

"has Canada been in so sound and healthy a "condition, never better prepared to meet its "engagements."

A SALE of book debts by auction was held at St. John, N. B. the other day, being those of an insolvent firm. The total face value was \$6,963.68 and the amount realized \$75. This may be accepted as a practical definition of what is meant by bad debts.

INDIAN teas are coming more into favor in England. The flavor of the Indian leaf is said to be remarkably strong and purgent, and a small quantity added to china tea is said to greatly improve its flavor.

THE LATEST English mails report that owing to the protracted dullness in the domestic market, and the high rates for money, prices of some sorts of wool have to be quoted 1d to 2d per pound below the July rates; a degree of depression has extended to all classes of wools, though superior kinds are very little affected. A Manchester circular reports drooping prices in cotton goods;  $8\frac{1}{4}$  lb. 39 in. shirtings had fallen sixpence per piece; but heavy goods were not influenced to the same extent. Some mills had begun to work only four days in the week in consequence of the slackening demand.

A WRITER in the Quebec Chronicle exposes a scheme, the prospectus of which was issued in Glasgow. A company is to be formed under the name of the "Glasgow & Canada Timber Company," with a capital of £300,000 stg., out of which £250,000 is to be paid the promoters for certain rights to cut timber in a remote district in the Province of Quebec—on the rivers Kippewa, Lievre and Rouge, tributaries of the Ottawa—embracing 1,390 square miles of unknown territory. £50,000 is to be reserved for expenses, and the vendors are to take ten per cent. of the purchase money in paid up shares, this latter being the tub thrown to the whale. An annual profit of 40 per cent. is held out as an inducement to subscribers. The writer estimates the outside value of the rights offered for sale at £40,000. This appears to be another attempt to injure the fair fame of Canada, and deplete the pockets of too confiding capitalists for the benefit of unscrupulous schemers and speculators.

THE SEASON just drawing to a close has been a most profitable one for vessel-owners on the lakes ; very much better than any previous year since 1866. The demand for carrying iron ore from Lake Superior being large is one principal cause of the unusual demand; and for this trade freights have been equal to fully double those usually received for carriage of grain. As a consequence rates for grain are about double the average, being, say from Toronto to Oswego 6 cents this year against 3 cents in the last and several previous years. Some American vessel owners are reported to have made immmense profits, ranging in some cases from \$100,000 to a quarter of a million. While the condition of the freight market has greatly benefitted the shipping trade, the high rates bear hardly on the shippers and consumers of coal, lumber and grain; operations in all these articles have been retarded by the scarcity of vessels, and their cost enhanced by the increased charges of transportation.

-The building of the Dorchester Island Branch Railway in New Brunswick, has been let to Mr. David Hawkins, of Hawkins & Tait, who recently completed a large wharf contract at Point du Chene. (From our own Correspondent.) PETROLIA, Oct. 22, 1872.

The small supply of crude in now becoming \$ serious thing to exporters, which taken all together including the late wells, does not exceed 10,000 barrels per week. Messrs. Englehart & Co. are preparing to manufacture nearly that amount alone, they have at present some 30,-000 barrels secured, but when that is exhausted where the supply is to come from is a matter of grave consideration, and is to a certain extent giving a damper to that enterprise. The ex-porter cannot come into competition with the home trade, as it must be guided by the New York prices, whereas the home manufacturers by a combination can make their own price, which is considerably above New York rates, owing to our protective duty. The Oil Associa-tion is working well but I think that after this year the price of crude and the competition for it will remove the necessity of any combination. Many new strikes are reported but not fairly tested, one on lot 12, con. 12, Enniskillen, the rest near the late famous well on the Webster Territory, which territory, together with the Monroe Lot has produced large wells, but of very limited duration.

Business here generally very brisk and a great deal of development both preparing and going on.

The price of crude, \$1.50 to 1.60; refined has been placed by the Association, at 33c larg<sup>6</sup> and 35c small lots.

-The success of the Fairlie engine in Russie, in connection with the narrow guage system, seems to be complete, and Mr. Robert Fairlig has received a letter from Count Bobrinskoy, of behalf of the Emperor, forwarding a bronze medal, and attributing the success of the Livny railway in a great measure to his engines and careful inspection. The medal has been stamped in commemoration of the opening of the line, and will be distributed to all those who took a part in its construction,