

cart trail, crossing muskegs, wading creeks, etc., the scattered members of the party were again together, and agreed upon a short report of progress to be sent from that remote point to Ottawa by telegraph. So the Rev. Mr. Gordon "started eastward at once, carrying it with him to the nearest telegraph office, so anxious were they all to begin their homeward journey." In Pine River Pass during September and October the rain changed to snow, and alternating with rain or sleet, it fell on thirteen out of twenty-two days. "Had we been a week later," says Mr. Cambie, "the mules would all have perished. . . . They were so leg-weary and weakened by want of food that I determined to lighten them; one died on the road. . . . During the season we had moved camp one hundred and one times."

Mr. Horatzky, who had to explore the territory about the Omenica River, B.C., speaks of the Indians at Babine river as "a wild and treacherous set, inclined to throw obstacles in our way. . . . To the south-west a dreary, dreary wilderness of mountain peaks and utter desolation met the eye. . . . Dense fog enveloped the mountains and wet us to the skin as we trudged through water and snow" on the ice-bound shores of the lake. "The Indians say that in winter storms rage here fearfully, and the winds blow with such violence that stones are actually blown about."

We discussed breakfast in a perfect cloud of mosquitoes. . . . We reached Observation Camp eight days later, the entire party completely knocked up with fatigue and over-exertion." People talk of farming as being "a hard life!" It is Paradise compared with what explorers and engineers have to endure. What with Indians and Chinamen, the greatest hardships of the building of the railway and telegraph line were not those of outdoor exposure alone.

DEFAUDING THE GOVERNMENT.

We have heard within a few days of the capture in the Eastern States of a quantity of "green goods," as counterfeit American greenbacks are called. And what is of more importance, in the same box with these was a list of hundreds of addresses and names of persons, many of them considered respectable, who had been in communication with "green goods" makers or buying from them. The exposure of these people, if the U. S. Government chose to make it, would be a startling one. One hundred and ten persons in the State of Connecticut are said to be implicated.

Some one sent us not long ago a specimen of the way these scoundrels of counterfeiters "rope in" their victims. A type-written circular is sent out, describing the scheme in euphemistic terms. With this is what looks like a clipping from a Washington paper, thus:—

"No precaution whatever is taken to prevent the duplication of bonds or treasury notes should the plates fall into dishonest hands, and the Registrar of the Treasury says the Government has paid millions of dollars in the redemption of bonds and notes which have been taken from true plates. . . . Millions of greenbacks have been issued without the knowledge of the Government. . . . Some parties must be in collusion with the engraving department at Washington," etc.

Then the writer of the circular goes on to call attention to the clipping, which, he says, "explains itself and gives all the information that could be desired." He puffs his dishonest wares cheerily enough, as being "a very superior article of the kind," which he defies the best bank clerk to tell from the genuine, and he offers \$3,000 worth for \$500. He gives

one address under the name of Clay, at a certain point in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and another under the name of Fargo, at a New York address far up town. He directs the reader of his poisonous literature to telegraph him (and be sure to pay the telegram): "will buy real estate at once;" the expression "real estate" meaning counterfeit money. The letter of these human wolves concludes after this fashion: "I hope you will take no offence at the above, if you do not like the business; and I will trust in your honor not to do me any harm. Please destroy this letter."

LA BANQUE NATIONALE.

La Banque Nationale has taken the step of getting rid during the year of some timber limits which it had held for a good while. In 1891 the whole reserve of the bank was written off to cover losses by timber limits. And its report for 1892 says: "All the losses caused by the realization of these assets have been wiped out." The president's speech tells us that "after the reduction of the capital in 1888, the unproductive portion, represented by the timber limits and the real estate, apart from the buildings occupied by the bank, amounted to \$322,000. This sum is now reduced to \$13,145." A further advantage is mentioned in the sale of the property of the bank in Ottawa at a fair price, which enables a reduction of expenses to be effected by occupying rented premises in that city. Now, happily, it is possible for the management to begin building up a reserve, for the net earnings of 1892, which were \$92,893, added to \$44,257, brought over at credit of Profit and Loss from 1892, enables them, after paying six per cent. dividend, to put aside \$30,000 at the credit of Reserve account. The earnings of the year show an improvement from the \$72,000 or \$75,000 of previous years to \$92,892, equal to 7.74 per cent. on the paid capital. A number of new agencies have been opened, from which good returns are expected. There is a marked increase in deposits and circulation, but the proportion of readily available assets, which at the close of 1891 was 26.61, comes down, at the close of 1892, to 24.44, though this is a great improvement upon the 18.46 per cent. shown by this bank in 1890

BOOKS AND PAPERS RECEIVED.

