

time of peace or of war, would be made to our strength. At present, however, all is in doubt. Advocates of the route declare it to be serviceable for at least as many months as is the St. Lawrence. Its detractors contend that this period is greatly exaggerated—that it should be counted by weeks instead of by months, and that even during the minimum period formidable dangers from bergs would constantly have to be dreaded. And it was stated yesterday in Parliament, by Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN, that this route is now reported as open as long as that *via* Quebec. An unreliable statement is further made this week that navigation is only open by this route between July and November, and even that not every year with certainty. So that all really known is that, as between Winnipeg and Liverpool, there is a saving in distance of some 2,400 miles, a fact that it certainly does not require a Royal Commission to verify. But accurate official information on the points above indicated is certainly most urgently needed, and all would be glad to see a parliamentary grant to secure it.

#### PATENTS AND TRADE MARKS

THE recent annual report of the Minister of Agriculture mentions the issue by the Department of a compilation giving the names of the patentees and the titles of patents between the years 1824 and 1872. All patents issued since the latter date have been published weekly in an official paper, and thus a list of the whole is now easily accessible. A copy of this back-list has just reached us from Ottawa, and whilst it will doubtless be of value as a reference to inventors and others interested its utility is much lessened in the absence of an index of the inventions themselves instead of the names of the patentees only. Such duplex index accompanies all similar compilations at Washington, which place may generally be profitably consulted when the most efficient mode of getting up all such work is sought.

Trade Marks as well as Patents of Invention come also within the multifarious supervision of the Department of Agriculture. But in a letter to us, published below, our attention is called to the singular fact that from the time of the issue of the first trade mark certificate in Canada to the present day, no list whatever of these very important documents has ever been anywhere officially published! In the kindred branch of patents of invention the *Patent-Office Record* gives weekly a list furnished by the Government itself, and we believe similar official publication of all protected inventions is also periodically made in the *Canada Gazette*. Why the owners of a class of property on an average more valuable than that of a patent of invention are thus neglected we have never heard explained. The omission, however, could be even now rectified by publishing a full list of Trade Marks from the earliest date to the present time, to correspond with the lately issued similar patent list. Their number is

so small, if under 2,000 as represented by our correspondent, as not to be in itself an obstacle, and as the weekly official addition of new registrations of Trade Marks is only about three or four, these could be added regularly in future to the *Patent-Office Record* list with no appreciable addition of cost or trouble. The absence of such list we can readily believe to be, as stated by our correspondent, in the interest of the Trade Mark pirates and nobody else. The following is the letter referred to:—

To the Editor of THE SHAREHOLDER :

SIR,—The Department of Agriculture has just issued an official list of all patents granted for inventions since the law came into force. May I be allowed to suggest through your columns the publication also of a list of all the Trade Marks issued? The total number of the latter does not reach two thousand—that of the former exceeds it much more than eightfold. The list of patents, too, is officially published every month, and is of great utility. Strange to say, however, outside of the departmental books themselves there is no record whatever of the Trade Mark certificates granted, though these are of even more interest to the commercial community than the other. In England they appear regularly in the official *Trade Marks Journal*; in the United States weekly in the Government *Patent Gazette*; and similarly in France, Germany, etc.; and are all procurable at merely nominal cost. Here, however, a list is unattainable at any price—to the great delight of the numerous horde of infringers and the inconvenience and detriment of Trade Mark proprietors.

Your obedient servant,

T. M.

#### THE CONSOLIDATED BANK.

THE poor shareholders of this ill-fated Bank are still reminded that they must not whistle. Instead of being out of the woods, as many suppose, the liquidators are knocking at their doors again for a further demand of ten per cent. Those who have been ruined cannot respond; the broken-hearted who have died overweighted with this terrible disaster are beyond the reach of the liquidator's voice. The summons, however, is clear enough to the living who have anything left:—

"Notice is hereby given that the liquidators of the affairs of the Consolidated Bank of Canada have duly made a third call of ten per centum upon the amount of the subscribed capital of the Bank, payable on the Thirty-First day of May next, at their office, No. 11 St. Sacramento Street.

"ARCH. CAMPBELL, Manager.

"Montreal, 24th April, 1883."

#### ON TO THE PACIFIC!

THE Grand Trunk, the late negotiations with the Canada Pacific having failed, is now taking time by the forelock and making its own connections with the Pacific Coast, including, of course, British Columbia. Already it has advertised its first special train to San Francisco *via* the Union Pacific, leaving Montreal on the 18th inst., with good allowance for luggage, and with separate and cheaper cars for immigrants also. The ultimate result will be awaited with unusual interest by the entire railway world. In this incident it is once more made manifest that the sagacity and foresight which, under the present management, have brought the Grand Trunk up to

its existing state of prosperity, were by no means sleeping during the late active diplomatising in London and elsewhere.

LIFE INSURANCE.—A return just brought down to Parliament shows that the total amount of premiums received by life assurance companies in Canada in the year 1882 was \$3,544,605, against \$3,094,689 in the preceding year, an increase of \$449,916. The net amount of policies in force in Canada on 31st December last was \$115,088,078, against \$103,290,982 for 1881, an increase of \$11,797,141. The amount of death claims paid during the year was \$1,277,676, against \$1,389,201 in 1881, a decrease of \$111,525. The amount of premiums received by accident insurance companies in Canada last year was \$102,079, the amount of policies in force was \$18,630,187, and the claims paid during the year was \$37,801. There was but one claim, of \$5,000, resisted, the details of which are not given.

FINANCE IN THE STATES.—The New York *World*, in noting the improved feeling in financial circles, says, "By far the most important element is the confidence manifested by prominent banking firms, who, after a careful survey of the situation, are once more engaging in the negotiation of railway loans in this country and Europe on an extensive scale. Such operations would not be entered upon unless the future prospects were considered favorable, and the fact that no hesitation is shown in undertaking the placing of railway loans, involving anywhere from \$5,000,000 to \$12,000,000, affords ample proof to capitalists of moderate means that the period of shrinkage and liquidation is past."

TORONTO MINING EXCHANGE.—Recent discoveries of valuable mineral deposits in the North-West have attracted the attention of capitalists, and an effort is being made to put things in a proper shape for the receipt of reliable information and the transfer of mining stocks in Toronto. Some of the leading members of the Stock Exchange there are agitating for the formation of another Exchange, to be devoted entirely to the mining interest, and there is every probability that ere long the Queen City will be furnished with a regular mining Bourse. We hear extraordinary reports of the gratifying results of late "prospecting" for the precious metals, in the North-West, especially about Keewatin.

THE BANKS v. MCCREADY.—Since our last the suit of the Molsons' Bank v. ROBERT MCCREADY has been withdrawn with costs, a discontinuance having been served by the attorneys of the Bank. This determination of the Bank is probably in view of the recent judgment of Mr. Justice RAINVILLE, in the Union Bank case, declaring the notes to be forgeries.

CHANGE OF RESIDENCE.—Subscribers who have changed their addresses will oblige by notifying us as soon as possible,