

Quebec and the Government. Various plans have been discussed and submitted to the Finance Minister for consideration. The import duty of 15 per cent., levied during the first part of the session of the Federal Parliament, had the effect of stopping importation, and as further legislation is promised; it is hoped that, with the additional measures adopted by the public, the amount of uncurrent coin in circulation will be so materially reduced as to afford substantial relief to the trade.

INTERNATIONAL LAW.

In June last, Alfred Field, Esq., Vice-Chairman of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, delegated to visit this continent and confer with the leading Boards of Trade, was received by the Board, at a very full meeting, and entertained at a dinner at the Stadacona Club. The object of Mr. Field's visit was to obtain the co-operation of the commercial community of the United States and Canada, in favor of such changes in international maritime law as would protect all private property during war, under any flag, whether neutral or belligerent, except such articles as may be declared contraband of war. The Council agreed to co-operate with the Montreal Board of Trade in furtherance of this object, and both Boards petitioned the Federal Parliament on the subject.

INTERCOLONIAL BOARD OF TRADE.

Several attempts have been made during the year by the Montreal Board of Trade to procure a meeting of this Board, but the delegates from the Lower Provinces not feeling inclined to attend for the present, it has been postponed. The Ottawa Board of Trade have revived the subject, and another effort to secure a meeting will probably be made, which your Council hope may succeed.

AID TO THE SOUTH.

Last autumn a communication was received from V. Johnson, Esq., late British Consul at Matamoras, soliciting aid on behalf of the suffering sick and destitute of the Southern States. Immediately on receipt of this letter, a subscription list was opened, and liberally responded to, but on the receipt of information that the poverty and disease were declining, and that further aid was unnecessary, the contributions, with the consent of the donors, were applied to another purpose.

ASSISTANCE TO SHIPS IN THE GULF.

The sudden and severe frosts which set in so early last fall, and the strong westerly winds that prevailed, caused considerable anxiety for the safety of several overdue inward bound vessels with valuable cargoes. The Council applied to the Hon. Mr. Mitchell, to send the steamer *Napoleon III* to the Gulf, which was immediately granted, and the thanks of the trade are due to the Government as well as the Acting-Manager, C. Huot, Esq., for the very prompt manner in which they complied with the request of the Council.