

FIGURES.

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COMMERCIAL LAW.

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IN RE McCALLUM AND BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIANT.
 A pupil at a public school having injured the top of a school desk by cutting it, he was ordered by the schoolmaster to replace the top and was suspended until he should do so. The suspension was on the 20th February, 1888, and on the 7th May, 1889, notice of motion was served by the father of the pupil for a mandamus to compel the trustees to re-admit the son. In the meantime appeals had been made by the father to three of the trustees, to the Public School Board, and to the annual school meeting, on all of which applications the action of the teacher was sustained. During this time the pupil attended another public school. The Court of Queen's Bench decided that the discretion exercised by the master and trustees should not be interfered with, especially after the delay and change in the position of affairs.

THE UNUSUAL SUGAR SITUATION.

People are asking one another: "Who has made the profit on sugar during this extraordinary rise?" And it does not seem as if any one person or firm had been conspicuous gainers. For one thing, the rise has not been abrupt, or even rapid. There was a gradual rise during each of the past four months, sometimes of 1-16 cent, not more perhaps in any one week than 1/2 cent. On the 1st January this year Porto Rico brown sugar was quoted at 5 1/2 to 5 3/4 cents per pound; on first March it was selling at the same figure; to-day it is worth at least 7 1/2 to 7 3/4 cents. Canadian refined sugars show an advance, between 1st March and 1st July of 2 to 2 1/2 cents per pound. The reasons are short crops in the West Indies, and a deficiency in the beet crop in Europe.

One Canadian firm, Ross & Co., of Quebec and Montreal, had 12,000 tons of sugar from Manilla afloat early in the year for New York, Montreal, and London, on one cargo of which, say 2,400 tons, they are said to have realized a clear profit of 2 1/2 cents per pound, or forty-eight thousand dollars.

The advance in sugars has been in some measure influenced by a preliminary estimate of the next beet crop by M. Licht, who is of the opinion that having regard to the increased sowings, and on the basis of last year's yield, the promised out-turn will not exceed 2,940,000 tons, which is 75,000 tons less than indicated a few weeks ago. It is, however, much larger than the present crop, which is put down at about 2,725,000 tons. The position in all consuming as well as producing markets continues to reflect a general scarcity of supplies and an active competition among buyers.

ASSESSMENT SOCIETY COLLAPSED.

A society with a very engaging name, almost enough of itself to have attracted people to insure in it, but which was unfortunately not based upon a proper system, has now collapsed. The Home Provident Safety Fund, of New York, an assessment company organized in 1880, has been recently examined by the insurance department of that State, and is found to be in a state of insolvency. The management was chiefly in the control of Mr. N. D. Morgan, of the North America Life, which submitted to a similar fate some years ago. The following statement of the Home Provident's affairs appears in the *New York Insurance Journal*: It appears the safety and pension funds of the Home should have

amounted to \$31,145.56; but that the amount deposited under this heading was only \$11,040.24, while other deposits with the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, including a promissory note of N. D. Morgan for \$4,000, amount to \$4,293.99, making a total of \$16,016.48, leaving a deficiency of \$15,129.08, which is thus accounted for:

Paid Kentucky Mutual Security Fund on account proposed re-insurance contract.....	\$ 426 62
Various notes of no estimated value	665 45
Used in payment of running expenses, in addition to expense fund	14,037 01
	\$15,129 08
Amount on hand.....	16,016 48
	\$31,145 56

There are overdue and disputed claims of \$26,293.99 unpaid. The report says: "The association is certainly in a very bad condition. It was not, at any time very prosperous, and its trust funds have been constantly used in the payment of expenses. The trustees and officers have given very little attention to its affairs, leaving the management almost entirely with Mr. N. D. Morgan, the managing director, for the reason, perhaps, that his former connection with life insurance affairs gave him the necessary experience and knowledge, which they did not possess."

By a resolution passed on the 16th of March last the company had agreed to re-insure its risks with the Kentucky Mutual Security Fund Company of Somerville, Kentucky, to which it is shown that \$426.62 had been paid on account; but the passage of Superintendent Maxwell's bill into a law arrested the consummation of this resolve. Then it was a case of *saive qui peut*, and each of the members was recommended to "avail himself of the opportunity" to leave the sinking ship and join the Kentucky company.

