The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, OCT. 13, 1876.

NOTICE.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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READ.—There is more news and reading matter in the broadcast of the *Weekly Mail* than in any of the new-fangled weeklies, some of which are printed in a shape purposely intended to mislead the public as to the quantity of their contents.

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LEARN all the news and gossip of the week, interpreted with fair and sufficient moral information of inestimable value to farmers and others. If you would be abreast of the times and know what is going on in the world take

MR. R. W. SCOTT AS A REFORMER.

MR. MACKENZIE decides to test the coalition character of his Administration by a consideration of M. CAUCHON's antecedents. As to him, whose multifarious offences "are rank and smell to heaven," judgment goes by default. He does venture, however, to make a stand on Mr. R. W. SCOTT. Now, as to this gentleman Sir JOHN MACDONALD had something to say at Simcoe. For many years in Parliament Mr. SCOTT was one of Sir JOHN's staunchest and warmest political friends and supporters. He continued to work with his Party until Mr. BLAKE tempted him, when he was Speaker of the Ontario Legislature, to abandon his friends. Sir JOHN to Mr. SCOTT has reference to this period of his political career; and we doubt not that those who quote Sir JOHN's own words:

"He then told his friends at Ottawa and myself that he was still a Conservative, that he was still allowed to adhere to his Conservative principles, and that he has been told that while in the Government he would be the guardian of his friends' interests. When he offered himself for election in Ottawa he repeated the same statement, and he was elected without opposition because my influence was exerted in his favor. He then said he would use his influence among those he could influence, and he did so accordingly, although he pledged himself that he would still be a Conservative, and although he had told his friends at Ottawa and at Toronto that he had my approval of his taking office. Does Mr. Scott dare to deny this? If he ventures to deny it I will prove it by evidence satisfactory to Mr. Scott and his friends, and I will do it, moreover, because I can prove it under his own hand."

It is now Mr. SCOTT's turn to speak. Did we believe Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. SCOTT, from being a Tory of the purest water, becomes a pronounced "Liberal," fully adopted into the fold, the moment he accepted office under Mr. BLAKE. Mr. SCOTT, on the other hand, declares that he was allowed to go into the Cabinet as a Conservative, and as such had Sir JOHN MACDONALD's approval of his acceptance. If Mr. SCOTT speaks the truth the Cabinet of that day was a coalition, just as Mr. MACKENZIE's Cabinet to-day is a coalition. He was not right then he deceived the Conservative members of the House, the man whom he had long followed and professedly looked to for guidance, and the electors of Ottawa. In this state of things, what we should like to get at is, did Mr. SCOTT become a "Liberal?" Perhaps Mr. MACKENZIE will venture to tell us. Perhaps Mr. SCOTT himself will undertake to throw light on the dark subject. Only he will have to bear in mind Sir JOHN MACDONALD's words, and leave our readers to form for themselves their political status at the time, as defined by, himself, in the following: "It can be established "under his own hand." But, perhaps, after all, Mr. SCOTT would prefer to have his subject stand and say nothing which would criminate himself. If he remain silent, however, the public will naturally enough call the old adage which tells us that "silence gives consent." We give it up. We must leave the whole matter in Mr. SCOTT's own hands, simply observing that every day gives ample proof of the truth of the ancient declaration that "the way of the transgressor is hard."

EMIGRATION LECTURERS.

To determine the principle, if any there be, which has prevailed with our "Liberal" Executives in the choice of their Emigration Agents would be no easy matter. Mr. MCKELLAR informed JINUEL BURDON that his own practice was to shake the names of all applicants in a bag, or hat, and fill up vacancies as they arose from the applicants who were uppermost in the draw. But we conclude that archapostle JENKINS did not go through the lottery ordeal, for Mr. SCOTT once took Parliament and the public into his confidence touching the exquisite reason which ruled over Grix's selection. In choosing Mr. JENKINS the Government was "moved by the consideration that "he seemed to enjoy a good deal of popularity, and that his position as a "member of Parliament would give the "most importance to him as the representative of Canada. It was considered "also that, being a literary man, he "would have more influence with the "English newspapers, and might thus "exercise a good deal of influence in the "interests of Canada." Mr. Hall or Connaught." What was the measure of Mr. Bartholomew? What would have been thought of a rhetorician of the time who should have spoken of driving French Catholics out of Europe? Or who should have spoken of Englishmen as unfit to live? Who that was of age at the time does not remember the horrors even in Switzerland in 1848?

