up. In order to make the company co-operative, 6,000 shares of the capital stock have been offered to the mercantile community, ten shares being the maximum allotted to any one person or firm. Over 300 merchants have thus become interested in the new enterprise, a guarantee of effective service. The company will operate at present over the Grand Trunk system, from Portland to Chicago. Application has been made to the officials of the railway for the privileges the law affords, and operations will commence May 1st, if no obstacle is put in the way by the railway company. It is feared, however, that considerable difficulty will be experienced in arriving at the necessary arrangements, and a legal battle may be the only outcome of present negotiations. The Canadian Express Company are now using the Grand Trunk lines, not under special contract, but under the general law. A similar privilege is all that the new company demand, but the extra accommodation required is not at the immediate service of the Grand Trunk. Should a *mandamus* be applied for in case of the refusal of the railway to accept goods for transportation on the 1st May, a repetition of the Vickers *v.* C. P. R. fight may be looked for. Although the Vickers' Express Company came off victor ous in the legal arena, both in the first court, and later in appeal, when all four judges concurred in judgment, compelling equal facilities to all express companies, a judicious manipulation of the rates enabled the C. P. R. to circumvent the court and drive the Vickers' company from the road. A repetition of these tactics may result, if an amicable settlement is not arrived at before the 1st May. The officers of the company are as follows: John M. Kirk, president; Angus Mackay, treasurer; Philip E. Bishop, secretary-auditor; and Samuel Chadwick, general manager, of Montreal; Geo. A. Grover, general superintendent, and S. M. Chadwick, agent, Toronto.

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OFFICIAL BONDS.—A good deal of adverse criticism has been bestowed upon the postmaster at New York, for the recent promulgation of an order, that all clerks under his jurisdiction, who are under bonds for sums not exceeding $10,000, shall be bonded by a surety company, instead of giving the security of personal bondsmen. At first thought the order would seem to be an arbitrary one, and as working injustice to many clerks who can illy afford the expense involved in the new arrangement, and who have personal