THE CANADIAN ENGINEER.—Of the many periodicals which Toronto boasts, and among the number of new trade journals which from time to time appear, we know of none that has made such a good showing for a first number as the one named above, in its initial issue, for the current month. The aim of *The Canadian Engineer* is, according to its salutatory paragraph, "to be a means of advancing Canada in the path of mechanical and industrial progress." And its reason for existence is summed up in the sound contention that valuable as are the instructive engineering journals published in England and the United States, "they lack the element of Canadian news and of information bearing upon the special needs and circumstances of the country." That the new journal intends to give attention to Canadian affairs is apparent from the topics touched upon. There are leading articles on Mica and its industrial uses; bog ores and the Radnor furnaces; comparative tables of the mineral product of Nova Scotia, and the metal imports of Canada; a list of Dominion Government contracts for the next twelve months; technical articles on oil-saving, on pulley tightening, etc.; a letter

upon "The Silver Mining of the Future," having especial reference to Kootenay; a page or two each of mining matters, and railway and marine news. And the editor seems to have ranged the whole Dominion over for his long and condensed array of Industrial Notes. Then there are illustrated descriptions of such industries as steam generation, electrical works, elevators, building materials, fuel saving, new inventions. Nor is the journal without decided economic views of its own, as various editorial items show. The editor gives a piece of his mind, not only to the Toronto corporation and the Quebec Mining Association, but to the Dominion Government as well. A very fair indication of the respectability of the paper is to be found in the character and number of the advertisers. There is a good field for such a journal, and if well conducted it will not lack for support. *The Canadian Engineer* is a 32-page monthly; in typographical appearance it is extremely neat and legible. It is published at a dollar a year by *The Canadian Engineer Company*, 62 Church Street, Toronto, and Fraser Building, Montreal.

ANNUAL REPORTS of the Harbor Commissioners of Montreal for 1892. Henry Bulmer, chairman; Alex. Robertson, secretary. With diagrams and tables relating to harbor excavation and other work.

STATE AND CITY SUPPLEMENT of the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*.—A 200-page record of the debts and resources of the States, cities and towns of New England, the South, the Middle States and the West. To the end of April, 1893. W. D. Dana & Co., William street, New York.

GODEY'S; America's First Magazine.—This number (June) contains articles by Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher, Chas. Barnard, H. L. Aldrich; poems by Clinton Scollard, Joel Benton, Frank D. Sherman; book reviews by John Habberton, and it also has "a complete novel," named "Judy Robinson, milliner." Godey's fashions continue to be a feature. The magazine is a good quarter's worth.

ANNALS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY of Political and Social Science. Vol. III., No. 6. May, 1893.—Noteworthy papers are those by Gamaliel Bradford on "Our Failures in Municipal Government," and that by Isaac Sharpless on the "Relation of the State to Education in England and America."

INSURANCE NOTES.

Mr. Digby Johnson, who has accepted the position of general manager of the Lancashire Insurance Company, has for some years past acted as sub-manager of the Royal Insurance Company. Mr. Johnson commenced his insurance career in 1862, when he entered the service of the Royal, at 27 Lombard st. In 1872 he began service in the head office of the Guardian, but quitted it after a few months, to become the assistant-secretary of the Royal at Liverpool.

The clause of the New England Insurance Exchange which relates to gasoline stoves is as follows: "Permission is hereby given for the use of one gasoline stove, it being warranted by the assured that the reservoir thereof shall be filled by daylight only, when the stove is not in use; that no fire, blaze, or artificial light shall be permitted in the room where and when such reservoir is being filled; that no gasoline, except such as is contained in said reservoir, shall be kept within the building, and that not more than five gallons, which shall be contained in an entirely closed metallic can, free from leak, shall be kept on the premises connected with said building."