and magnificent territory so much celebrated as the field of colonization for the overflowing population of the north shore in the District of Montreal.

The Valley of Mantawa comprises an area of more than 5,000,000 acres of excellent and well-timbered land. The Rev. J. L. Brassard whose zeal for the colonization of this territory knows no abatement, does not hesitate to declare that there is room for 40,000 families. This large estimate shows what might be expected by the Government from the settlement of this part of the country.

I cannot recommend too strenuously the appropriation of considerable sums for the opening of colonization roads since so much remains to be done, and as Lower Canada is destined to form a part of a large empire, and to become the pivot of a national representation, under a Federal *régime*, the interest and the honor of our section is concerned in the increase of our population, and the clearing of our forest lands. Favoring colonization, the Government will receive a speedy and a rich return for the sums which are expended in the opening of roads.

I cannot conclude, sir, without noticing a fact which has come to my knowledge, and which affords a proof of the strong national feeling prevalent among Lower Canadians. Mr. Joseph Casavant, of St. Hyacinthe, a person who is not rich, but of competent fortune, with a degree of liberality not exactly proportioned to his pecuniary resources, presented, last autumn, the sum of $1200 for the promotion of colonization in the Township of Compton. This sum he deposited in the hands of the *Curé* of the place, to be loaned, without interest, to young settlers of sober and industrious habits, to assist them in settling and accomplishing the clearing of their lands. In a few years, the sums on which the advances are made will be repaid to the *Curé* then incumbent, who will loan them again to other settlers, and so on forever.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
BOUCHER DE LA BRUERE,
Acting Inspector of Agencies

CONCILIATION VERSUS STRIKE.

THE following article is from the London *Economist* of the 28th ult.:—

Mr. Mundella, an eminent employer of labour in the Midland counties, delivered last week at the Reform League Association a very valuable lecture upon the labour question. The usual defect of disquisitions upon this subject is, that they go over the old ground with which we are so familiar, and that, even when they speak intelligently, a person conversant with the subject can catch in a moment the *sect* of the speaker, and so divine pretty accurately what he is going to say. But Mr Mundella, both in his lecture and in a pamphlet which he has written on the subject, describes a plan which is out of the way of common discussion, and which he has found in practice good.

The great difficulty of the subject is, the difficulty of knowing the true price of labour. Of any particular trade, it is usual to say that the price of labour ought to be the same as in any other trade; but this, if true, only shifts the difficulty for what then settles the price of labour in all trades. And in accurate science it is not true, for a rise or a fall in wages, when legitimate, must begin somewhere, and the trade which takes the lead ought not to be proscribed because it is the first. In all (or almost all) articles save labour, the cost of production settles the permanent price; a merchant says, "I can buy my yellow pine timber in America for so much per standard, 'on board;' the freight will be so much; my profit at 20 per cent (say) will be so much, the whole adds up to such and such a sum, and at that I will sell." But in the value of labour, there is no equivalent help. A man does not add up the cost of his past and make that, or deduce from that the price of his present. A labourer who wants to sell a day's work, or a capitalist who has to buy a day's work, have no guide but the market competition; they can only attempt to determine how many capitalists want labourers and how much they want them, and how many labourers want work, and how much they want it—a problem evidently most complicated.

Arbitration is often suggested, but even when what is meant is good the word is bad. It suggests a legal decision upon an antecedent right. It implies that there is some 'just,' 'fair' 'legitimate' rate of wages which an arbitrator, if accomplished enough could find out. But there is no 'just' price of labour any more than there is a 'just' price of soap; the seller and the buyer in all articles must settle their bargain to suit their mutual desires, and they must do so in the sales of labour as much as in the sales of produce.

Others, again, answer the problem simply. They say "Trades' Unions are not wanted; the men need not be disappointed at not getting an increase of wages. Capital will flow into the trade if wages there are lower than in other trades, and the incoming of that capital will at once raise wages." But this argument, like many other arguments, may be turned the other way; it may be said, when masters propose a reduction—"You, too, need not be so anxious about it; if you do not get the reduction now, you will get it soon,"—that is, if you ought to get it. Supposing wages are higher in that trade than in other trades, capital will flow out of the trade, and that which remains will be rewarded better. Of course, both these arguments are arguments of pure theory; no capitalist ever voluntarily submitted to pay more wages than he could help, because, even if he did so, wages would be gradually reduced by an inevitable diminution of competition; nor will labourers ever, to the end of the world, give up a claim to an augmentation of wages, because their successors, or even they themselves in later life, will have an increase by the gradual augmentation of employment. Both capitalist and operative always have looked to the present market, and not to the future market.

