

LAWYER LEGISLATION.

There has been a vast amount of the time of our Canadian Parliament already spent in talking, without effecting much, in the shape of useful results. And were this all done at members' own cost, we should have less cause to complain; but it has been calculated that it costs the country something about eight hundred pounds a day—a sum which, for one day, is worth more than all the useless verbiage that has been spoken since the House met. But we suppose we are finding fault with a necessary evil, and one that will remain so, as long as there are so many lawyers in the House. The lawyer who was lately canvassing some of the adjoining Townships for votes, and telling the people that if they sent him to the House "he would talk," will not thank us for these remarks. But we cannot help it. We think there is too much talking and too much lawyer legislation in the House already, without sending any more spouters to Parliament; and we agree with the *Witness*, that there are many of what may be styled leading politicians, who "appear to talk for talking sake." Much time is occupied with the most commonplace utterances, or if important arguments and principles are dealt with they are so overladen with words, as to be lost sight of. In the House members sleep or read, or pay no attention. Out of the House few, if any, long speeches are read. However excellent they may be, people will generally lay them aside for a more convenient season, which seldom comes.

But this wordiness is not confined to the speaking of the House, it extends to its Acts. These are so prolix and so strangely worded that they are tedious to read and difficult to understand. A multitude of lawyers in Parliament does not secure to its measures either brevity or clearness. Acts are sometimes so obscurely worded, that other acts have to be passed to explain them. We have been told that the Municipal law of Lower Canada is so difficult to understand that it takes Municipal officers elected under it a year to learn its provisions; the people refuse to elect these officers because they have done nothing, and others are elected who spend a year in the same way. It is desirable that a change should be made in the way of making our laws brief and simple. The States of Maine, Vermont, and perhaps others, annually publish in newspapers all the Acts passed at the preceding Session of the Legislature. These Acts are usually drawn up in a brief business like style, so that general readers can comprehend their meaning. Why should not the laws of Canada be so intelligible, and printed in the newspapers in the same way, that the people may know what their laws really are?

The British Standard makes some sensible remarks upon the system members have of making long winded speeches and "defining their position," without bringing forward any new ideas and says:—How much better would it be if they would not take up time by speaking at all. It is well known that in many cases the whole work of the House is done by the members whose voice is scarcely ever heard in the House; but who are working on Committees, while the long-winded ones were preparing their speeches. Yet there are some who wish to increase the number of the "orators" of the House, by turning out those gentlemen who attend to their legitimate business; but who do not speak by the hour!

POST OFFICE REPORT.

The official reports are now coming in. The Report of the Postmaster General for the year ending 30th September, has been submitted to Parliament. During the year several important changes have been made in the working of some of the parts of the system. 60 new post offices have been opened, adding 350 miles of post route, and involving the additional travel of 140,000 miles annually. The number of letters carried was 9,600,000, and newspapers 13,500,000. A Parcel Post Office has recently been put in operation, which promises to be a great public convenience, and to yield a probable revenue of £200 the first year. A fortnightly mail to Red River Settlement was established last summer by way of St. Louis and the Voyageur route, and since the close of navigation it has been kept up once a month by the North Shores of Lakes Huron and Superior, the service being performed on snow shoes and dog teams. Another new line of communication was also opened last winter, viz:—by the steamer Lady Head, between Quebec and the other ports on the Lower St. Lawrence, Gaspé, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, which was very much needed. The report goes on to state that the number of newspapers transmitted free is estimated to exceed 10,000,000, which, the half-penny each, would give a revenue of £200,000, and that were the official correspondence charged at the ordinary rates, these two items would make the department self-sustaining. It is further argued that it is not equitable to make the commercial and domestic correspondence pay the deficit, but that if newspapers are carried free, the postage relinquished should "fall as a charge upon the Treasury."