The violence of Mr. GLADSTONE, if carried out to legitimate consequence, would lead to a crusade against the Turks in Europe, and even wherever they might go, for he claims them as unfit to live. This is the very feeling which led to St. Bartholomew and the Irish massacre. Mr. GLADSTONE, both sides to which we have referred. The Duke of ARGYLL has descended even lower than Mr. GLADSTONE. He does not condemn the Government for Lord DERBY's refusal to sign the Berlin memorandum, yet they had not a word to say at the time. Both know that the insurgents have been inspired by Russian emissaries, and that they are Russian in the main ground, as events proved, on Russian aid. Mr. BARING, who was sent out by the Government to report upon the atrocities, confirmed the previous unofficial accounts of horrors, denounces "the infamous conduct of those agitators who by the sorcery "of the selfish end of states whose only "object is territorial aggrandizement have not shrunk from exciting poor ignorant peasants to "revolt." And just as in Ireland if the insurrection had been successful the country would have fallen under the worse tyranny of France, so the alternative to the selfish aggrandizement of Russia would be the grinding tyranny of Russia. It is pleasant, too, to know one is talking the humanity in the interest of Russia, and that at the same time a Russian battalion has adopted the Cross for flag, and determined to give no quarter. Bishop STRESSMAYER, in a letter supporting the Servians, says that the insurrection was premature, that "last year Prince "GORTSCHAKOFF informed Prince MILAN "that Russia was unprepared, and that not "within three years could she count on "taking Constantinople and that only "then would she be able to do something for "South to help her to plant the Greek "Cross on the dome of St. Sophia." But the Bishop says further that the Slavic "nationality, the language, the domination, of Russia, because in such a case "the rule of Turkey would be greatly "preferable, as being feebler, more "tolerant and less dangerous." It would be a nice benevolence to the Southern Slaves to pitch them from a cooling frying pan into a roaring fire. Impatience is the great complaint against Russia and of a few individuals, but the interests of the populations now living there are not the side of patience and the wisdom which is always farseeing and calm. The Turk is dying, and if dying the populations who are now under his sway are not to be swallowed up by Russian intriguers will in due time naturally take their position, and use from which they cannot be dislodged

BULGARIAN HORRORS AS A STUMP CARD.

