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THE TRADE REVIEW
 AND
 Intercolonial Journal of Commerce.
 MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1869.

We have furnished accounts to nearly all subscribers to the TRADE REVIEW, for arrears to Dec. 31, 1868, and for advances subscription for 1869 at the reduced rate of One Dollar. Many have remitted already. Those who have not yet done so, will confer a favor by remitting the amounts due at their earliest convenience.

Messrs. H. H. Hersey & Co., of Ottawa, whose tender for the first section of the Intercolonial Railway was accepted as the lowest, decline to carry out the contract on the ground of errors made in their calculations. We understand the Commissioners have accepted the next lowest tenders, so that substantial justice has still been done to the other contractors who had tendered. Of course it is better that the Messrs. Hersey should decline the contract now than after they had made a commencement of the work; but we hope that those who tender for other sections of the road may make their calculations with such accuracy that no injustice will be done in holding them to their offers, in case their tender happen to be accepted.

OUR COUNTRY'S HOPE!
 A S negotiations go on with the Hudson's Bay Company for possession of the North-West Territory, the interest of the people of a Dominion in the matter sensibly increases. Quite a thrill of satisfaction was felt from Windsor to Halifax the other day

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 (of London, England)
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THE COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE CO'Y
 19 & 20 CORNHILL, LONDON, ENGLAND.
 CAPITAL £2,500,000 Stg.—INVESTED over £2,000,000
FIRE DEPARTMENT.—Insurance granted on all descriptions of property at reasonable rates.
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MORLAND, WATSON & CO.,
 General Agents for Canada
 FRED. COLE, Secretary.
 Inspector of Agencies—T. C. LIVINGSTON, P. L. S.
 8-ly

by the news, flashed along the wires, that the Fur Traders had modified their claims, and that Sir Geo. Cartier was of opinion that the greater portion of the territory would be ceded to our Government before three months. Whether this announcement is exactly correct or not, remains to be seen; but there are good reasons to believe that the negotiations have assumed a more favourable complexion so far as Canada is concerned, and that the splendid prize for which we have been so long struggling, will soon fall into our hands.

We feel quite assured that the people of this country were never so anxious to secure the possession of the Red River district, and the fine prairie country beyond it, as at the present time. And the explanation of this increased interest is very obvious. First of all, every day adds to our knowledge of the North-west, and increased information has convinced thousands that this immense tract of country is far more fertile—far richer for agricultural purposes—than they had previously any conception of. Last summer the grasshopper plague destroyed their crops. But Canada itself had similar experiences in its early history, and we know from the recent well-written letters of Mr. Blair, who is acting there as Treasurer of the Fort Garry and Thunder Bay Road, that the country turns out to be far superior to his expectations. The anxiety of the people of Assinibola and Manitoba to become a part of our Dominion, and to have communication opened up with us, has also increased the desire of Canadians for the speedy annexation of the territory. In short, the public have at last become thoroughly aroused to the fact that we have an immense tract of farming land in the North-west, sufficient to make at least eight States as large as those of the neighbouring Republic! Every day this embryo empire remains under control of the Hudson's Bay Company is at once a loss and disgrace to Canada, and every person of intelligence and enterprise is now alive to the importance of speedily opening it up for settlement.

Although sensible of the value and great importance of our great Western Prairies, we do not urge that the unreasonable demands of the fur monopolists should be acceded to. A more grasping monopoly never existed, or one with less conscience. Had it possessed one spark of the philanthropy or progressive spirit of the age, long before to-day it would have opened up the best portions of the territory for settlement. But instead of this, the company and its agents so misrepresented its roll and climate, that very few even of the more intelligent had any idea, until a few years ago, that such a splendid country existed so near to us. The Hudson's Bay Company have no valid claim to