Transient newspapers—that is those not mailed by publishers—had provided as nearly as could be a revenue of £20,000. The Canadian steamers are reported to have fulfilled their contracts satisfactorily; and it is anticipated that the commencement of the weekly service in the spring will largely increase the foreign correspondence. The

United States had been invited to concur in an arrangement for transmitting letters either in or with the Canadian mails, to and from England, and it is suggested that the St. Lawrence route is the most advantageous for the cities of Detroit and Chicago and the North Western States generally. The transmission of mail matter from England by way of Halifax, and through New Brunswick to Canada, had been long felt as a grievance, and new representations had had the effect of causing its total discontinuance. The mails are stated to be under conveyance on 1,630 miles of railway, and the subject of compensation for this service is treated on at some length, the rate finally decided upon by the Governor in Council, being "for a daily service with a travelling post-office over any line of railway, once per day each way, \$30 per mile of railway per annum, if by day trains; and \$40 per mile, &c., if by night trains. For mails sent by railway as ordinary baggage or freight in charge of company's or post-office guard, without travelling post-office, when not exceeding 2 cwt. in weight, two cents for single train per mile. About 500,000 letters were registered last year, and it is recommended that the charge for registration be also made prepayable by stamp. The benefits accruing from registration are dwelt upon with force, and commend themselves to public consideration. The attention of the Government of the United States and the Lower Provinces had been turned to the subject of Post Office Money Orders, and if they should decide upon adopting the system, an agreement would doubtless be easily made with them for an interchange.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

We are indebted to the Toronto Leader for some information in relation to the state of Asylum accommodation in this Province, and for some remarks on the annual report of Dr. Workman, the Superintendent of that institution. It is a subject which has been too much neglected. The apathy and indifference which seems to exist towards the pauper lunatic is really disgraceful to any Christian people. Our contemporary says that the evils complained of in the Report of Dr. Workman are beyond the remedy of the Superintendent. Only think of it. In a building laid out for the accommodation of some 250 patients, Dr. Workman has contrived to find room for nearly double that number, 478 being, we believe, the precise number of patients at present under his care. It is of course unavoidable, in such a state of things, that much over-crowding ensues; and a proper classification of lunatics—one of the great essentials to a speedy cure or even amelioration—cannot be attempted. The hard alternative, however, is presented, either rigorously to close the doors of the institution against more than half of the applicants and leave them to wander throughout the country uncared for, or to admit them to a share of such relief as can be offered them. The Superintendent has chosen the latter of the two great evils, and to the fullest extent possible has opened the doors of the establishment under his charge. The result has certainly been an inconvenience and an injury to the patients; but the evil has been inferior to that of allowing so many maniacs—some of them dangerous ones—to remain at large in the community. But with every disposition to bring the aid of medical science to the alleviation of the affliction of that class of unfortunate who are eligible for admission to the Provincial Lunatic Asylum an imperative necessity has condemned many hundreds to an exclusion from the benefits intended to be conferred by refugees of this nature. And as nearly all the applicants for admission, with scarcely a solitary exception, are members of the poorest classes of society, the only remaining public institution open for their reception is the common goal! And we record it here as a national disgrace that at the present moment there is scarcely a prison in Upper Canada at least, which does not contain one or more raving lunatics, who are left without any proper medical care; whose disease, for want of proper treatment, is growing day by day more hopelessly incurable; and who, when turned again on society, as they generally are if the mental balance is temporarily restored, inevitably relapse into still more settled insanity. We are not aware of any accurate statistics have been published of the number of lunatics at present in the various goals, but we believe we do not exaggerate in saying that they are but little under 300! And every second day some new applicant for relief makes his hopeless request for admission at the gate of the Asylum.

Here certainly is much need for immediate action. Either a branch institution in some other city or the completion of the buildings in Toronto should be proceeded with, without delay; and in the mean time temporary accommodation should be provided, for the patients suffering under this dreadful malady.

THE HOUSE.

The business before the House is not large. The great crisis of the Session has been passed; the point upon which, if at all, the Government was to be overturned, has been safely passed over; and unless something very unexpected should occur, the probability of a defeat, or of an election, will have entirely vanished. Under these circumstances, with no very prominent questions before the House, and a less amount than usual of general legislation on the topics, the chances are in favor of a short session, and an early prorogation of the House.

It is a matter of congratulation to the Legislature and to the country, that the Queen's decision has been maintained, and that the odium of a breach of good manners and of good faith to our Sovereign, does not attach to us. We believe that even those members who opposed it, apart from their party

proclivities, will inwardly rejoice, that so flagrant an outrage has not been committed.