This is the point at which Mr Mundella takes up the subject. He not only admits but maintains, that the mode of settling the proper amount of wages is by simple bargain, and he only tries to make it a friendly bargain instead of a hostile one as now it is so often. Since 1860, he and others have worked at Nottingham a joint council of operatives and capitalists, who, after due argument, settle what shall be paid. These he calls courts of conciliation. As to their precise structure we own we are rather sceptical. We fear the critical question would be "Is the casting vote to be given to the master, or is it to be given to the workmen?" As to the decision of any tribunal, we have great doubts, but as to the advisability of bringing the masters and the men together in friendly discussion upon this question there cannot be two opinions. Before a strike has occurred, it is far easier to reason calmly, than after a strike.

"Of course," said Mr. Mundella, "they had their difficulties. It sometimes happened that a new delegate would come in and his argument would perhaps take this form—'Surely its a day could make very little difference to the master, whereas it would make all the difference to the men.' When such an argument as that was urged the way in which it was met was this. They had the actual samples of the native and foreign manufacture on the table before them with the prices; they went into the whole question of competition, and showed the delegate that with the increase demanded it was impossible to compete with the foreign trade. The experience of the last seven years had convinced him that nothing could contribute to the growth of trade so much as the existence of the legislative and representative body which he had described. If the workmen considered that they had any special grievance to complain of, special delegates were received from that branch of the trade. In addition to its representative at the board, and the very first business of the board was to receive and hear these delegates. They retired after stating their case, and the board deliberated and settled perhaps half-a-dozen questions, some important, some trivial, but which remaining unsettled would have led to irritation, and perhaps have produced strikes."

We doubt about the composition of the Nottingham board, but as to the desirability of some such board, and some such discussion, at all places, we have no doubt whatever.

COUNTY OF YORK ASSIZES.

The Hon. Judge HAGARTY presiding.

TODD vs. THE LONDON, LIVERPOOL AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THIS is an action brought by the Royal Canadian Bank, as the assignee of plaintiff, for the recovery of the insurance on 2,600 bushels of wheat being part of 8,000 bushels destroyed by fire at Seaforth in March, 1867, in his warehouse or elevator. Todd transferred two warehouse receipts for the 2,600 bushels to the Royal Canadian Bank, and received an advance on them, giving two promissory notes at the time for the amount. He also gave as collateral security two policies of insurance on the grain given on the 19th December, 1866, by the defendants. He has since absconded, and is now in the States.

The defence was in substance that, after the insurance had been effected, an elevator, worked by horse-power, was erected on the building; and that no notice of such alteration was given to the company as required by the conditions printed on the back of their policies, that a large amount of grain had been shipped from the warehouse between the date of the policies and the fire, and that after the fire, the company learning of the loose manner in which Todd had transacted business, giving grain receipts to numerous parties, and raising money on them, for grain which he did not possess, enquired at the bank for information regarding Todd's standing, and were refused.

The prosecution showed that the addition of the elevator did not lead to the risk, and that the company's agent had visited it on different occasions without making objection to it. As to the amount of grain in store at the time of the fire, Todd was daily receiving more grain than he shipped, and his foreman, in company with a practical grain-buyer, had visited the bin in the premises represented to hold the bank's grain—two days before the fire—and found that it contained if anything, something more than 2,600 bushels. It was held, also that banks were not empowered by law to exhibit depositors' accounts.

His Worship, in his charge to the jury, referred to the mischief produced (though unforeseen by its makers) by a clause in the new Banking Act, by which warehousemen can obtain advances from banks on receipts drawn by them to themselves on their own property in store. This power in the hands of dishonest men is a fertile source of fraud, as such receipts can be given and the money raised on them for property which has no existence, and has already been a fruitful source of litigation.

The jury brought in a verdict for the plaintiff for the sum of $3,173 48.

R. A Harrison Q C, for the plaintiff. Messrs Galt and Henderson for the defendants.

THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES OF LANCASHIRE.

(*From the Manchester Examiner.*)

THE success which followed the establishment of the Equitable Pioneers' Co-operative Society at Rochdale, about twenty years since, has begotten a host of imitators. Some have failed, others succeeded the result being that at the close of 1865 according to the statement of the registrar of friendly societies, 752 of these institutions were in existence and that 76 were dissolved during the currency of 1866. Two hundred and sixty-four societies had their rules certified during the latter year. These being new undertakings, would bring the total up to 940 for England and Wales, if we understand Mr. Tidd Pratt's statistics aright. With regard to their working, we have only the particulars of 4?8 societies, a large number having neglected to send to the registrar their annual accounts. This negligence for the future will not go unpunished. By 30 and 31 Vic. c. 117, a penalty of not more than £5, nor less than £2 will be imposed on every society which fails or refuses to make out and transmit its annual account. This is a power which the registrar will doubtless use to the benefit of the public, and for the completion of his yearly reports to Parliament. Short as the return before us is of completeness, yet it shows that on the 31st December, 1866, there were 173,432 members of co-operative societies, and that the money "turned in" in the course of the year was between £4,000,000 and £5,000,000—figures which indicate the growing importance of the principle involved in these associations. Lancashire is the birth-place and genial home of co-operation. In our county many societies flourish, though of course, all do not bear equal fruits. Counting all, there are 144 societies, but many are small. These would occupy in tabulation more space than we should care to bestow therefore we limit the following selections to such associations as have 300 members and upwards.

