

mails between the United States and Great Britain. There is to be four regular mail transportations each week by the fast vessels of these lines, besides extra service for specially inscribed letters by the steamers *Alaska*, *Arizona*, and *City of Rome*. The new contracts run for a period of thirteen months beginning with March, 1887.

REVOLUTIONS do go backward. The *Mark Lane Express*, discussing the policy of Protection in Great Britain, boldly proclaims that "a loaf of bread grown at home is cheaper at sixpence than a loaf of foreign grown bread at four pence." The agricultural classes in that country have felt foreign competition most keenly, and there is a strong tendency in the minds of a large minority of the British people to abandon the unsatisfying policy of Free Trade and return to that of Protection.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway Company have chartered the Cunard steamers *Parthia*, *Batavia* and *Abyssinnia*, to ply on the route between Vancouver, B.C., and Hong Kong, China, the Imperial Government granting a subsidy of £10,000 a year. These steamers have accommodation for about sixty first-class passengers each, can carry about 3,000 tons of freight, and will make good time. The line is to begin operations the coming summer, the service to be monthly, which will be increased as the traffic may require.

THE United States Congress, just previous to its adjournment, passed what was known as the Senate Fisheries Retaliation Bill, and it became a law by the signature of the President. The passage of this bill naturally attracted great interest in Canada, where all legislation in Congress bearing on this subject was closely observed. The excitement incident to the matter is fast dying out, and it is thought that all points in dispute in this question between Canada and the United States will be amicably settled.

HITHERTO the flour consumed in India was made of wheat grown in that country and sent to Europe to be ground and from thence returned to the far East. But recently a native milling corporation has been formed at Bombay, which will grind large quantities of wheat into flour, effecting the saving of the double freight heretofore paid; and there are indications that other large mills will be erected there. This means higher prices to the wheat producer and lower prices to the flour consumer. This revolution in trade presents a feature which manufacturers of milling machinery will be quick to observe.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER in a recent speech delivered in Halifax N.S., stated regarding the projected fast mail steamers to and from China and Japan, correspondence concerning which is now being had with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, that it was confidently believed the Imperial Government would grant a subsidy of £10,000 per annum for the service. He also stated that a new treaty was being negotiated with Spain which would place Canadian products in Cuba and the Spanish West Indies in a much more favorable position than

they now occupy under the most favored nation clause, and greatly increase trade between Canada and the Spanish possessions.

SCORES of suggestions have been made as to the best substitute for the deadly car stove since attention has been specially directed to its dangers. Among them are steam carried from the locomotive through the cars in properly arranged pipes; steam from a boiler in a car carried specially for the purpose; hot water tins on the plan common in Europe; chemical apparatus for producing heat; heat produced by electricity; condensed gas carried in strong receivers, and a separate iron car in which the heating and lighting apparatus for a whole train is carried. It will require time and patience to discover the best method of avoiding the danger, but one thing is certain—the car stove must go.

A BILL has been introduced into the New York State Assembly the object of which is to regulate the stamping of gold and silver ware. The bill provides that all goods, wares and merchandise which shall be manufactured of gold or silver metal, or which shall be sold or offered for sale, shall, by a suitable device stamped thereon, disclose the character, grade or carat of the metal, and that all goods in imitation of gold or silver metal shall be stamped "Imitation." The matter has created considerable interest in the trade throughout the country. The object sought is the protection of innocent buyers against disreputable sellers who frequently palm off electroplated and spurious goods, representing them to be genuine and solid gold and silver.

A PROJECT has been started in London, Eng., to organize a flour milling company there with a capital of \$500,000, for the purpose of building a first class flouring mill in the city of Rio Janeiro, Brazil. It is stated that there are no flouring mills in that country, and that all the flour consumed there is imported from the United States. The duty is 75 cents per barrel, and the profits on the business only about pays the expenses of the outward voyage. The English company propose to carry the wheat from the Argentine Republic and Chili to Rio and there convert it into flour; and as there is no duty imposed on the imported grain, the American flour trade would probably find it impossible to compete with the new industry. American millers and exporters are considerably exercised over the matter.

In the seven years intervening between 1879 and 1886 the number of traders doing business in Canada increased from 56,347 to 72,680, the number added being 16,233. In the first-named year there were 1,902 commercial failures, the aggregate amount involved being \$29,347,000, while in the latter year there were but 1,252 failures, involving \$10,387,000. In 1878, previous to the adoption of the Government system under which we are now living, the deposits in the post office and Government savings banks were only \$8,497,013, while in 1886, under the N.P., these deposits were \$38,154,680. The deposits in the regular chartered banks in the first-named year were \$66,216,964, and in the latter year \$103,797,818. The deposits with building and loan associations in 1878 were \$8,269,295, and in 1885 they were \$15,435,084.