EUROPEAN.

The war cloud seems to be settling down upon the face of Europe, dark and dense, and heavily charged with all the horrors of which it is the embodiment. France has long been accumulating her military powers, and will shortly be unable to restrain them even if she would. Austria seems to be scarcely behind in the numbers and discipline of her forces, and both give forth strong indications of a coming struggle.

There have been persons for many years back,—would-be-wisemen,—who have been constantly preparing the public mind for an upheaving of the European elements,—but hitherto these predictions remain unfulfilled. What the present aspect of affairs will result in, it would be impossible to determine. The steadiness of the English funds was a favorable omen.

To SUBSCRIBERS.—Under our new plan of addressing papers our readers can see at a glance, how matters stand, and when their subscriptions will expire, as the time will be printed on every paper. This plan, we hope will supersede the necessity for sending accounts and receipts and as all the work of addressing will be done by machinery, the possibility of making mistakes will be prevented. We have purchased one of Dick's Dispatch machines, by which we are enabled to address two thousand papers in an hour. By its use, we hope to be able to furnish later news than usual every week, as our columns can be kept open until the morning of publication, and the papers mailed in time afterwards, instead of printing, as most publishers do, on the previous evening. We are determined if possible, to keep pace with the march of improvement and the advance of the times.

ASSIGNMENTS.

For the information of those of our readers, who may not be acquainted with the provisions of the new law, relating to preferential assignments of property, we copy the following Sections.

18. Every confession of Judgment, Cognovit Actionem or Warranty of Attorney to confess Judgment, voluntarily or by collusion with a creditor or creditors, given by any person (such person being at the time in insolvent circumstances, or unable to pay his debts in full, or knowing himself to be on the verge of insolvency) with intent in giving such confession, cognovit actionem or warranty of Attorney to confess judgment, to defeat or delay his creditors wholly or in part, or with intent thereby giving one or more of the creditors of such person a preference over his other creditors, or over any one or more of such creditors, shall be deemed and taken to be null and void as against the creditors of the party giving the same, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

19. If any person being at the time in insolvent circumstances or unable to pay his debts in full, or knowing himself to be on the verge of insolvency, shall make or cause to be made any gift, conveyance, assignment or transfer of any of his goods, chattels or effects, or deliver or make over, or cause to be delivered or made over, any bills, bonds, notes or other securities or property, with intent to defeat or delay the creditors of such person, or with intent of giving one or more of the creditors of such person a preference over his other creditors, or over any one or more of such creditors, every such gift, conveyance, assignment, transfer or delivery, shall be deemed and taken to be absolutely null and void as against the creditors of such person; Provided always that nothing herein contained shall be held or construed to invalidate or make void any deed of assignment made and executed by any debtor for the purpose of paying and satisfying rateably and proportionally, and without preference or priority, all the creditors of such debtor their just debts; And provided further, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to invalidate or make void any bona fide sale of goods in the ordinary course of trade or calling to innocent purchasers.

20. Any person who shall destroy, alter, mutilate or falsify any of his books, papers, writings or securities, or make or be privy to the making of any false or fraudulent entry in any book of account or other document, with intent to defraud his creditors, or any one or more of them, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on being convicted thereof shall be liable to be imprisoned in any common goal for any term not exceeding six months, and such offence may be tried before any Court of Oyer and Terminer or General Goal Delivery.

21. Any person who shall make or cause to be made any gift, conveyance, assignment, sale, transfer or delivery of any of his lands, hereditaments, goods or chattels, or who shall remove, conceal or dispose of any of his goods, chattels, property or effects of any description with intent to defraud his creditors or any of them, and any person who shall receive such property, real or personal, with such intent, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on being convicted thereof shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding twelve months, and to be fined in any sum not exceeding two hundred pounds; and such offence may be tried before any Court of Oyer and Terminer or General Goal Delivery.

22. Any person who shall make or cause to be made any gift, conveyance, assignment, sale, transfer or delivery of any of his lands, hereditaments, goods or chattels, or who shall remove, conceal or dispose of any of his goods, chattels, property or effects of any description with intent to defraud his creditors or any of them, and any person who shall receive such property, real or personal, with such intent, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on being convicted thereof shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding twelve months, and to be fined in any sum not exceeding two hundred pounds; and such offence may be tried before any Court of Oyer and Terminer or General Goal Delivery.