The principal co-operative societies of Lancashire as, they stood on the 31st December, 1866.

Registered Office of Society	No. of memb's 1866	Goods bought in 1866	Goods sold in 1866.	Profits realis'd in 1866
Accrington	1,610	£ 35,138	£ 38,297	£ 3,514
Ashton-under-Lyne	416	7,487	7,763	703
Bacup	2,239	72,634	85,002	10,722
Blackburn, York st.	538	9 795	10,331	497
Blackeymoor	445	12 409	12,987	835
Blackley	350	8,309	9,193	835
Bolton, Bridge st	1,718	29,379	[illegible] 530	2,810
Brickfield, near Rochdale	411	11,683	7, [illegible]6	1,632
Bury, Market st.	4,100	117,305	135, [illegible]	16,191
Chorley, Market pl.	903	20,050	25,183	1,425
Dalton-in-Furness	428	8 8 3	9,253	799
Over Darwen	1 059	34 667	37,680	2,678
Eccles	762	14,044	18 658	1,970
Healey	301	8,259	9,003	1,124
Failsworth	686	15 538	16,615	1,208
Great Harwood	315	5,576	6,387	783
Haslingden	452	9 586	11,211	1,931
Heywood	858	28,240	3[illegible] 607	3,731
Hindley	473	12,578	13 517	1,195
Whitworth	520	15,310	17,231	2,209
Hulme, Medlock st	1,710	82 612	88,605	3,578
Lancaster New st	919	17,263	19 504	1,995
Littleborough	548	15,044	21,034	2,353
Manchester, Dantzic street	31 030	174,800	175,044	2 806
Manchester, Downing street	2 285	48,182	55,197	8,844
Middleton	581	13.464	15,869	1,554
Milnrow	757	3 305	23,041	3,420
Mossley	1,097	33,910	37,161	3,641
Oldham, Greenacres hill	1,406	68,904	78,671	9,272
Oldham, King st.	2,260	78,668	87,614	11.376
Prestwich	602	8,419	9,868	1,273
Radcliffe	605	11,775	12,836	1 389
Ramsbottom	979	21.169	23 885	3,477
Rawtenstall, Lord st	739	18,110	21 579	3,061
Rawtenstall, Cawlter	624	13,924	15,514	2,054
Rochdale (Equitable Pioneer)	6,246	220,238	249,122	31,931
Shaw	450	16,995	18,880	1,994
Steeps, near Rochdale	312	9,141	10 168	1,074
Todmorden	485	16,407	18,551	2,052
Tunsted	850	11,977	14.290	2,205
Waterfoot	537	12,449	14,468	1,770

In this account there are 40 societies represented, mustering 73,000 members, and they sold goods in the course of the year amounting to £1,500,000 and a fraction over, hence under the last-named phase, they equalled one-third of the aggregate sales of the Kingdom. The accounts are usually audited once a quarter by members, and occasionally by non-members. In the matter of realized profits, the last column of the statement is probably an unreliable exponent for comparing one society with another, and for this reason, that the price fixed on articles over prime cost, we believe, varies. The stores may be distributed at a small advance to cover working expenses and depreciation, or, they may be sold at the market price of the place, and the members receive their advantage periodically in the shape of dividends.

The profits are usually applied to interest on shares, dividends to members, occasionally to non-members depreciation of stock, reserve fund, and not unfrequently to the payment of an item termed "educational," which we believe is not meant for schooling in the ordinary sense but for the maintenance and supply of a reading-room—a very pleasing adjunct to some of these undertakings. The sums applied to the purpose are generally moderate, varying between £20 and £50. But in one or two instances they are much larger. The Oldham Society (King street) devoted last year £217 to the "educational fund," and the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers no less than £681 to "education." The Rawtenstall Society gave out of their profits £53 for "library and newsroom."

The oldest, the most prosperous, and the type followed by other organizations—the Equitable Pioneers—deserves a few more words than we can give to the others. At the latest date officially published these were the principal circumstances recorded: Established in 1844, it had 6,246 members on its books at the close of 1866. During the year, 1,675 new members joined and 753 old ones withdrew, hence the clear accessions over withdrawals amounted to 920 members. The shares are £1 each, the total received from that source during the society's existence was £61,988. The withdrawing members in 1866 took out for their share the large sum of £30,729. The share capital