

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. R. A., Peterboro.—We do not meddle with political matters except so far as they affect finance and commerce. Your Equal Rights Association has not yet done that. So far as we can see the astute Old Man is again going to be right when he said the movement would end in a fizzle,—that there would be a great blare of trumpets, great marchings and countermarchings, then the drop curtain.

G. L.—We decline at this stage to speculate on the arrest, its merits, or its probable consequences. Wait for the trial should the remands end in a committal which is by no means certain. Of course curiosity is unabated as to the real causes which led to such summary and humiliating dismissals in the highest official quarters. Equally of course no one was imposed upon by the diaphanous reasons assigned. Nor be surprised, if the matter is no more heard of at all.

C. E. S.—You can use your private wealth and public influence to better purpose by aiding the proposed new Cable Co. between England and Canada direct. At present all the press despatches are made up by Fenian agents in London for Fenian readers in the United States, to be copied into suborned Fenian sheets in the Dominion. Of course the majority of Canadian papers copy in all innocence, but the despatches carry their poison with them none the less. Let us hereafter have our own news direct, from pure sources, by the new Cable Co.

F. P.—Enquire of the new Citizens' Committee at Toronto. It and the Board of Trade, both backed by undivided public opinion, look as if they were likely to make a winning fight against the all-greedy C. P. R. on the Esplanade, and allied questions. The railway is ready as usual to be lavish enough of money to carry its ends. Its opponent, however, has political capital in the shape of seats in the House of Commons, and it represents the financial and commercial strength of the Queen City, besides.

E. G. P., Hamilton.—It is not fair in you to say that the Royal Mint is, in your slang, "shoving the queer." It seems true that, owing to the depreciation of silver, the English shilling to-day contains little more than sixpennyworth of that metal. But this is not a debasing of the currency in your sense. It is, however, playing fast and loose with integrity and good faith. The national coinage in all communities of repute, has hitherto contained, with almost absolute accuracy, the full amount of the precious metal it is permitted to represent. In this instance the public is defrauded to the extent of close upon 50 per cent.

SIMPLY A LIE.

SUCH is the Winnipeg expression qualifying a despatch from Grafton, Dak., that settlers in the Canadian North-West had been reduced to eating field mice and gophers. The despatch referred to was sent broad-cast over this continent with the intention of injuring the country as much as possible and diverting from it those who proposed to make it their future home, instead of seeking the cyclone-stricken, unproductive and disappointing districts of the Western States and territories. The expression is a strong one, one that is not generally indulged in, but from all accounts

it is not too strong and not out of place in the present instance. We have noticed of late a strong disposition in some of our pessimist Canadian newspapers, a disposition to do all the injury they can to the country, by misrepresenting everything and by distorting the smallest mole-hills into the largest mountains. That land-grabbers and speculators should descend to meanness such as this would not surprise us, with the experience which history furnishes, but that editors claiming to pass as respectable members of society should by such tactics belittle the profession in which they have enrolled themselves surprises us beyond conception. It may be very desirable to break down the Government that has brought the country to its present condition of importance but let it be accomplished in a manly, straightforward manner. "The end will not justify the means," and no loyal man would say so. The injury to the country is greater than any possible benefit to party and we are of those who place country before party. Plain-speaking, under such circumstances, is necessary, and though polite ears may be shocked at the expression, the villainy which called it forth, is, in our opinion, far more shocking. If those who give currency to such ungrounded aspersions on the country's reputation would reflect that such a statement is "simply a lie," we think that currency to it would be avoided, that the man who writes it would blush at the thought of being branded as a liar, and that the influence of truth and its necessity would paralyze his efforts to promote party interests by such disreputable means.

THE STOCK MARKET.

THE Stock Market has exhibited but one feature throughout the week and that was it continued dulness. Bank stocks were inactive, the only one exhibiting any vitality being Commerce. In the miscellaneous list Telegraph was the most active and there was a fair demand for it, which improved as the week wore on. Canadian Pacific was in better request and Cottons seemed to be booming up in sympathy with other stocks. The fluctuations of the week were very slight, values being well maintained and closing at the highest point. The volume of the week's business was larger than that of its predecessor but the excess was in miscellaneous, the transactions in bank stocks being only 389 shares, while those in miscellaneous were 3,026, making 3,415 in all. Of Montreal Bank only 4 shares changed hands, 1 at 232½ and 3 at 231½. Merchants realized 147½ for 25 shares. Commerce opened at 124½ and advanced to 125, but dropped to 124½, after which it again advanced and reached 125½ at which yesterday's sales were made. Peoples was 1½ to 1 per cent. higher, realizing 102½ and 102. Townships moved up 1 per cent. to 131, and Federal changed hands at 50. Telegraph opened at 95½ and under a good demand moved up to 95½, with sales