There is very little general news of importance here at present. People don't get killed or cut up on railways, or made away with, as we read of their doing in some places, consequently there are few Coroner's inquests, and but little to disturb the equanimity of the public mind.

The topic which is creating most interest in the county at present is a suit in chancery on the part of the town of Peterboro, vs. W. S. Conger, Esq., to recover the sum of \$1,500, said to be fraudulently obtained by him. The facts of the case have all been published.

and mainly consist in the following:—The town of Peterboro had taken \$200,000 stock in a branch Railway, to meet which, they found it impossible to negotiate their own debentures, and were liable to a direct tax for the amount. In this dilemma, Mr. Conger, a member of the town Council, was authorized to negotiate with Mr. Whitmarsh, Reeve of Wolford, for the surrender of a number of Municipal loan debentures, issued by the Government, which that Municipality wished to return. Mr. Whitmarsh represented that he must retain £1500 from these debentures to meet back charges due upon them, and Peterboro, in its necessity, agreed upon the sacrifice.

The transaction was completed; and after a time it turns up that the government had no claims upon these debentures, and Mr. Conger is called upon to show what became of the £1500 sterling. Mr. Conger produced Whitmarsh's receipt for the whole amount, but this not being deemed satisfactory, and the government and the township of Wolford disavowing any claim upon or interest in the debentures, the present suit has been instituted, more with a hope of injuring Mr. Conger politically, than from any more praiseworthy motive; since, when the town of Peterboro agreed to accept the debentures, minus the £1500, it matters little to it where that sum went to.

Mr. Conger states on oath that he paid the whole sum to Whitmarsh, and produces the receipt for it. Mr. Whitmarsh says he only received £745, and does not know where the balance went,—but supposed, at the time, it went to pay charges due upon them to the government.

Thus the matter stands; and in whatever light it may be regarded, there is no doubt but that Mr. Conger rendered a most important service to the town; relieving it promptly from a heavy embarrassment, and, in doing so, he had secured to himself a considerable pecuniary advantage, he would have done no more than most men would have done under similar circumstances.

I remain, &c.

PROXY J. B.

Feb. 24th 1859.

TORONTO CORRESPONDENCE.

TORONTO, 26th Feb., 1859.

MR. EDITOR.—Among the very small number of measures, to be submitted by the government, for the approval of Parliament, is one for the consolidation of the public debt; a measure of considerable importance. A large portion of the Canadian securities are held in England and bear six per cent interest; but where money is plenty, as in London, it can be obtained on good security, at a rate somewhat lower than six per cent. The consequence is, that Canadian securities are at a premium; or a Canadian debenture for £1000 having from fifteen to twenty years to run, will sell for £1150 to £1180. Every £26, therefore, of interest which we pay, represents a debt of at least £115, and is apt to mislead those not conversant with the subject. Other evils exist in the present system. The debt, direct and indirect, amounts in round numbers to about ten millions of pounds currency. Part of it is in sterling, and part currency; part payable in England and part in Canada; part of it was raised on securities granted by the British government. This want of uniformity makes it difficult to manage, and to some extent lessens the value of the securities in England. It was therefore, desirable that such an amount of interest only should be paid, as would reduce the value of the securities to about par. This will be, as the market now stands about 4 1/2 per cent. An act was passed last session authorizing the Inspector General, to issue stock, something like the British Consols, bearing 4 1/2 per cent interest, to be exchanged for the various securities now in existence, and a bill is before the House, to extend the limit to 5 per cent, and to make some other slight modifications in the scheme. The effect of the operation will be apparently to increase the amount of the public debt about a million of pounds; but to effect an annual saving of sixty or seventy thousand; about fifty thousand of which is to be annually invested in a sinking fund, which in forty or seventy years would pay off the whole debt. It is probable, however, that by and by money may be obtained on even more favorable terms, and a further reduction of interest effected.