"No hour of Pitt's life is so great as "the hour when he stood alone in Eng-"land, and refused to bow to the "king or of the nation to the war." Thus writes a liberal and a great historian of the second Pitt; and when the verdict of time shall have been passed upon the Earl of BEACONSFIELD, his refusal during the present year to court the popular breath, will be recognized as not the least among the many notes of statesman-like courage, to be found in his great career. It is impossible for any one who has studied his life and achievements not to have a great out of the business. Mr. GLADSTONE's extraordinary gifts, and for the main features of his character and it was easy to credit him with an elevation of sentiment proportioned to the eagle glance and imperial pinion, visible in all the movements of his intellect. Nor can it be with other than and feelings that such credit is seen to have been given without sufficient grounds. The JENKINS and W. A. FORSTERS, the JENKINS and the whole tribe of demagogic scum whose natural place is on the surface floating up in turbid moments of excitement, might bawl until they were hoarse. They are after their kind, and without conversion is over they sink to native oblivion. But Mr. GLADSTONE is a statesman of the first rank, and it is a painful thing to see him descend to the worst art of the demagogue. The value of the discussion of the atrocities in Bulgaria in popular meetings is well illustrated by the sentimental butcher who having denounced the atrocities in Bulgaria in the morning knocked his wife about the head with a hatchet. To denounce those horrors in that every man worth a fig, to denounce them and at the same time denounce the BEACONSFIELD Government, is to connect that Government in the popular mind with such abominations. Unless Mr. GLADSTONE were transported out of his senses by his hatred of the Earl of BEACONSFIELD and by his desire to get back to power, he knows that the BEACONSFIELDS could not have been guilty of such cruelties would have been practiced by the soldiers, regular or irregular, of the Porte. It is admitted on all hands that it was wise to send the fleet to Besika Bay. The Government, by preserving a calm attitude, are in position to interfere with more advantage than if they had, like Mr. GLADSTONE, hamstrung themselves with popular stream and gone into hysterical screaming. The atrocities in Bulgaria are terrible, inalienable, but Mr. SCOTT's cry is not strong; but it is miserable hypocrisy to talk as if such abominations were committed only by Mussulmans or only by Turkish Musulmans, for Mr. GLADSTONE, talking stuff which is unworthy, not of him only but of his high position, does such, that is to say, unworthy of the unworthiest rôle he could play, tells us of "the great anti-Christian movement of "humanity," that "they are not the "mild Mohammedans of India, nor the "chivalrous Saladins of Syria, nor the "cultivated Moors of Spain." There is scarcely one horror reported from Bulgaria which would not have a parallel in the insurrection and rebellion in Ireland. The Yeomanry and the regular soldiery committed horrors Irish insurrection and rebellion would have made good Bashi-Bazouks, and the rebels had incendiary wrongs behind them in fiendish cruelty, and as the *Saturday Review* points out, the very feeling which now exists against the Turk by Europe existed against the Catholic Irish after the massacre in the seventeenth century. A massacre occasioned a feeling not only towards the Anglo-Irish settlers—and again when they supported JAMES II. OLIVER CROMWELL was the greatest soldier and most enlightened statesman of his time—a time surely in England in advance of the state of civilization in Bulgaria—but in certain sections of the population—is responsible, as both Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH and Mr. FROUDE point out, for the long and cruel enslavement in distant and malarious lands. One part of his policy is well expressed in the aforementioned "Hall or Connaught." What was the measure of St. Bartholomew? What would have been thought of a rhetorician of the time who should have spoken of driving French Catholics out of Europe? Or who should have spoken of Englishmen as unfit to live? Who that was of age at the time does not remember the horrors even in Switzerland in 1848?

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MR. LAIRD RETIRES.

FROM the sea-beaten shores of Prince Edward Island, Mr. LAIRD, Minister of Public Works in the Mackenzie Cabinet, tramps well nigh across the Continent, to take up a gubernatorial residence in the capital of the North-West Territories. Mr. LAIRD is reported to have had his eye on this particular governorship for a number of years. For management it would not have great attractions; but it is perhaps the only available opening which Prince Edward Island could offer to a son of an offended and indignant Province. Mr. LAIRD does well to make a timely retreat. He has been quite confident his usefulness in public life; and with the prevailing sentiment of his race he has deemed it politic to put a great out of the business he falls in pieces over his ears. His remarkable figure, and his equally remarkable speech, will be missed for a time in the Commons, but the void created by his absence will be easily filled. His place in the Cabinet will not be hurtfully carried with him to Ottawa the fragility of his Island life. To him, therefore, the North-West Territories. In March, 1877, the territories will not be a living tomb; while the paraphernalia and trappings of the gubernatorial office will be given at times. When he was in the North-West, about two years ago, the Indian tribes called him the Great Commissioner. If the Act of we may hope his Indian bill of last session will make him somewhat more acceptable to them when he goes west to assume the reins of office, and when, casting his eyes over the rolling prairies of our new North-Western territory, he will naturally boom to swell with the joyful consciousness that he is practically "monarch of all he surveys."

LOOKING FOR "BETTER TIMES."

The testimony as to a marked revival of business in the United States appears to be well-founded. As we have already observed, the revival having fairly begun south of the boundary line, it becomes a very interesting enquiry when a similar improvement is to be looked for on our own side. The news of "better "times" in the States is setting people here thinking, and many eyes are eagerly looking for signs of a similar change in Canada, and, wishing that some such could be discovered.

