

RONDOT VERSUS THE MONETARY TIMES.

Our readers know that The Monetary Times was sued for damages about five years ago by a retail dealer in Amherstburg, Mr. A. E. Rondot, because we printed a letter criticising him, written by a wholesale house, and made some editorial remarks not complimentary to his business methods. They also know that, when we put Mr. Rondot himself in the witness box and had him examined by counsel, as to his business career, a jury in his own county gave a verdict in our favor. Ever since that time he has been trying, by one means and another, an assignment included, to escape liability under that verdict and to saddle upon this journal the costs of the action, now more than fifteen hundred dollars. Court after court has pronounced upon the matter, and we have the satisfaction of a final decision in our favor from the Court of Appeal, as related in a sketch of the action on another page.

The case shows how risky a thing it is for a business man, who has acted unfairly by his creditors, to attempt the rehabilitation of his character by suing a respectable paper for libel. On the other hand, the cost of justifying such statements as we put forth, even when made in good faith and solely in the public interest, is a heavy one. We and our witnesses were dragged about from court to court for five years. But we won at last. The Monetary Times was anxious besides to know if any person could openly trade in another's name, as Mr. Rondot did last year, and thus get the better of his creditors. For the purpose of testing this and obtaining our money we had the insolvent examined as a judgment debtor. The revelations made, our readers will agree, were worth the while. The result of this libel suit should be to give the press greater confidence in speaking out about matters that deserve public reprobation.

BOARDS OF TRADE IN CANADA.

In the year 1892 and again in 1896 this journal compiled lists of the Boards of Trade in Canada. In the first list there were 95; in the second, 102, and in the list we print to-day, on another page, there are 128. The number of such organizations in Ontario and Quebec appears to be as much as it was four years ago, but in other provinces there is a great change. Nova Scotia, for example, has now eighteen boards, where in 1896 we could only hear of nine; British Columbia and Manitoba have fourteen and nine respectively, where they had only half the number. This is one of the indications of growth, not only of communities, but of the commercial spirit in them. This list must prove of value to those at home and abroad, who are interested in promoting closer trade relations with the Empire. We intend reprinting it on separate sheets so that those who desire extra copies may get them.

—Rossland Board of Trade issues a statement in regard to the mining outlook in British Columbia. It is there set forth that the labor troubles of that camp are over, that work on the mines has commenced, and that shipments of ore will follow shortly. The managements of the leading mines have announced that all properties will be worked to their full capacity; a quarter of

a million dollars' worth of new machinery is now being installed, and work will be given to 2,500 men. Shipments from Le Roi, War Eagle, and Centre Star mines alone are expected to average 1,300 tons per day, a great increase when we remember that before the shut-down of 1899 there were 1,500 men employed in the mines, and the shipments averaged about 700 tons per day. Such an announcement is of enormous value to the Kootenay Country.

MINERAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Reference is made at length to the activity in mining in New Brunswick in the report of Surveyor-General Dunn. This official tells us that 110 prospecting licenses were issued in the province during 1899. But over and above these, there were six special prospecting licenses issued, covering 30 square miles. It appears that the improved demand for copper has caused this, Mr. Dunn says, on this subject: "The advance in the price of copper and the demand for this mineral has caused interested persons to reopen the mines in Westmoreland County which were closed some years ago. At the present time the Intercolonial Copper Company is working its mines about three miles from Dorchester and giving employment to a large number of men. The Westmoreland Copper Company, owner of mines adjoining the Intercolonial Company, near Dorchester, is also preparing to open up its property. Preparations are also being made to open up the copper mines formerly worked in Charlotte county, by a new company. The people who are developing the Westmoreland Copper Co. are American capitalists: Hon. H. W. Ladd, ex-governor of Rhode Island, president; J. W. Phillips, Providence, treasurer; T. J. Edwards, Providence, secretary; A. W. Chapman, Dorchester, local manager. Work is being done also on the iron mines of Gloucester county, as well as upon the nickel mines at St. Stephen, where a 100-foot shaft has been sunk. The Government diamond drill has been at work at the Dunsinane Coal Mining Company, and the drill passed through a seam of coal three and a half feet thick at a depth of 100 feet from the surface.

The Government of New Brunswick has been energetic in exploiting the mineral resources of the province. A special Act encourages the discovery and development of oil and natural gas within the province. A license is permitted to search for the same during five years, at the rate of \$10,000 a year. It is believed that oil will be found in paying quantities, for the company employed Prof. N. S. Shaler of Harvard University, to conduct the geological survey of the province. Early in the spring Prof. Shaler put into the field three geologists with Harold B. Goodrich as chief of staff. They made a thorough investigation of the entire province as regards petroleum, particularly. Boring was begun last September, and was carried on to a depth of 320 feet, but the first contractor was dismissed. It is intended, however, to prospect the province for oil, and much confidence is felt in its discovery in paying quantities.

"ANYTHING TO BEAT THE COMPANY."

A story is told by the Detroit Indicator about the schedule of a rascal named Ernest Skinner, at St. Paul, Minnesota, who wanted to beat an accident company. He bought three fifty-cent tickets of the Pacific Mutual Life, entitling him to \$30 weekly during total disability through accident. Not long afterward he filed a claim for fracturing the bones of his hand, through the fall of a window sash. The medical examiner of the company was ordered to call on the man, but failed to see him until three weeks after the filing of the claim. When he did see him he reported that he could not tell anything about the injury. As proofs of his injury, Skinner filed the certificate of the physician who attended him, his own statement attested by a notary and an affidavit of his employer. The claim inspector passed on these papers, and was about to allow them when something about the handwriting struck him as peculiar. An investigation revealed the fact that the papers were forged. Skinner was allowed to go, but we think it a pity he had not been made an example of.