Another matter of considerable importance, which has occupied the attention of the Legislature during the past week, is an address to Her Majesty, asking her to aid the Canadian line of Mail Steamers, in the same way that the Canada and other lines are aided. Canada is the only British Colony which has established a line of Ocean Steamers, without the assistance of the mother country; and she would not now ask any assistance, were it not that the two hundred thousand pounds given to the Canada Line, enables them to reduce the price of freight from Boston and New York, so much as to draw the trade of the St. Lawrence to those places; thereby seriously injuring her own Colony, for the benefit of a foreign country. Canada makes an annual grant of fifty-five thousand pounds to aid the Canadian line, but even this large sum is not sufficient to enable it to compete with the Canada Line. What we require is, that Great Britain should either withdraw her aid from the American Line, or give an equal amount to the Canadian.

Yours, E.

To the Editor of the Herald.

Sir,—In your last issue you have some remarks upon the Editor of the Perth Courier, and W. M. Shaw. If strict equity were made perhaps it might appear, that Mr. Shaw has a personal interest in the Courier, and not being able to procure a trumpeter sufficiently willing to proclaim to the world his qualifications as an efficient would be M. P., it may be that he tunes the organ himself—or would you be surprised if the Editor were only "a soft savoring him." It would appear that he is, because he has often and again expressed himself in no very flattering terms, with regard to the present member, for the South Riding; and asserted that he would not again be elected, this being the case. Why is it, Mr. Shaw, being the very beau ideal for an M.P.P., and so eminently fit and qualified to become a representative, it may be very gravely asked, why is he not retained for that constituency, or does the Courier, knowing so well his predilections, only wish to get rid of him by foisting him upon the North Riding,—or how does it happen that the Courier mediates with the North at all. Has any want of respect or dissatisfaction been expressed, by this constituency, towards their Representative? Have we ever shown an unwillingness to return the man of our choice? Or is it because a complimentary dinner was given to Mr. Bell, upon his return from Parliament last Session? Or is it because the Courier and Mr. Shaw were not invited? (Why not go uninvited as some of them did before?) Or is it because contemporary journals highly applaud Mr. Bell, for his "honesty, integrity, and patriotism," and that he is "entitled to the thanks of the Ottawa at large, and the gratitude and regard of his own constituency in particular?" The late Robert Baldwin, (no mean authority) speaking of Mr. Bell, said "that he was one of the best working members in the House; even the Courier recommending him to the notice of Renfrew, states that he is an 'honest, intelligent man.'" Mr. Bell has proved himself to be all this; when called upon for explanation of any vote given by him, or to refute any calumny, it has been done satisfactorily, and to the annoyance of the calumniator. Mr. Shaw will remember the last nomination, when he had ample opportunity to refute Mr. Bell, if his statements had not been true. This galls him; it impels him to use the language "that he is determined to go in and to turn Mr. Bell out." Would it be either honest or honorable to sacrifice Mr. Bell at the shrine of W. M. Shaw, and the Perth Courier? With regard to Mr. Shaw's ability as a Lawyer nobody disputes, but as you remark "whether he would prove a good politician or a very weak one" has to be tried. If so feign to be a "Member," why not try at home where he is best known, and where a change is wanted? If Shaw's sayings can be relied upon, he does not need the aid of the Courier. He says:—"The whole of ALMONTE are pledged to him except three; that he has a majority in Ramsay, Lanark, Dalhousie, Darnley, but not so sure in Pakenham." The same assertion was made by a former candidate; he was nevertheless elected to remain at home. So it might have with W. M. Shaw.

Yours, &c.,

Pshaw!!

To the Editor of the Herald.

FERGUS, Feb. 23, 1859.

DEAR SIR,—Taking it for granted that you feel somewhat interested in the result of the North Wellington Election, I purpose to give you a few of the particulars.

