

mercial interests of the country cannot be represented by any foreign Journal, and so long as Canada is content to be so represented, so long will she be denied her true position among the nations of the earth. Our condition is one of rapid advancement and constant change. Every year is increasing our commercial importance and presenting new phases in our eventful history. In this ever-changing condition, many questions arise of vast importance to our material welfare; the requirements of commerce, the advancement of manufactures, and the necessary adjustment of commercial laws and regulations must be discussed on the spot, and by those who are thoroughly conversant with our actual condition.

To the discussion of these various subjects we invite all who are interested in the welfare of Canada, and to those gentlemen who have already contributed to our pages we beg to acknowledge our obligations, and trust they will continue to discuss in our pages current topics of commercial interest.

We cannot permit this opportunity to pass without acknowledging our indebtedness to R. S. M. Bouchette, Esq., collector of customs, and to Wm. Hutton, Esq., of the Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics, for valuable information.

The greatest difficulty we have experienced is to obtain Railway Traffic Returns. In the United States, as well as in England, the smallest railroad publishes its earnings; but not so in Canada. Repeated applications have elicited no replies from several Railway Companies. This is not as it should be, and cannot surely advance the interests of the stockholders. Neither our railways nor our canals can be expected to yield large returns in proportion to their cost; both have been built for the future rather than the present, and their value will be judged by the ratio of increase rather than by the actual amount of their earnings.

To the press of Canada we have also to make our acknowledgements; the many favourable notices accorded to our efforts have added not a little to the success of the *Canadian Merchants' Magazine*.

---

#### PAPER CURRENCY—ITS NATURE AND EFFECTS.

The question of money is confessedly one of those unsettled problems of political economy which now occupy, and are destined still more to occupy, the attention of commercial men. An impression is abroad that the nature of our currency exercises a vast influence in producing those occasional revulsions of trade so disastrous to the best interests of the country. On the currency question there appears to be three distinct theories, each having its advocates and defenders. One theory is, that gold and silver, being the only universal measure of value and medium of exchange, are the only commodities that ought to be regarded as money, and that paper money should