

ous lines is one of the best signs of the times, in the railroad line. It is such action which will postpone what many believe to be inevitable—a federal railroad commission. But while these powerful northwestern lines are trying to harmonize all differences after having put rates very low, the transcontinental lines are on the opposite track, and their long and bitter war is hastening the day, if it must come, when congress will be compelled to take in hand the regulation of the country's railroads.—*Northwestern Miller, Minneapolis.*

### The C.P.R. Loan.

There is after all an afterclap in connection with the loan to the Canadian Pacific Railway company. On the repayment of \$19,150,700, the amount actually advanced by the government, the balance of \$9,880,912 is to be settled by what is practically a purchase from the company of land at the rate of \$1.50 an acre. The result of the bonus by the government to the company then will be that about two thirds of the total amount will be repaid in cash and the balance in land, for which the government has no immediate use. Our conviction was always strong that the whole amount would never be paid in cash, and we are not disappointed. That the lands may be worth the money at which they are rated at would be difficult to deny, but it would have been more satisfactory if the government had not been asked to take truck in payment. But on the whole, we shall get out of this loan business quite as well as could have been expected, though not so well as could have been desired. On condition of settling the old loans, in this way, authority is asked to issue bonds on the Algoma Branch for the purpose of extending the road as far as Sault Ste. Marie. The government having agreed to both proposals, parliament is asked to give its consent in the form of ratification.—*Monetary Times.*

### The World's Seven Wonders.

The hanging gardens at Babylon were 75 feet high, built on seven tiers of arches, one over the other. The top was covered with earth, in which flowers and even large trees had been planted. Water was supplied by aqueducts from the river Euphrates.

The Pharos at Alexandria, erected by the architect Sostratus, under the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus, B. C. 332, was the first lighthouse on record, and, according to Josephus, the light could be seen for fully forty English miles. Wood fires were used instead of lamps.

The Olympian Zeus, a statue of Jupiter at Olympia, the work of Phidias, 55 feet in height, was made of ivory and gold. It represented the father of gods, seated on a throne.

The temple of Diana at Ephesus will be remembered by all Bible readers. It was 425 feet long, 225 feet broad, and supported by 127 columns of Parian marble, each 60 feet high.

The Colossus of Rhodes was an enormous brass statue of the sun god, Apollo. It rested over the entrance of the harbor, all ships passing between its brazen legs. It was built 280 years before Christ, and thrown down by an earthquake.

The next one also shared the same fate. The Mausoleum was a magnificent tomb, erected by Artemissia, to bury her husband, Mausolus, King of Caria. It stood for many centuries, and its foundation could still be traced in 1856.

The pyramids of Egypt are the most wonderful of all the seven wonders, and so well known that we can in our brief space add nothing of interest.

The *Portage la Prairie Reporter* after a brief existence has ceased publication, the business having been absorbed by the *Tribune-Review*. The *Reporter* was a sickly sheet and will not be missed from the list of Northwestern journals.

The Calgary Lumber Co. is completing arrangements for a large output of lumber this summer, and in about two weeks will be in a position to ship constantly to Calgary at the rate of about seventy five thousand feet per week. The mill is built at Proctorville, about two miles west of Cochrane station, on the C. P. Ry., and is fitted up with the latest improvements.

### The Drummer's Hardships.

The varied and active existence of the commercial traveler admits of no monotony; and very little romance. It is stern, uncompromising reality—a ceaseless round of go and come. An ever-changing kaleidoscopic life is led by the vast array (numbering as it does into the hundreds of thousands). Their peculiarities are marked so that it is an easy matter to distinguish them from those following other walks of life. At the railroad depot, on the cars and in the hotels they are at home; and to their credit it can be said that those unaccustomed to this kind of life, receive at the hands of the commercial traveler the courteous treatment that would be extended in a well-regulated home to one unaccustomed to the ways of that home. There are times when the C. T. can enjoy life and take in the beauties of nature to an unlimited degree; it is "with the flowers that bloom in the spring."

To say there is much comfort or pleasure in it when the mercury is down in the thirties, would be sarcasm, and the unfortunate victim that, through force of circumstances, is compelled to go forth, grip in hand, to defend his family, will have to brace up against about four months of this kind of weather on the prairies of the great Northwest, and round up with the blows and snows of March, of which Helen Hunt, in her exuberance of spirits, is inspired to say:

Ah! March! We know thou art  
Kind-hearted, spite of ugly looks and threats,  
And, out of sight, art nursing April's violets

This burst of sentiment once awakened in our manly bosom an unconquerable desire to hunt up the gentle and lamented Helen and implore her to—

Come, oh! come with me,  
For a ride on the vast prairie.

to roam awhile o'er the "big domain" and form a more intimate acquaintance with the "kind-hearted" winds of March. Now Tenneyson, he writes kind o' sensible like; he probably struck a genuine blizzard and could appreciate it, for he agonizes in this vein:

All in the wild March morning I heard the angels call.

I don't doubt it in the least. If he stayed out long enough, I am quite sure he did, and he would't have been here to tell of it. If you wanted to be wafted to the habitation of angels, just brace yourself up against a thoroughbred March wind, and I will guarantee you will get there. No one but a commercial traveler has ever escaped, and the reason of this is they are so sharp they split the wind.—*Minneapolis Tribune.*

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