The death of our late member, Mr. A. Allan, having entailed on us the trouble and expense of another election, making in the short space of fourteen months. No time was lost by some of our Guelph Ministerialists in sending an embassy to the Government to ascertain who should be the candidate for the representation of North Wellington, the constituency of North Wellington would have been the parties consulted. But Mr. James Webster, Mayor of Guelph, being considered the most popular man on the Ministerial ticket, and being a particular friend of John A. McDonald, and a most servile sycophant of the present administration, of course "was just the man." Mr. Webster well knowing the unpopularity of the Ministry, and his consequent weakness, and his supporter absolutely refused to become the candidate unless a guarantee be given that his expenses were paid. This being granted, together with other auxiliaries among the rest a nicely got up box, purporting that he, Mr. W., had been instrumental in procuring the reduction of the prices of Clergy Reserve Lands in the townships of Peel and Maryborough. The canvass was entered into with a zeal worthy of a better cause. Mr. James Ross, a Scotchman by birth, and farmer by occupation—a man of undoubted honesty and unimpeachable integrity, and a genuine Clear Grit of the right stamp to the bargain, who has been Warder of the County for a number of years, has been prevailed upon to come forward as a candidate. Mr. Webster despites of all that could be done for him by bribes, threats, intimidation, misrepresentations, hrelings, and whiskeys, which have been used to the best advantage, in rich profusion, has for the third time been rejected by North Wellington. As a mere tool of the most corrupt Ministry which has ever disgraced Canada; and a total unfit for their Representative, so long as a Ferguson, an Allan, or a Ross, remains to fill the Seat.

Yours, &c.,

J. T. W.

SUDDEN DEATH BY INTERFERENCE.—On Sunday morning last a man named William Jeffers, was found dead on the floor of the sitting room of the Wilson Hotel in this place. It appears that about 12 o'clock on Saturday night deceased was observed lying helplessly drunk upon the steps of the Hotel; he was carried in and left on the floor of the sitting room, where, after placing a pillow under his head and a quilt over him he was left for the night, and from all appearance must have smothered himself in the pillow before morning. On Monday an inquest was held before Dr. Burritt, Coroner, and the jury returned the following verdict: "That the said Wm. Jeffers came to his death by suffocation in consequence of being intoxicated, and set from any violence whatever."

The deceased was about 30 years of age. He had no friends in this neighbourhood, and nothing further is known of him, except that about four months ago he came from the direction of Montreal, and has been working steadily on the line of the Brockville & Ottawa Railway ever since.—*Rideau Gleaner*.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—Yesterday about noon two young men, John Miles and Colin MacArthur, both in the employment of Mr. Dow, on his farm at Cote St. Paul, had occasion to cross a private bridge over the canal with a loaded sleigh. During the recent thaw the bridge had been left bare, and Miles and MacArthur jumped down in the canal

on different sides of the bridge, on which they proceeded to shovel on snow, in order to make the passage more easy. While thus engaged, MacArthur was started by a sudden exclamation from Miles, "Oh! Colin!" and looking round, he saw that his unfortunate companion had sunk through the ice. His head was only for a moment visible, and then the strength of the current carried him away under the ice. The factories in the neighbourhood immediately stopped their works, and drew off the water, and a search being made for the body, resulted in its being found within a short time after the melancholy occurrence.—*Montreal Transcript*.

RAMSAY LEAD MINES.—This mine was inspected last week by Capt. Trevelyan, the Cornish Agent of the Rosie and Victoria Mines, in company with the Secretary of the Ramsay Lead Mining Company. The lode has been uncovered and tested for about four hundred feet, and has been traced by trial pits for more than double that distance.

THE NORTHWEST.

The last number of the Edinburgh Review has an elaborate article on the Hudson's Bay Territory, with special reference to the claims of Canada and the course to be pursued by the Imperial Government on the question. The reviewer, writing strongly in support of the Hudson's Bay Company, admits that the question as between Canada and the Imperial Government on one side, and the company on the other, "has assumed a very serious shape," and he proceeds to justify the stand taken by the Company in refusing to be a party to more than a settlement of the boundary by the Privy Council. He contends that were the far trade thrown open to competition, great cruelty would be inflicted on the Indian tribes, whilst the agreeable animals would be speedily exterminated. Of the general resources of the territory, the Review takes the most gloomy view. Its statements are accepted as true, the prevailing impression in Canada with regard to its eligibility for purposes of agriculture, is grossly untrue. We must remember, however, that these discouraging statements are put forward to discourage emigration thither. The truth, probably, lies between the two sides. The territory is not the "waste, howling wilderness" which the apologists of the Company would have us believe it to be; and it is not the paradise which superficial and unreliable writers would picture to the imagination of the public.

