

be appointed. For what object? Is there the most remote probability that any international commission would be able to agree as to the proper construction to be placed on a treaty which has been a subject of controversy during more than half a century? It would have been most desirable that this question had been finally set at rest by the award of the arbitrators at Geneva, but it has been sufficiently apparent that the United States Government has long felt, as indeed was admitted by Daniel Webster, that the British view of the treaty is the true one. It will resort to any pretext to evade a solution of the question, and we fear very much that, in a few weeks, systematic trespassing in the Canadian waters will be resumed by the New England fishermen. What is necessary at the present moment is a vigorous effort on the part of Great Britain to procure an arbitration to define the rights of the American fishermen in regard to their entrance into bays. When that point has been settled it will be easy to come to an agreement as to the compensation to be given for the permission to enter our bays for the purpose of fishing. We have great doubts as to the good results likely to ensue from Sir A. Shea's mission, and we look on the maintenance of the *status quo* as simply absurd. It was tried once before and proved "a mockery, a delusion and a snare."

Sir Ambrose Shea, it is said "at the earnest request of a number of the commercial gentlemen of Montreal who are interested in the Newfoundland trade, visited Ottawa on his way home." He had interviews with Sir John Macdonald and other members of the Cabinet, and was able to assure the Chamber of Commerce of St. John's on his return home that the difficulties in regard to the duties on fish had been satisfactorily adjusted, that no such duties would be exacted, and that the trade would go on as before. This at least entitled Sir Ambrose Shea to the thanks which were unanimously voted to him by the St. John's Chamber of Commerce.

THE FORGED CIRCULAR NOTES.—Montreal and Toronto seem to be subjected to periodical visits by bank swindlers, and no amount of caution would appear to be wholly a match for them. The attempt made early this week to cash Circular Notes to the extent of \$15,000 by two men calling themselves Wm. Henry Hall and Robt. Fox was happily frustrated by the penetration of the bankers to whom the application was made. The swindlers managed their cards well, and it is surprising that they did not meet with more success. By a judicious exhibition of the notes and declaring their intention to

purchase lands in the North-West, they procured an introduction to a leading member of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., from whom they secured a letter of introduction to Mr. McTavish, agent of the Hudson's Bay Co. at Winnipeg. Armed with this letter they applied at the Bank of Montreal to have the notes cashed, but they, it is said, referred them to the Bank of British North America as more likely to have direct dealings with the National Bank of Scotland, in Edinburgh, by whom the Circular Notes appeared to have been issued. To Mr. Penfold, the local manager of the Bank of British North America, Hall's exterior and general air seemed inconsistent with the possession of so much money. While comparing the signatures with those in his books, the applicant, became impatient, and at length made a hurried exit, leaving behind him the note for £50 under examination. This action confirmed the suspicious entertained, and two clerks of the bank were sent to shadow Hall. He joined his confederate in the St. Lawrence Hall bar-room shortly, and both left the hotel by the rear entrance. They were soon after arrested, and Notes to the amount named, less that left in the Bank, were secured. Fox dropped notes for £1,500 in a corner of the police court. They were charged on affidavit of Mr. Penfold with uttering forged paper, and were remanded. Information has arrived from Hamilton, Ottawa and Toronto of similar attempts, probably by other confederates. The following account has been received from Toronto. On Saturday evening an elderly gentleman put up at the *Rossin House*, registering himself as "T. White, London." He kept to his room all Sunday and yesterday. This morning he left the hotel and called at the Bank of British North America, and on being shown into Manager Grindley's room produced travelling circular letters, issued by the National Bank of Scotland's Edinburgh office, and signed Geo. L. Rorie, secretary, and John P. Duncan, accountant, for \$24,000, requesting that they be cashed. The manager told him he did not care to cash the whole, although urgently pressed upon to do so. He, however, cashed one for fifty pounds, and White departed, making his way to the Federal Bank, where the same proceedings were gone through a £50 letter being cashed there also. He next visited the Bank of Commerce, but failed to do any business there. By this time it was about noon, and he returned to the hotel, where he paid his bill and drove to the Union station, taking the one o'clock train for Cobourg. Shortly afterwards Mr. Grindley, manager at Toronto, received word from the head office in Montreal that two men had been arrested there for attempting to pass forged circular letters, and he at once suspected there was something wrong about Mr. White. He informed the detectives, and steps were taken, resulting in White's arrest on the arrival of the train at Cobourg. He had a companion on the train with him, who was also arrested. Detectives left here to-night (Tuesday) to bring them to Toronto.

