, in view of the circumstances now existing, that such important changes should have been made in the various offices by which the amalgamation has been made complete.

CANADIAN CLIMATE AND WINTER WORK.

The so-called severity of our Canadian winters is often looked upon as a misfortune here at home, and has no little effect in restraining emigration from Europe. This is especially the case in the United Kingdom, and is in no small degree owing to representations in school books, as nothing much short of actual experience is sufficient to eradicate the early impressions thence derived. The opening sentence of the lesson on Canada in the Fourth Book, taken from Bell's Geography, is as follows: "The air of Canada is very cold, if compared with its distance from the equator. Its situation is farther removed from the pole than that of Great Britain; yet its winters are much longer and more severe than any-

thing known in this country." Here is a description dark enough to cause a chill to crawl down the back of the most robust boy or girl in an English school-room on a winter's morning with the temperature in-doors at the regulation 60° Fahrenheit. The concluding sentence is scarcely more cheering:—"In mid-summer the heats are little less intense than the cold in winter." These books have till recently been used in Canadian schools.

Such statements as these must be expunged and something near the real condition of things placed before the minds of the growing population of England before we can expect anything like a reasonable flow of emigration to our shores and almost boundless areas of fertile lands. Climate apart, the emigrant is not always much concerned whether he is bound for Canada or the United States; he understands it simply as "going to America," and is more influenced by a letter or two received by himself or a neighbor from some acquaintance who has been in America long enough to see his way to independence and probable competence or wealth than by all the emigration agents in London and other centres of urban population. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company as well as the Hudson's Bay Co. should see to it that every prosperous settler have every encouragement to write to his former neighbors concerning the new country.

Notwithstanding all the abuse of Canadian climate, there is no season of our year more pleasant than winter, or a time when old and young may better enjoy themselves; so much is this the case, that an occasional mild winter like the present, when the waters of our rivers and streams are free from ice till after the opening of the New Year, is looked upon as a misfortune. However smooth the roads may be for wheeled vehicles, the farmer is not disposed to visit the town or village to sell his high-priced butter, poultry or eggs, or some of the grain held for an advance, to return with store goods, till he can do so to the music of the merry sleigh bells, a mode of progression that may be called the universal poetry of motion. Our people of wealth never think of leaving their homes during the winter; summer drives many of them to the sea-side or the mountains, but winter is the season of home comforts. The people of the British Islands have no conception of the exhilarating properties of our dry, clear winter atmosphere, and are apt to exaggerate the cold if one may judge by their over precaution as to

furs. The occasional cartoons in *Punch* tend to give an exaggerated idea of the clothing necessary in this climate. A damp December day in London is more searching than one of our coldest February "snaps," and is more apt to make known to a man the weak spots in his constitution, however he may be shielded against it.

The winter of 1881-2 has thus far been exceedingly mild for this country, but all the more disagreeable whether from a social or a business point of view. The amount of winter goods held over in country stores is something considerable. Sorting-up has been less than usual, and it is estimated that in Montreal not less than \$3,000,000 worth of winter goods will be held over to another season. The recent practice of buying in comparatively small quantities and giving repeat orders—as required—has not altogether provided against the present circumstances. It is, however, a common error to suppose that lumbering operations are universally affected for the worse by the absence of snow at this time. Where operations are carried on largely it is customary to pile the logs as cut, and only begin hauling them on or about the first of February, so that even should the bare roads continue during the present month, it would not be a serious disadvantage to lumberers on a large scale. The case is different with such mills as rely upon jobbers for their supply of logs, who cannot afford to pile their cut and must draw them at once out of the woods. The quantity of logs contracted for with jobbers the present winter is not equal to that of two seasons ago, for the *habitant* having made some money out of his crop, had not the spur of necessity to urge him the past Fall into a job in which there is always some degree of uncertainty about his earnings, through want of snow-roads to haul out his cut. The English markets are possessed by the usual quietness of the holiday season, and it will be a fortnight hence ere the drift of present year's prices can be seen. Stocks are lower than a year ago.

IRON TRADE AND MANUFACTURE. (5)

Any one who has tried the operation of kindling a fire with a pair of bellows or remarked the effect of a strong wind upon the red portion of a burning brand must have observed that where the blast directly strikes the embers it produces a black spot, and at the place and for the time checks combustion; of the same nature is the effect of the cold blast upon the smelting furnace. The hot blast