In three important branches of Canadian production a perceptible improvement is going on. It is in the petroleum business that the most remarkable advance of all is being made. After a long period of low prices and slack sales the demand for petroleum in the American markets appears at last to have overtaken supply, and the export trade has within a few weeks passed from a state of stagnation to one of brisk activity. In London all the oil refineries—all that remain in good running order, we suppose, for it never was a profitable one in operation, and no less than eight new ones, so a recent report says, are being built. In Petrolia crude oil lately unsalable at any price, except in very limited quantities, is in demand and is eagerly paid for at a steady advance, from 10 cents per barrel, with a further rise expected. Large shipments of refined oil are being made for Europe every week, and the oil men are jubilant, thinking that their time for making money has come at last. The revival in the lumber trade is a good thing as far as it goes; but it has to be remembered that only a limited portion of one township is concerned in the production of crude oil, while the refining industry is a monopoly controlled by one city. Still, the money received from abroad for petroleum under the new condition of things will be a very large sum every month of that passes, and must by many channels be distributed throughout the country.

There is also a revival in the lumber trade, though not yet as pronounced and as remarkable as in the oil trade. Owing to the better times with our neighbours the American demand is likely steadily to improve, and the European demand is somewhat better than it was a few months ago. In this branch of production, which covers a much larger field of operation and employment than the petroleum industry does, a steady change for the better may be looked for.

The ship-building trade is another that is in the way of improvement at last. Both in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia more keels are being laid down than at for some years past, and the change will doubtless be felt also in Quebec. In three branches of Canadian production there is a decided improvement, and it appears to have turned; though in the most important of these, the lumber trade, the improvement is so slight as to be other than very slow and gradual.

It is next to be inquired in what other branches of industry, if any, are there signs of improvement to be discerned? Unfortunately there is every reason to believe that the depression in Ontario is just alluded to, the list is exhausted, and that we must look elsewhere for indications of better times. Our manufactures are in a wretched state, and the competition from abroad exists it is now being felt more heavily than ever before. The commercial marine of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to the United States is proceeding at a very rapid rate; people there are dropping mercantile connections with the rest of the Dominion, and are making it with Maine, Massachusetts, and New York instead. The direct trade of these Provinces with the West Indies is in process of extinction, their supply of sugar coming mainly from American refineries. American dry goods fill the shop windows and shelves, and American hardware is driving out both English and Canadian. The theory that a nation having high Protection cannot sell in foreign market does not seem to be of much account in practice. Continue the present Grit Government in power for a few years more, and the trade of the Lower Provinces will have become wholly Americanized, the Intercolonial railway to the contrary notwithstanding.

About Manitoba and the North-West it is too soon yet to speak. We know that we know this much—that American merchants and manufacturers are making strenuous efforts to seize the trade of those regions, and that the present system of almost Free Trade on one side with high Protection on the other gives them every opportunity.

In the Province of Ontario there is not the least sign of improvement to be seen, except in the oil trade, and in a perceptible but not as yet to a very great extent in the lumber trade. Along the line of good harvests meets with an interruption at last, and we are reminded that agriculture no less than trade has its uncertainties. The year's crop, it is now known, is a deficient one, considerably below the average. The American demand for barley is almost the only good thing the grain market; indeed, we may say that our farmers would be badly off but for the market made for this grain through protected manufactures over the border, and the numbers of people employed in them. To be sure, fifteen cents

SUMMARY OF ENGLISH NEWS:

To Tuesday, Sept. 26, Inclusive.

THE "BRUMS" ON THE RAMPAGE.

Resolutions similar to those in the Birmingham Town Council to the effect that the statements of the Prime Minister at Aylesbury are entirely out of harmony with the feelings of the country, it is desirable that the question of England's Eastern policy should be referred to the people for their decision at a general election, and that an address be therefore presented to the Queen praying her to dissolve Parliament.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN TROUBLES.

