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## THE TRADE REVIEW

Intercolonial Journal of Commerce.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1868.

The Business Office of the "Trade Review" is removed from No. 4 Merchants' Exchange to No. 58 St. Francois Xavier Street, Room No. 5. Up Stairs.

We are informed, on what we believe to be reliable authority, that the finances of the Dominion of Canada are now in a more favourable position than they have been for some years, and that the Government are thus enabled to liquidate the entire outstanding unfunded debt, including the loans from the Bank of Montreal. We are very glad to be able to record this fact, as it is a very unfortunate position for any Government to be in to be under a heavy pressing obligation to any monetary institution, especially that one in which it keeps its current balances. We do not think it fair to the other leading banks of this country that the Bank of Montreal should alone reap the advantages of the Government account, and the present circumstances afford an excellent opportunity to make a desirable change in this respect.

The Rallway Traffic Returns for the half year ended June 30th, 1863, are given in other columns. The business done during that period for all the railways given except the Great Western, and the Northern shews very favorably as compared with the corresponding six months of 1867, the total gain being \$228,000. The Grand Trunk shows a gain of about \$160,000, the balance being made up on the minor roads. The decline of traffic on the Great Western was about \$15,000, and on the Northern \$5,000, both smounts being very trifling when compared with the total business done.

## THE PORTLAND CONVENTION.

VEB two hundred delegates assembled at Portland on Tuesday to discuss the on Tuesday to discuss the questions referred to in the circular recently published. Mr. Medrill, Governor of Iowa, was elected President, and the following gentlemen Vice-Presidents:-E. H. Derby, Boston; Stephin Tobin, Mayor of Halifax; W. Workman, Mayor of Montreal; A. D. Macdonald, Charlottetown; Hon. A. Fisher, Fredericton; Thos. Gibbs, Oshawa; J. W. Taylor, St. Pauls, Minnesota; Senator Corpett, of Oregon; H. J. Blow, St. Louis, and J. H. Arzola, Chicago.

Heveral speeches were made, principally urging the necessity of reaching the Suspension Bridge by the MONTREAL SAY WORKS.

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shortest route, leaving the Grand Trunk out in the cold. The sentiments expressed were in favour of reciprocity, including manufactures; and a decided opinion was expressed regarding annexation, one of the speakers, Mr. Derby, of Boston, saying, "Canada has got to take us, or we them before many years." We do not think the necessity is so strongly felt in this country as Mr. Dorby anticipates; the covotousness is altogether on his side of the line. The Convention will last for some time, if all the subjects in the circular are discussed. The Cauadian delegates beld a caucus, and agreed not to vote upon resolutions toroign to the interests of the Dominion.

## A CHAPTER ON OIL.

THE Oil business of Ontario has reached a very low obb-so low, indeed, that it may be described as utterly stagnant. This unfortunate state of matters has now existed for many months, and several rather questionable devices have been proposed as a remedy. We believe an attempt has been made some time ago to rescue all the oil territory and create a vast monopoly, which would be able to control the market and force up prices, and we understand that certain speculators, prominent among whom are one or two Americans—have recently been endeavouring to buy up all the refined Petroleum in the Province, with a view to "corner the market," and advance the price to at least 30c. per gallon. The first move failed, too many persons beginning to have a finger in the pie, but our informant gives us to understand that the latter speculation is not unlikely to succeed. A large amount of capital is said to be already invested in oil the purchasers not couldning their purchases to refiners, but buy up lots of 50 and 100 barrels wherever they can obtain it. A few weeks will show whether this speculation succeeded or not, so there is little use in speculating regarding it. We cannot regard it, however, with much favour, and think the true remedy for the present flatness in oil, is to be found in a united effort to find a European market for it. Whether we take the prices going for Petroleum in the United States, or England, they are such as would pay handsome profits, Across the lines it is worth \$4 per barrel, a very different price from 850, or 40c., at which some has been sold at our oil region. High duties it may be said, shut us out from the United States, but in England we see Petroleum quoted at 230. per gallon. A barrel of 40 gallons would thus be worth at Liverpool \$11.20-which sum would, it is evident, allow a handsome profit after payment of freight and all other expenses. We suppose there are not much, if any, less than 50,660 barrels of refined petroleum held in Ontario at present. Why copid not oilmen upite to send some of this to England? We believe