THE OLD NORTH-WEST COMPANY.

Under the title of *Les Bourgeois de la Compagnie du Nord-Ouest*, Hon. L. R. Masson, late Governor of Quebec, has published (A. Cote et cie, Quebec) a description of travels, letters, and reports which had not previously seen the light. There is a historical sketch by the author, extending to 154 pages. The documents which follow occupy 413 pages. Some are in French, but the majority are in English, and are always in the language in which they were written. Among them are "Reminiscences by the Honorable Roderic Mackenzie, being chiefly a synopsis of letters from Sir Alexander Mackenzie," the first white man to cross the Rocky Mountains in the north, and to descend, to the Arctic Ocean, the river which perpetuates his name. They cover the period from 1786 to 1827. The next series of letters are from Mr. Willard Ferdinand Wentzel, a Norwegian by birth, who entered the service of the North-West Company in the year 1799. This series comes down to the year 1818. Next comes Mr. Simon Frazer's *Journal of a Voyage from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast, 1808*. This journey was made two years after David Thompson, in the service of the North-West Company, had crossed the mountains by way of the North Saskatchewan. This is the first account that has been published of a similar adventure by the North-West Company, with the exception of that of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. The experiences described and the information obtained are exceedingly interesting, and will be found to have a special attraction for all who desire to obtain a knowledge of the history of

the old North-West Company, which this book, for the first time, makes possible. Next in order is the *Journal du Fort Komanaitiquoya a la riviere Montreal: 1804-5*, Par M. Francois Victor Malhoit. Then follows *Some Account of the Red River*, by Mr. John McDonnell (about 1797), with extracts from his journal. *The Missouri Journal, 1804-1805*, of Mr. Francis Antoine Laroque is the penultimate of these various accounts; the list closing with an account of the Missouri Indians, by Mr. Charles Mackenzie. The book closes with a *Liste (incomplete) des "bourgeois," commis, engages, et voyageurs de la compagnie du Nord-Ouest, apres la fusion de 1804*.

This volume is a valuable contribution to the history of Canadian enterprise and commerce. It will be followed by at least another, some of the probable contents of which are indicated.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The little volume of poems by Nicholas Flood Davin, M.P.,* is described by its author as the first purely literary work printed and published in the North-West Territories. The title of the principal poem has been changed since it was first issued as "Eos; a Prairie Dream." In his preface the author says, "Why then do I publish these things? I am a North-West man, and I think the cultivation of taste and imagination as important as the raising of grain. The raising of grain will bring us wealth, but intellectual progress, on which again the highest development of our material resources depends, will be slow unless all the faculties of the mind are stimulated. The greatest merchants the world ever saw were highly cultivated men, with not merely a keen eye to the profit of a commercial transaction, but a quick and true sense of literary excellence; and I rejoice to know that we have on many of our farms educated men, and that the Saskatchewan can boast of a successful merchant [Charles Mair, the author of *Tecumseh*, doubtless] who has won a high place in the ranks of Canadian poets."

*Eos; an Epic of the Dawn, and other Poems, by N. F. Davin. Published by the Leader Company, limited, Regina, N. W. T.; Toronto: Williamson & Co.

The thirtieth yearly announcement of the British American Business College comes to us in the shape of an attractive 50-page pamphlet, which reflects great credit on the compilers, and on the printing house of Trout & Todd. Each page is lithographed in two colors, preparatory to the letter-press printing, which is distinct and pleasant to the eye. Good taste is shown in the arrangement of contents and the selection of type, while the preface as well as the specimen pages from the educational works issued by the College are beautiful reproductions of very neat penmanship. We are glad to observe on the first page the following sensible words: "We have no patent process for converting raw recruits from the farm or workshop into competent clerks or bookkeepers in a month or two. We know of but one road to success, and that is honest, earnest toil. Our course of training is of the most thorough and practical character."

—"I am not a business man, you see, and I should be glad if you would enlighten me as to what is meant by double entry?" "By double entry we mean two sets of books, one of which may be produced in court, if required, but not the other."—*Der Ulk*.