Referring to the despatch of troops to South Africa the *Times* says:—"The Colonial policy of Conservative as well as Liberal administrations has aimed steadily at the withdrawal of military aid from self-governing Colonies, and, on the whole, this policy has met with a spirit of self-reliance has been attended with good results. It is important, however, to be prepared against any movement either in Cetiwland or among Cetewayo's Zulus; for, although on both sides of Natal the regrets are great the native mind is notoriously a magazine of combustibles which the sight of Cetewayo and Burgen's disaster may set the match. It is, however, impossible for us to continue exposed to this cost and risk. If we are drawn into the Dutch States get entangled in a quarrel with their native neighbours the country must, for the protection of Dutch and English alike, send out a military force to South Africa, the expense of which is inevitable destroying all self-protection demands that we should assert some authority over the country, and at the same time difficulties arise.

It is for the interest of all the European communities in South Africa that peace should be speedily restored. The Transvaal Boers have shown themselves aggressive and aggressive war, and unless it can secure some better defence than the 'Commando' system, the demonstration of its weakness will provoke the incessant attacks of the Zulus. We may credit them or some of them tribes with an elementary perception of political forces without assuming that they will always follow the path of political wisdom. The South African Natives are, after all, barbarians of a superior quality, and with an evident capacity for training in civilized citizenship. But if they are left a deal directly with a feeble government of white men, despised as cowards and detested as oppressors, they will be apt to believe in their promises of peace, or even in their honest desire for it. Weakness by the side of barbarism is proverbially irreconcilable with order and tranquillity."

AMERICAN GENTLE FAMILIES.

Mr. P. G. Hamerton, of Worcester College, Oxford, writes to the *Standard*:—"I have noticed that you share in an opinion, not uncommon in this country, that the Indian old gentle families of the North belong to a superior order of men. This idea has arisen from an appearance of truth, owing largely to the fact that the best blood of the Middle States, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, was very generally sympathized with the South during the late war. In the Pennsylvania, the Morrises of Morris Town in New Jersey, and the Van der Kemps and Livingstons in New York, are all old gentle families, not only of ancient lineage, but famed in the annals of their country; and the list might be much extended. Until within a few years the society of Philadelphia was acknowledged to be the most exclusive in the States, but since the power of the North has been consolidated at Washington, the Philadelphians have lost social society in that city has changed. The old families of New England were nearly all "Radical" in their political sympathies, the prominent position which many of them occupied, was sensitive. This feeling in the Middle States, on the contrary, withdrawn entirely from an arena where victory was not to be hoped for, and retired to a retirement often not unlike that of the English country gentlemen."

"MATRIMONIAL" AS WITNESSES.

At the Middlesex Sessions a gentleman who was summoned on the grand jury declined to take the oath, on the ground of conscient, and he made a declaration instead of being sworn. Under a Judge's order, the 1841 were repealed by the Municipal Code of 1870; and, further, that the Quarter Sessions had assumed powers belonging to township or other local councils only. Judge CAROX decided, as Judge Dowling had done in Toronto, that force, that the first ten sections of the Dunkin Act, the validity of which philosophers and lawyers have been still in force, and that the County Council had a right to adopt them. But he went further even than this, and affirmed the supremacy of Dominion over Provincial jurisdiction in the matter. What he lays down on this point had better be given in the published English translation of his own words:

"By what right or authority, then, can a Legislature of Province enact a law affecting in any manner its interior commerce? I cannot see any other authority. The Local Legislatures possess no other or greater powers than those conferred upon them by the B.N.A. Act, and the powers make laws in relation to shop, saloon, and other licenses, for the purpose of raising a revenue for Provincial purposes (see section 92 subsection 9). Doubtless, also, they have the authority to enact laws concerning the maintenance of good order in the places where intoxicating liquors are sold, provided always that these laws do not affect trade and commerce—all legislation in this relation being restricted to the purpose of obtaining a revenue for Provincial objects.

