

time for completing its railway and authorizing the sale or lease thereof. The Manitoba and North-western wishes to amend and explain certain sections in its charter. An extension of the voting power of the bondholders is sought after by the St. Lawrence & Ottawa. The Toronto, Grey & Bruce applies for power to re-arrange its bonded debt by calling up its present bonds. An Act to authorize the transfer of the ordinary stock of the Welland Railway Company to the Grand Trunk, and the cancellation of £50,000 of preference bonds, £100,000 of first 5 p. c. debenture stock, and £48,500 of second 5 p. c. debenture stock; and to authorize the issue of £166,952 4 p. c. debenture stock by the Grand Trunk, as a first charge upon the undertaking of the said Welland; and to authorize the conversion of the ordinary stock of the Welland into ordinary stock of the Grand Trunk, and the conversion of £166,952 of debenture stock of the Welland into 4 p. c. debenture stock of the Grand Trunk, of the same nominal amounts; and to authorize the absorption of the undertaking of the Welland by the Grand Trunk,—upon such terms as may be agreed; and to ratify the sale of the Welland Railway to the Grand Trunk.

It is desired to have an Act to authorize the Grand Trunk Railway to consolidate and re-arrange certain classes of its stocks and securities, to authorize the creation of additional securities, for the purpose of taking up existing securities to provide additional capital for the purpose of putting down a second line of rails on portions of the railway of the company, and for other purposes. The Northern Railway Company will have two bills before the House. One to re-arrange its loan capital, debentures, and preference stocks, also to issue new securities to replace the old, if desirable. The other bill is "to declare the company's works authorized by their Act of incorporation to be for the general advantage of Canada, to increase the extent of their borrowing powers, to authorize an extension of the line from Hamilton to connect with one or more of the lines of railway crossing the Niagara River, and Parliament will be asked to confirm an agreement made between the Village of Parkdale, the Grand Trunk, the Northern, the Toronto Grey and Bruce and the Credit Valley Railway Company, providing for the building of subways on Queen Street and Dufferin Street at their intersection. Also to raise \$10,000 on the security of debentures of Parkdale. And to provide for the payment by the City of Toronto of one-sixth of the cost of the subway &c.

The Bell Telephone Company applies for power to increase its capital and amend its charter. The International Telegraph and Telephone Co., seeks power to extend its lines throughout the Dominion.

GOLD MINING IN NOVA SCOTIA.

A more active, certainly a more intelligent interest is being taken in gold mining in Nova Scotia now than a dozen years ago. A good many thousands of dollars have been "planted" in the rocks around Montague, Waverley, Sherbrooke, and other points contiguous to Halifax, for which no adequate return has been got, and for much of which

none ever will be. This because, mainly, it was not invested in the right spot or in the right way, for lack of scientific knowledge. But the gold prospectors and gold miners are doing better now. At Chezzetcook, we are told, the Oxford Gold Mining Company took \$7,200 out of one hundred and thirty tons of ore, worked during twelve days of last May. If this be true it is at the rate of \$55 per ton, and is better than the published results of the Country Harbor working, last year, which were 903 ounces of gold obtained from 511 tons of quartz, or at the rate of about \$35.30 per ton. A dozen years ago \$30 the ton was regarded "a big thing," but better methods are to-day yielding better results.

At Mount Uniacke, N.S., there are three gold mines, and four quartz mills. Last year 3,440 tons of quartz were crushed, furnishing 9,128 days' employment and yielding \$3.52 per day per man. This was perhaps the best return of any mines in the province. At Sherbrooke, N.S., the ore is low grade, but easily worked, and distributed in large quantities over an area of eighteen square miles. The yield of six quartz mills last year was 2,542 ounces, 17 pennyweight, 14 grains. At Goldenville, three miles from Sherbrooke, \$500 was found the day. The mines were discovered in 1861, and there has been a yield of \$2,000 per man, per year, during some years. At Tangier, N.S., the yield last year was 789 ounces from 1,622 tons of ore. At Waverly, N.S., the yield was 234 ounces, 7 dwts, 5 grains, from 554 tons of ore; three mines having been worked and 2,238 days labor performed. At Wine Harbor, N.S., the ore is easily worked but poor, yielding only 94 cents per day, per man. The Manganese mines at Markhamville, N.B., have been worked continuously for over 25 years, and produce ore valued at from \$16 to \$100 per ton.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AT TORONTO.