covering 1,750 shares, of which 1,625 were at 95½. The highest figure was obtained yesterday. Richelieu moved up from 61½ to 62½. Gas of which only 25 shares changed hands registered 205½. Canadian Pacific opened at 55½ and touched 56, but dropped to 55½ and then moved up to 56½, at which figure yesterday's transactions were made. North-West Lands figured at 84, Royal Electric Light at 85 per cent., Hochelaga Cotton at 150, Canada Cotton at 48½ and Merchants at 85, while Montreal jumped from 90 to 98 with holders at 100. Yesterday was the most active day of the week, 1,626 shares out of the total 3,415 for the week being sold during the day.

The highest and lowest figures for stocks in which transactions were had, together with the week's sales were as follows:—

	High.	Low.	Trans.
Bank of Montreal	232½	231½	4
Merchants' Bank	147½	147½	25
Can. Bank of Commerce	125½	124½	250
Bank British North America	162	162	17
Banque du Peuple	102½	102	65
Federal Bank	50	50	11
Eastern Townships	131	130	17
Montreal Telegraph Co.	95½	95½	1750
Rich. & Ont. Nav. Co.	62½	61½	178
Gas Co.	205½	205½	103
Canada Cotton Co.	48½	48½	25
Hochelaga Cotton Co.	150	150	35
Montreal Cotton Co.	48	90	95
Merchants Manufacturing	85	85	20
Can. N. W. Land Co.	84	84	150
Can. Pacific Railway	56½	55½	535
Royal Electric Light	85	85	150
Bell Tel. Bonds	101	101	\$300
Intercolonial Coal Co. Bonds	99	99	\$300

The following were yesterday's closing quotations:—

BANKS.	BID.	ASKED.
Bank of Montreal	232	234
Ontario	137½	139
Banque du Peuple	101	103
Molson	170	180
Toronto	222	223½
Jacques Cartier	89½	95
Merchants	147	150
Quebec	123	125
Nationale	86½	90
Eastern Townships	130	140
Union	92½	95
Commerce	125	125½
Federal	50	50
Imperial	138	140
Dominion	225	225
Hochelaga	93	96
Ville Marie	100	120

MISCELLANEOUS.

Intercolonial Coal	50	50
Montreal Telegraph	95½	95½
Richelieu & Ontario	62½	63
Street Railway	205	215
Gas	205½	205½
Canada Cotton	48	50
Montreal Cotton	96½	100
Dundas Cotton	37	40
Hochelaga Cotton	149	150
Stormont Cotton	75	75
Merchants Manufacturing	89	90
Royal Canadian Insurance	90	100
Montreal Loan & Mortgage	115	115
Montreal Building Association	27	59
Canada Shipping	60	70
Canada Paper Co.	125	140
Guarantee Co.	95	95
Canada N. W. Land	84	84
Bell Telephone	99	95
New England Paper Co.	100	100
Canadian Pacific Railway	56	56½
St. P. Min. & Man.	118	118
Londonderry Iron	25	35
Do. preferred	60	80
Montreal I. & C. stock	101½	103

BONDS.

Canada Cotton	100	101
Montreal Cotton	100	108
Merchants Manufacturing	100	107
Champ. & St. L.	100	100
Can. Central bonds	100	100
Canadian Pacific L. Grants	100	110
Inter. Coal Bonds	100	100

The following were the sales at this morning's board up to 12:30:—

1 Montreal	232½
6 Montreal	233
40 Montreal	233½
6 Ontario	138
145 Commerce	125½
25 Telegraph	95½
1 Telegraph	95
25 Richelieu	62½
450 Gas	205½
125 Canadian Pacific ex-div	53
40 Canada Cotton	50
29 Dundas Cotton	89
50 Royal Electric Light	85

THE Maritime Provinces have now a fire insurance company of their own with a Dominion charter, the first of its kind. The Eastern Assurance Company has been organized with its headquarters at Halifax. The capital stock is \$1,000,000. A board of directors has been appointed and the company has commenced business.