

more so than any financial loss sustained through him, because it shook the faith of country agents in the company.

This company was organized in 1877, with a cash capital of \$10,000, (ten per cent. on \$100,000) which sum was deposited with the Ontario Government at the start. Thus the company had to depend upon its premium income to pay losses. From that time forward it appeared to make progress. The paid capital was increased, and a further sum of \$10,000 was placed in the custody of the Government. After its amalgamation with the Alliance, an additional deposit of \$5,350 was put up, making the sum of \$25,350 in the hands of the Government as security for policy holders. But unfortunately the company never fully enjoyed the confidence of the public. This was not so much in consequence of any inherent weakness as by reason of the character of those who manipulated it. In the language of the new president, "the company appears to have been organized, like too many others, for the sole benefit of the principal;" (he should have added, the man who was at one time inspector, and who is now the liquidator,) "who unsparingly plundered those unlucky enough to be cajoled into investing their capital therein, or insuring their property therein whenever losses occurred."

In 1881 this Company suffered heavy losses, a call of five per cent was made and a further sum borrowed by the former and now-missing president, Mr. D. B. Chisholm. Since then the Company has been heavily weighted with interest, and at present the Exchange and Federal banks are pressing their claims against it. The subscribed capital of the Company is \$375,000, but probably not more than one third of this is good. The late president had \$33,000 in his name. Other shareholders are J. Baird, St. Thomas, R. Duncan, Hamilton, \$10,000, Col. Land, Hamilton, \$10,000; and Thomas Blanchard, Nelson, \$5,000.

We understand that, upon application made to the High Court of Justice, the company was allowed to liquidate under the Dominion Act; and we also learn, not without surprise, that Mr. T. C. Livingston has been appointed liquidator. Why a company which works under an Ontario charter, and deposits with the Ontario Treasurer, should not also wind up under Provincial authority, one does not readily see. But one thing is significant, i.e., that by the Act of the Provincial Legislature, recently passed, supervision is maintained over liquidators of insurance companies, and they have to report progress from time to time. It can be imagined that the liquidator of the Standard does not relish supervision, and does not approve of reporting progress. We trust the loss of the shareholders will be light, but they will not grow the lighter by prolonging the winding up, which is sure to be done. Indeed, under his management, we shall not expect a final report inside of five years, if then.

—The Winnipeg Sun is encouraged to learn from Canada Pacific Railway reports that 59 per cent. of the land taken up throughout the Province is plowed and backset; only 29 per cent. was in that shape last year at this time.

ASSESSMENT.

Mr. W. W. Turnbull recently read a paper, before the Board of Trade of St. John, N.B., on the Assessment law of that province. He objects to the law on the ground that it is not based on any intelligent principle. His chief argument is that property which yields no income should pay no taxes. If the soundness of this principle, on which Sismondi more than any other economist insisted, be admitted, it would still be necessary to come to an understanding as to what is unproductive property, whether all property which does not produce an annual income, is unproductive. Mr. Turnbull contends:

"That real and personal estate, which yield no income, cannot pay taxes, certainly not for any length of time, except by what would be tantamount to the utter and total destruction of the property, and when that occurs their power to pay is at the end.

"The general impression is that real and personal estate which yielded no income, have paid taxes in the past, but the actual fact is, they have never paid a dollar, they could not pay, for they had nothing to pay with. The taxes levied on them have been paid by their owners out of the income of their owners, derived from other sources. This gives us some light on the subject. If real and personal estate, which yield no income, cannot pay taxes, it follows that they should not be taxed."

The taxation of property which yields neither income nor profit means confiscation within a time which admits of easy calculation. It is not so certain that land which yields no income never did or could pay taxes. Until the land realizes a profit, say by the sale, it must borrow the taxes; the proprietor must advance them out of other resources. But if the land sells at a profit, it repays the taxes advanced. There is of course the if; but in a progressive country, the increase in the value of land, in a given series of years, is, on the whole certain. The exceptions prove nothing. If the price of land remained stationary or even declined, for a long series of years, and the taxes were more than the rent, partial or complete confiscation would result.