THE STANDARD LIFE.—At the 59th annual general meeting of the Standard Life Assurance, held at Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 28th of April, 1885. The following results for the year ending 15th of November, 1884, were reported:—

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| 2,773 New Proposals for Life Assurance were received during the year for..... | \$7,557,678 |
| 2,302 Proposals were accepted assuring..... | 5,822,614 |
| The total Existing Assurances in force at 15th November, 1884, amounted to \$99,608,971, of which \$7,973,494 was reassured with other offices..... | |
| The Claims by Death which arose during the year amounted, including Bonus additions..... | 2,676,544 |

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| The Annual Revenue amounted at 15th of November, 1884, to..... | 4,301,573 |
| The Invested Funds, at same date amounted to..... | 31,470,457 |
| Being an increase during the year of..... | 902,969 |

REGULATIONS passed by Order-in-Council with respect to the importation of horses into Manitoba and British Columbia, owing to the prevalence of glanders amongst American horses, prohibit the importation of horses into Manitoba or British Columbia until they have been examined by a duly-qualified veterinary surgeon approved by the Minister of Agriculture, and declared to be free from glanders or any other infectious disease. The owner or importer shall furnish a certificate to this effect to the proper officer of customs before an entry for the admission of such animal is allowed to be made. In the Province of Manitoba all horses from the United States or Territories shall be entered at Emerson, and in British Columbia at Victoria, New Westminster and Nanaimo. To defray the cost of examination, the owner or importer shall pay in Manitoba a fee of \$1 for every horse examined, and in British Columbia \$2. All horses imported, or attempted to be imported or introduced from the United States into either of these Provinces contrary to these regulations, shall be forfeited.

A "RASCALLY IMPOSTOR" has been operating in the enterprising city of Guelph, Ont. The individual in question registered as Thompson, and passed himself off as an American cattle dealer. He secured the services of an official of one of the city institutions to drive him to some of the farms of the vicinity, with the purpose, as he said, of purchasing a few cattle for shipment. Several of the farmers were visited and different lots of cattle bought, Thompson paying one and two dollars on lots of from five to ten animals, as a guarantee of good faith. By and-by these draughts upon his treasury abstracted all the funds he had brought with him, and he borrowed from the official who accompanied him, as well as from some of the hotel-keepers of Guelph, money enough to carry him through until more funds should arrive. After the official had wasted seven days in driving the stranger through the country the latter skeddaddled, leaving the man who had befriended him not only to mourn the loss of time but also of the money he had lent, and leaving the hotel-keepers from whom he had borrowed to brood over their losses.

Two Troy men have invented a machine which, it is claimed, will practically revolutionize match-making. It has been operated to make 24,000 perfect matches in a minute, and its capacity is expected to reach 15,000,000 in ten minutes. The veneer of pine wood is fed upon a small platform and passes between rollers, which partly cut it crosswise, the width of a match. From the rollers the veneer passes over the abrupt edge of a concave, where the splints are caught by a rubber roller, separated by the action of the roller and rubbed along over the concave, so that all the adhering fiber is removed. Then the splints are carried by a chain, from which they are forced into a dipping web or strip of paper. The web containing the splints is then conveyed into a trough wherein, by the action of a revolving wheel, paraffine is put on the end of each of the splints. When the paraffine is dry by passing through a heated chamber, another wheel, revolving in a phosphorus composition, applies the composition to the end of the splints, and the webs pass to reels, where they remain until dry.—*Lz.*