"The permission and the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors affect undoubtedly trade and commerce, and form part thereof. The Dominion Parliament is invested with the laws which govern imports and fiscal regulations. And the Local Legislature in prohibiting or limiting the sale of intoxicating liquor affects thereby trade and commerce, since it restricts and paralyzes the rights of the Parliament of the Dominion in the imposition of duties on imports. If the Local Legislature prohibits the sale, the importation or traffic in intoxicating liquors would be affected. It appears to me to be perfectly evident that Dominion alone has power accorded to County Councils by the first ten sections of the Temperance Act of 1864 to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors, concern trade and commerce, they cannot be modified or abrogated by Provincial Legislature. Parliament of Quebec and I notice a decision in a similar case lately rendered in New Brunswick by Mr. Justice Strahan."

The New Brunswick decision referred to was given in February, 1876, and we remember seeing it in the local columns shortly after it was made public. It was in effect this—that neither the County Council nor the Municipal Council of Fredericton can refuse to issue liquor licences, because such refusal would be a restriction of trade, which is the exclusive province of the Dominion Parliament. Such a decision, if carried out, would be a very large sum every month of that passes, and must by many channels be distributed throughout the country.

"Take for instance the County of Missisquoi our country commerce may say:

"During the year 1875, 261 miles were added to the railway system of the Dominion, ways, bringing the whole extent now completed up to 6,497 miles, of which 768 are in Quebec, 1,270 in Ontario, 1,311 with a single line; 5,676 are on the 5 6 gauge, and 821 on the narrow gauge. The extension of the South-Indian railway between Madras and Tuticorin was opened in December last by his Excellency the Prince of Wales. Fair progress had been made on the works of the Punjab Valley and Sind Pishin Northern railways. The line towards Darjeeling has also been getting on fairly. Sanction has been given to the construction of a railway communication between Bombay and the North-West Provinces, viz. Ajmere, to which place the railway has lately been constructed, both from Agra and Delhi. In other parts of the country also railway extensions have been given to take in hand railways which, in addition to the lines already executed, will add 2,000 miles to the railway system, and 9,413 miles. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales during his visit to India travelled over 4,829 miles of railway, and expressed his satisfaction with the arrangements which had been made for his comfort and convenience. During the year 288,186 tons of railway materials were disembarked in India, of which this country, of which 124,192 consisted of fuel. Since the commencement of public works expenditure up to 1875, 1,181,771 tons of goods, of the value of £34,060,460, have been shipped in 8,493 ships. The progress of the Indian railways for the year ended last number 62,005, of whom only 390 were native passengers in India. The proportion of stock held in India is 1.56 per cent. of the whole. The total amount expended on the railways to the 31st March last was £105,790,929, of which £93,790,744 consisted of guaranteed capital, and £12,076,185 of funds raised direct by the Government. Last year £3,760,940 was expended on State lines and £1,279 on guaranteed lines. The revenue derived last year from the open lines was £5,647,863. The gross receipts were £7,415,178, and the expenditure £2,764,311. The passengers earned £2,459,043, goods, £4,246,300, and miscellaneous receipts amounted to £249,527. The sum advanced to the different companies for guaranteed interest amounted to £4,050,345, which was £1,073,832 more than they yielded. The number of passengers carried was 26,779,167, being 2,498,979 more than the previous year. The proportion per cent. of the first-class passengers dropped to 2.30, and the lower classes 96.92. The number of tons carried was 4,388,649. The proportion per mile was 1,000 of goods and 1,000 of passengers 93.67, and from passengers 34.33. The number of miles travelled by trains was 17,990,312, compared with 16,473,333 in 1874. The expenses of maintaining and working the railways amounted to £2,764,311, and the commerce, £3,841,222 of the previous year. The outlay is in several cases augmented by the heavy rate of freight in consequence of the damage done by floods. But one great source of embarrassment is the large amount of tare, arising partly from the construction of the vehicles and partly from the unequal stream of traffic up and down the lines."