The December statement of the Toronto Board of Trade has been issued, and it is worthy of note that, while the value of exports is about the same as for the previous December, the imports for the last month, unlike those of several previous months of the year, are very much smaller.

The total value of dutiable goods imported at Toronto during December 1883 was \$1,032,811, and of free goods \$192,328, while for December 1882 the amounts were \$871,287 and \$163,763 respectively, making the total, bullion included, \$1,229,749 against \$1,037,067. The imports of dry goods were:—

Imports.	Dec. 1883.	Dec. 1882.
Cotton Goods.....	\$356,936	\$72,336
Fancy Goods	13,586	21,080
Hats and Bonnets ..	17,204	16,005
Silk Goods	15,816	21,495
Woollen Goods	38,956	41,287
Total Dry Goods..	\$442,498	\$172,183

The excess imported is almost wholly in cotton goods, and it may be assumed that considerable stocks of prints, imported in December to escape the heavy duty which came into force at the first of the year for the special benefit of the Magog Print Works, account for it. Other principal items are as under:

Imports.	Dec. 1883.	Dec. 1882.
Iron and Steel Goods..	\$ 67,014	\$ 93,122
Coal, (29,202 tons) ..	130,683	125,026
Leather goods.....	18,003	28,901
Jewellery	16,933	30,495
Paper &c	19,169	26,831
Books	36,230	42,189
Glass and Glassware	13,708	15,478
Fruits	56,899	53,160

Exports, as we have said, were about the same in aggregate value as in the December previous the figures being \$252,394 of Canadian products last month against \$262,768. There was a gratifying increase, however, in exports of manufactured goods, which item rose from \$8,968 in December 1882 to \$25,180 last month. The principal items were Books \$11,442; Manufactures of wood \$4,802; machinery, carriages, and leather. Horses, horned cattle and sheep and wool all show a greater export; barley less, while wheat is, as may be expected, absent from the return.

Exports.	Dec. 1883.	Dec. 1882.
The Fisheries.....	\$ 248	\$ 58
The Forest	3,166	5,477
Animals	143,850	71,004
Field products.....	79,224	176,700
Manufactures	25,180	8,968
Miscellaneous	726	561

We understand that the Secretary of the Board of Trade has now in preparation a *resumé* of the transactions of the Board for the year, and that it will be accompanied by interesting statistics of the commerce of the port extending over a series of years.

UNDERWRITERS IN COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters takes place on next Monday and Tuesday, 21st and 22nd insts. The business to be transacted at this meeting will refer to Toronto matters only. Mr. Sydney Crocker, who for the past ten years acted as secretary for the Board, has resigned, the resignation taking place on the 31st ultimo. In recognition of his long and valuable services the Board has resolved to present him with the sum of two hundred dollars. The presentation will be made at the annual meeting accompanied by an address, which is being prepared by a committee of the Board. A new secretary will require to be appointed.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association takes place on Wednesday, the 23rd inst. The representatives of all the insurance companies doing business in Canada will attend both meetings. The working of the association, we understand, has been eminently successful, the new rates having been in operation since the 1st of October last. The meeting next Wednesday will be one of unusual interest, as the tariff embraces all classes of risks, except such as are usually written for three years, and is applicable now to the Province of Ontario. We believe that the companies are so well satisfied with the result in Ontario, that a proposition will be made and most likely carried out, to extend the operation of the tariff to the Province of Quebec, including, of course, the city of Montreal. The success of the tariff in Ontario is owing, doubtless to the fact that the advance in rates is a reasonable one, and that every class of risk was rated on its merits. We shall be able to give the result of both meetings next week.