Alluding to the address of the Canadian Legislature affirming the right of Canada to go forth and occupy the Review suggests that—"Canada is not prepared to incur large and uncalculated expenses for the purpose of forming a new colony of lands utterly unable to defray the expenses of their own government." Arguing this point calmly, the writer further concludes that the Government of Canada either could, would, or ought to take upon itself the management of the vast unpeopled territory. With the pretensions of the Company we have not a particle of sympathy. In the interest of civilization we would have the huge monopoly destroyed, and agriculture and trade invited to take possession of its dominions. But by no means follows that Canada should immediately take upon herself the Government of a vast and remote region, involving great risk, and necessitating an enormous expenditure. Our gain will be just as great by whomsoever the Government is carried on; whilst if it be in the hands of the Imperial authorities, we might be saved a risk and an outlay which the Province might be able to do without. The Review puts the question, and furnishes an answer, which we quote:—"Shall we, then, create another new colony, and, starting from the Rocky Mountains on the west, run along the 48th parallel to the east, and, to the north, on this base, carve out of the North-western part of the American continent, a State extending five, six or more degrees of latitude to the north? As far as we can judge of the tendency of affairs, this seems to be the proposition which the present head of the Colonial Office is most likely to entertain." To which we add a sincere Amen.—*Can. Cen.*

A SUMMARINE BATTERY.—The London journals contain accounts of an American invention which, it is alleged, will make Cruisers and chibourgs of no avail. It is a sort of submarine battery, large enough to contain as many as fifteen men with a proportionate quantity of explosives. The inventor says that he, and others, sank his "torpedo" in Lake Michigan, and remained under water for four hours, without an abate or other communication with the surface, propelling himself slowly several miles. The machine is so constructed that he can saw, bore, or make fast compass, ropes, or explore matter to a great depth, and if required, a person can leave the machine while under water, and enter again without inconvenience. This invention is under the consideration of the Admiralty, who received a specification of it with prompt attention, much to the astonishment of the American gentlemen in charge of it, who, thinking the Admiralty a red tape institution, only applied to the Government after being repulsed by the Governments of the United States and France. A submarine machine after the model of the inventor is to be built in London, and if it does nearly what he expects, the Government will doubtless become its purchasers.

A MONSTER NUGGET OF GOLD.—The Barradown correspondent of the Sydney Morning Herald gives the following particulars of the discovery of a monster nugget: "A steady working party (2) Travers, and T. Grecian, owning a claim on the same lode, but about 150 yards from 'Hopping Tom's' noted spot, had the good fortune, at a depth of 35 feet, to come on a mass of gold quartz, of iron pyrites and mudiic, which yielded, upon being pounded with a hammer, the enormous amount of 120 pounds weight of gold. This is, I believe, the largest amount that has ever been found in one spot on the western diggings. Language fails to portray the intense excitement of this industrious party, upon their sudden accession of wealth. It occupied them several hours to separate the gold and partially clean it; they had a two-quart 'billy' full of coarse gold, for which they were subsequently offered £5,000 by a gold buyer, but refused to take it, preferring to forward it to the mint, accompanied by themselves, next export."

BROKERS' CIRCULAR.

Montreal, Feb. 19, 1859.

Flour.—The demand for local consumption has not improved during the past week. There is no speculative movement for immediate delivery. Superfine No. 1 is \$6 to \$6.50. Others are still made for choice fancy, for May and June delivery, at \$6.75, without leading to transactions.

Wheat.—None. Corn.—None. Rye.—None.

Barley.—The market is barely supplied, all arriving is eagerly fetched up at 90c to 95c.

Oats.—Are a shade lower, and are pressing on the market at 60c per minim.

Pork.—Lard sales, 3000 minutes, at 90c, but they are now to be had under 95c.

Provisions.—Holders are firm for all qualities of imported. Mess Pork \$20.50, to \$21. Prime Mince \$14 to \$14.50. Prime \$13 to \$13.50.

Asbes.—Fats have been lower during the week they have rallied, and are now held at \$6 to \$6.10.—Fats are steady, at \$6.40.

PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE THE NEAPOLITAN EXILES.—The Italians of New York are making preparations on a great unprecedented scale, for the reception of the thirty, from the dungeons of King Bombay, of Naples. It will be a warm and general expression of the feelings of Italian patriots on receiving these distinguished statesmen, scholars, and civilians, upon the soil of freedom, with the marks of long imprisonment, privations, and tortures upon their forms and faces, and of chains and fetters upon their flesh.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

Montreal, Feb. 22, 1859. We copy the following paragraph from a Belleville paper, for the purpose of calling the attention of merchants and farmers in other parts of Canada West to the important point which it brings out.

"Although it is an established fact that there is not sufficient Wheat in this and the adjoining Counties for home consumption, our mills are supplied by Railroad. If attention is given to sowing Spring wheat, there is little doubt of success in again growing wheat in quantity for home requirements as well as export. The Eye wheat has been very successfully sown in the County of Victoria and the Counties north of Toronto, and we are assured will succeed as well in this section. The seed is put into the ground as late as the 20th May, and comes in after the ravages of the fly, and is not subject to rust."

The state of the Wool market is a matter of some interest to Canada, though this can scarcely be called a wool growing country. The New York Tribune deprecates the common practice of selling wool on the sheep's back to speculators, to be delivered when clipped, saying the farmer has usually, if not always, the worst of the bargain. The following are the quotations which give of the present value of American Wool in New York:—

Common well washed, per lb. 40c.
Quarter Blood..... 43 c 45
Half Blood..... 48 c 50
Three-Quarters Blood..... 52
Full Blood..... 55 c 57
Extra Selected Ewes..... 60
Fancy Clip..... 62 1/2
Asbes are so dull as to be almost unobtainable. The price asked is \$6 for Pots, but we hear of no sales to day at that rate.
Pork continues as last quoted, but is very dull.

Flour remains nominally unchanged in price, but there are no sales taking place except by retail and for immediate consumption. Butter is very scarce, and brings readily from 10c to 15; very choice would command 21 to 22 cents, but there is none in market.

There has been a sale of Montreal Telegraph Stock at 161 per cent premium, which is an advance on former quotations. Bank Stocks are slowly advancing on account of the accumulation of the next dividend upon them.

The upward movement of the Tea market chiefly affects black teas, which are not yet much used in Canada.
The rate of interest for money is still advancing slowly in New York.
JOHN DOUGALL,
Commission Merchant.

MARKET PRICES.

OTTAWA, Feb. 25, 1859.

Flour, per bbl. \$ 7 25 a 7 50
Barley, per 60 lbs. 1 45 a 1 50
Oats, per bushel. 0 20 a 0 22
Rye, per 56 lbs. 0 45 a 0 60
Barley, per 48 lbs. 0 40 a 0 60
Oats, per 34 lbs. 0 30 a 0 60
Peas, per 60 lbs. 0 70 a 0 90
Potatoes, per bushel. 0 40 a 0 48
Hay, per ton. 0 00 a 13 00
Port per 100 lbs. 4 00 a 7 00
Beef per 100 lbs. 0 00 a 6 00
Tallow per lb. 0 10 a 0 13
Hides per 100 lbs. 0 00 a 6 50

RENFREW, Feb. 17, 1859.

Flour per bbl. 1 76 a 1 10 0
Wheat, Fall per bushel. 0 50 a 0 53
Spring do. 0 46 a 0 49
Oats per bbl. 0 0 a 1 15 0
Barley per bushel. 0 20 a 0 50
Peas, per bushel. 0 2 a 0 26
Corn, per bushel. 40 a 0 46
Potatoes. 0 16 a 0 18
Hay per ton. 2 00 a 2 10 0
Butter fresh per lb. 0 71 a 0 8
Tub per lb. 0 61 a 0 7
Eggs per doz. 0 0 a 0 7
Pork per 100 lbs. 1 10 0 a 1 15 0
Beef per 100 lbs. 1 26 a 1 50

New Advertisements.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons who OWE the Subscriber for the year 1858, are hereby notified, that it is now time he was PAID, and that he does not give 2 Years Credit.
This is the only Notice that will be given.
JOHN SUMNER,
Carleton Place.
March 2nd,