The report of Mr. Juland Danvers, the Government Director of Indian Railways, has just been issued, and contains the following interesting information:—

"During the year 1875, 261 miles were added to the railway system of the Dominion, viz. 768 in Quebec, 1,270 in Ontario, 1,311 with a single line; 5,676 are on the 5 6 gauge, and 821 on the narrow gauge. The extension of the South-Indian railway between Madras and Tuticorin was opened in December last by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Fair progress had been made on the works of the Punjab Valley and Sind Pishin Northern railways. The line towards Darjeeling has also been getting on fairly. Sanction has been given to the construction of a railway communication between Bombay and the North-West Provinces, viz. Ajmere, to which place the railway has lately been constructed, both from Agra and Delhi. In other parts of the country also railway extensions have been given to take in hand railways which, in addition to the lines already executed, will add 2,000 miles to the railway system, and 9,413 miles. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales during his visit to India travelled over 4,829 miles of railway, and expressed his satisfaction with the arrangements which had been made for his comfort and convenience. During the year 288,186 tons of railway materials were disembarked in India, of which this country, of which 124,192 consisted of fuel. Since the commencement of public works expenditure up to 1875, 1,181,771 tons of goods, of the value of £34,060,460, have been shipped in 8,493 ships. The progress of the Indian railways for the year ended last number 62,005, of whom only 390 were native passengers in India. The proportion of stock held in India is 1.56 per cent. of the whole. The total amount expended on the railways to the 31st March last was £105,790,929, of which £93,790,744 consisted of guaranteed capital, and £12,076,185 of funds raised direct by the Government. Last year £3,760,940 was expended on State lines and £1,279 on guaranteed lines. The revenue derived last year from the open lines was £5,647,863. The gross receipts were £7,415,178, and the expenditure £2,764,311. The passengers earned £2,459,043, goods, £4,246,300, and miscellaneous receipts amounted to £249,527. The sum advanced to the different companies for guaranteed interest amounted to £4,050,345, which was £1,073,832 more than they yielded. The number of passengers carried was 26,779,167, being 2,498,979 more than the previous year. The proportion per cent. of the first-class passengers dropped to 2.30, and the lower classes 96.92. The number of tons carried was 4,388,649. The proportion per mile was 1,000 of goods and 1,000 of passengers 93.67, and from passengers 34.33. The number of miles travelled by trains was 17,990,312, compared with 16,473,333 in 1874. The expenses of maintaining and working the railways amounted to £2,764,311, and the commerce, £3,841,222 of the previous year. The outlay is in several cases augmented by the heavy rate of freight in consequence of the damage done by floods. But one great source of embarrassment is the large amount of tare, arising partly from the construction of the vehicles and partly from the unequal stream of traffic up and down the lines."

THE CONTROL OF HABITUAL DRUNKARDS.

The Committee appointed last Session for the Control of Habitual Drunkards have just held their inaugural meeting at the Charing Cross Hotel. Mr. Chairman Hopwood, in the course of his address, the chairman said that the evidence taken by the Committee on subject had been amply proved, for, besides the evidence laid before the Select Committee in 1873, had the testimony of the whole medical profession as to the necessity that existed for additional Parliamentary interference. Such restraint as he had advocated was absolutely necessary, and the question alone why it should not be carried out. To attain this end it was better that a society specially devoted to such a purpose should be formed. The course of action they proposed was the formation of a society which would have for its object the promotion of legislation in the direction indicated in the petition of the British Medical and Social Science Associations. Dr. Hardwicke, coroner for Central Middlesex, moved "That this meeting, being convinced of the necessity for further legislation in regard to habitual drunkards, hereby constitutes itself into a society for the attainment of this object." Mr. Harry Thubb seconded the resolution, which was carried. The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, is to be asked to accept the post of president, and an executive committee was appointed.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

It is of vital importance for England, says the *Telegraph*, that there should be an uninterrupted line of railway from Quebec and Montreal to the Atlantic to Pacific. A railway from Quebec to the Atlantic, with a fleet of steamers from Vancouver's Island, would convey the traveller more expeditiously to Japan and China on the one hand, and to Australia and New Zealand on the other, than is possible by any present route. The line should be transferred to the United States, we should hopelessly forfeit the immense political and strategic advantage of our possessing an outlet in the Pacific.

DR. SLADE AND SPIRITUALISM.