Mr. Turnbull's paper is refreshing from his insisting so strongly on having the assessment based on principle. Indeed he goes, in this particular, beyond the practicable. In insisting on income being the criterion of taxation, he is on strong ground theoretically; but practically, as Mill remarks, this most perfect tax in theory becomes one of the most objectionable in practice, so difficult is it to get at the amount of income. But Mr. Turnbull's paper is well intended; and it is desirable that the question should be often discussed in the spirit in which he approaches it.

—Bradstreet's puts altogether too deep a shading in its description of the present condition of Canada. "Canada," its says, "is in a sea of political and financial troubles, and the discontent is great." The political discontent is represented as sectional: "political grievances having led Manitoba to threats of secession." Manitoba has made no such threats; and the agitation there, which forms the groundwork of the statement, is very far from being general. The guarantee of the Pacific Railway stock is mentioned in a way that leads to the infer-

ence that the government undertakes this guarantee without indemnity. The words used are: "The guarantee of dividends on the Pacific road, when the government is unable to borrow at four per cent., provokes angry criticism." A correct statement would have shown that the capital necessary to secure the guarantee is put up by the company. It is true that one of the protected interests is suffering; and protection, for its own sake, is not a defensible policy: as incident to a necessary revenue tariff, a fostering care may be extended to manufactures, not only without injury but with benefit to the country. The duty on wheat and coal certainly ought to be abolished. *Bradstreet's* would do well to preserve accuracy of statement in describing the commercial condition of Canada.

—In the present very quiet condition of the lumber trade, it becomes a question of interest what quantity is being cut this year. It would appear from the following estimate, made by an Ottawa journal, that the cut will be as great as that of last year, which was placed at eight hundred million feet. An estimate of the year's cut by the principal sawmills in the vicinity of Ottawa is as follows:

E. B. Eddy, Hull	80,000,000 feet.
Bronson & Weston, Ottawa....	60,000,000 "
J. R. Booth.....	55,000,000 "
Perle & Pattee.....	40,000,000 "
Sherman, Lord & Hurdman ..	35,000,000 "
Capt. Young	20,000,000 "
J. Rochester	10,000,000 "
McLaren's, New Edinburgh....	20,000,000 "
McClymont, New Edinburgh ..	25,000,000 "
Gilmour & Co., Hull.....	45,000,000 "
Conroy Bros., North Shore....	35,000,000 "
Allan Grant, South Shore	15,000,000 "
McLaren, Carleton Place.....	30,000,000 "
McLaughlin Bros., Arnprior ..	80,000,000 "
Gillies Bros., Braeside	3,000,000 "
Pembroke Mills	28,000,000 "
W. C. Edwards & Co., Rockland.	50,000,000 "
McLaren & Co.	65,000,000 "
Gilmour's Gatineau Mill	25,000,000 "
Hillman's, Rockcliffe	4,000,000 "
Total	725,000,000 "

"There are a number of other mills whose cut could not assuredly be estimated. As none of the mills have stopped running yet, the quantity at the close of the season may be even larger, as the mills cut 30,000,000 feet per week." The amount of lumber to be cut this season upon the Aroostook and Upper St. John, we learn from a St. John paper, is estimated at 225,000,000 feet, divided as follows: Upon the Upper St. John, 15,000,000; Aroostook, 2,000,000; St. Croix, 15,000,000; other localities in the provinces, 155,000,000. Last season the total output on these fields was 358,000,000.

NEW BRUNSWICK LUMBER NOTES.

The port of Bathurst, N. B. has made shipments of lumber and timber during the season of 1883, in fifty three vessels of 27,483 tons, whose cargoes were nearly equally divided between R. A. & J. Stewart and K. F. Burns & Co. as shippers. In addition to 120 tons of W. P. timber and a few cedar poles, the contents of the 53 vessels loaded were as under:

Deals, &c.	superf. feet.....	23,415,607
Boards,	"	795,688
Palings,	pieces	640,145
Laths	"	12,000
Staves	"	217,625
R R Sleepers	"	6,907
Scantling	Superf. feet.....	203,060