Dr. Slade defends himself in the *Times* against the charge of imposture made by Dr. Lankester. He says:—"There are the tables—On our sitting down, to the table I hold the slate against the under side of the table, when, after some delay, the sound of the pencil writing on the slate was heard. On withdrawing the slate there was found to be on it what might have been labelled in same very poorly written upon the upper surface. I then wiped this off the slate, and, on my hand, I put a piece of chalk, perhaps they will write plainer. Again I hold the slate against the table, and Professor Lankester, 'perhaps if you will take hold of the slate with me they may be more apt to write.' We accordingly put our hands together, and I hold the slate with my hand from where it was joined with my hand and those of my friend. We waited, and instead of holding the slate with me, seized it, as he describes. Instead of there being a message written on it, there were only two, or at the most three, words on the upper surface of the slate. Now, I ask, if I had prepared the slate beforehand, or if he was watched me, he must have heard me rub the slate, and have seen the chalk in my hand. They are writing now. This was said while he was in the act of removing his hand from the slate, and I ask, if I had prepared the slate, for I heard the sound of the pencil, and he saw the slate, and knew that I was asking him to hold the slate with me. Consequently, when he seized the slate, only two or three words were found upon it. Had he told me he supposed I was doing the writing, I think there would have been some reason in his suspicion, but at that point. That I do the writing with a piece of pencil and that I have the slate in my hand, however, I always keep my hands so closely out as to render that impossible, which alone is a fair ground for the Professor to examine them can testify. Therefore, all that he says on my part, I deny. I may add, at the sitting with Professor Lankester, nor at any other sitting given by me during the Professor's visit, I have had before the public a medium."

THE SCOTCH CRAB AND LOBSTER FISHERIES.

The Scotch fishermen are doing a good thing in to be held during the month of October into the state of the crab and lobster fisheries of the North-West Coast. It is conducted by Messrs. Buckland and Walpole, Inspectors of Salmon Fisheries for England and Wales, and by Mr. Stewart, Commissioner of Scotch Salmon Fisheries. Persons can be little aware how the fish are so imperatively called for, as these fishermen have very much decreased in value of late years. It is the public opinion that, by the annual close-time, and the destruction of a vast number of small crab and lobster, the valuable oyster fisheries on the Scotch coasts have also been entirely cleared off, and it is generally supposed that the crabs have included an inquiry into the Scotch oyster fisheries within the scope of the present commission. The crab and lobster fisheries in many of the remote districts of Scotland are of considerable value. In the June, 1875, upwards of 40,000 lobsters were sent from the Orkneys alone, one dealer having received 24,000. The Scotch fishermen are in the habit of selling their lobsters at from £2 to £3 in London, so that the Orkneys gained £6,000 in these two months from the fishery alone. The Shetlands, the Hebrides, rocky coasts of Aberdeenshire, many of the lochs, and the Firths of Forth, Tay, and Clyde, western coasts, the islands of Lewis and Harris, and several of the other Hebridean islands are the principal seats of the Scotch fishery, the fishing for those is carried on in open boats, and the fishermen have to be placed under some restraint and regulation.

HEALTHY HOUSES.

Mr. P. La Neve Foster, Secretary of the Society of Arts, writes:—"In the general interest of public health, I venture to ask the Society of Arts appeal to the inhabitants of the metropolitan districts, and to the public generally, to the overwhelming evidence of cases showing the various evils which have resulted from the imperfect sanitary condition of the drainage of houses. At the conference on the health and sewage of towns, held by the Society of Arts, there were numerous representatives from various towns and boroughs in the United Kingdom, the objects of greater attention to the house drainage, as distinct from the sewerage, was especially urged by the Marquis of Ripon, who, he pointed out that however good the general sewerage might be, unless the drainage proper, the sewers were carefully planned, flushed, and the drainage proper, unless the drainage proper order, there was imminent danger of typhoid and other diseases from the improper condition of the house. At the conference, which lasted several days, the representatives from the various metropolitan districts, and from other towns, were unanimous in urging such an inquiry, and in the discussion which followed it was