

aroused, his caution made him stern, and his conception of his duty to the public would not permit him to favor the transaction.

It has been said that Mr. Mackenzie was too unyielding for a successful politician, that he lacked tact and *finesse*, that he refused to "accommodate himself to circumstances," and so hold on to office by compromising his principles—and this is true. But he furnished to Canadians the spectacle of an honest, earnest, capable Minister who regarded his duty to his country as paramount to the claims of party, and as not to be weighed against the retention of power.

### THE TELEGRAPH IN CANADA.

#### FIRST PAPER.

In a single room, on what is now Front St. of this city of Toronto, with a solitary operator sitting on his high stool and laboriously spelling out from his register paper the messages that came over his single wire from Buffalo or from Montreal, the telegraph business of Toronto and district was done. This was in 1849, and the Montreal Telegraph Company had been founded July 28th, 1847, during which year it had managed to construct single wire lines from that city to Quebec and to Toronto.

This was only three years after Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor of the Morse signals and mechanism, had completed the first electric telegraph line in America, that from Baltimore to Washington, first used on May 24th, 1844, so that Canada had not been slow to benefit by the marvellous invention. Years before this date, however, namely, in 1832, Morse, who had been a student of electro-magnetism, said to his fellow passengers on board the packet-ship "Sully," from England: "If the presence of electricity can be made visible in any part of the circuit, I see no reason why intelligence may not be transmitted by electricity." Morse was a painter, and if the United States Government had not refused him permission to paint one of the great historical pictures in the rotunda of the Capitol at Washington, which destroyed his artistic ambition, he might never have become the celebrity in electrical science that he did.

The Montreal Telegraph Company's line had been opened from Toronto to Port Hope on Tuesday, 20th July, 1847; to Cobourg and Kingston in the same month, and to Montreal on August 3rd. The telegraph office at Brockville and that at Belleville were also established in August. Moving eastward, the Quebec office was opened on October 2nd, and that at Three Rivers on November 9th of the same year. It is worth noting that the first message sent from Montreal was addressed to the late Mr. J. H. Daly, at Kingston, where he at the time had a hotel.

The receipts for August of the first year, for the entire line, averaged £7 per day; for September, £9; for October, £16; for November, £18; but decreased in the month of December to £13, owing to the closing of lake and river navigation. Fifty dollars a day was the average then; thirty years later it was seventeen hundred and fifty. The line from Toronto to Quebec was built by Messrs. Livingston & Wells. In the same year (1847), these contractors had also built a line from Buffalo to Toronto for the "Toronto Telegraph Company." On this latter line No. 8 copper wire was used, but not being found strong enough, it was afterwards replaced by No. 9 galvanized wire. From the first, galvanized iron wire had been used from Toronto to Quebec.

By 1851 there were fourteen offices on the line between Toronto and Quebec. The following were the operators in some of them: Quebec, George W. Purkis; Three Rivers, Chas. K. Ogden; Montreal, William Smith, George Smith; Cornwall, G. H. Hickey; Prescott, Isaac D. Purkis; Kingston, H. D. Morehouse; Toronto, H. P. Dwight. The other offices were Brockville, Belleville, Cobourg, Port Hope, Bowmanville, Oshawa, where Dr. Irwin was in charge, and Whitby.

The gentleman who later became western superintendent of the Montreal Telegraph Company, and who is now the respected president of the system which leases and works not only that company's wires, in Canada and the States, but those of the Dominion Telegraph Company in Canada, was the solitary operator mentioned at the opening of this paper. And we have heard Mr. Dwight relate how, during the whole of the year 1849, he copied with his own hand every telegram which came over the wires to Toronto, and with his own hand despatched every message over the wires from Toronto. Sixty or seventy operators are now needed, day and night, to do the work of the Great North-Western Telegraph in this city.

The business world moves faster now than in 1851; eats, drinks, bargains, works, travels, thinks faster. Cowper's "helps to read" were not more necessary in his day than are now the appliances and helps to write—the stenographer and the type-writer. The year one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, however, did not consider itself by any means slow. We had railways, then, though not to every man's door, as to-day. We had steamboats, and the steamboat was of much consequence; and besides the Montreal Company we had the Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara and St. Catharines Electro-Magnetic Telegraph Company, whose share certificates of £10 each bore, as the one before us testifies, the name of T. D. Harris, President, and Percy R. Marling, Secretary. There have been, since then, other telegraph schemes launched in Canada; the Provincial, for one, and the International, of which a "pattern of all the Border State virtues," Snow, by name, was the head and front. But these never amounted to much. The Dominion Telegraph Company, a Toronto organization, established about 1871, attained a much greater extent, having 490 offices and about 9,000 miles of wire in 1880; but the collapse of its United States connections, the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph, which was bought up about 1880 by the Western Union for \$8,000,000, kept the Dominion Company "on the ragged edge" until it was leased to the Western Union.

The telegraph was a luxury forty years ago; people fought shy of it who had not considerable mercantile interests. It had not "come home to men's business and bosoms," as it does to-day. From Montreal to Toronto a message cost 3s. 9d., Halifax currency, and to Quebec 4s. 6d., or ninety cents, so that common-place matters could not be wired about at these prices. The firms which in those days used the wires the most largely were Augustus Heward, of Montreal; F. H. & J. O. Heward, of Toronto; Hooker & Holton, steamboat owners, Hon. Luther Hamilton Holton being the head of the firm; McPherson & Crane, forwarders, of which Mr., afterwards Sir David, McPherson was the principal. In 1853 the tariff from Queenston to Quebec was 2s. 6d., and from Toronto to Chicago 5s. 3d., or \$1.05 for ten words. We now send messages twelve hundred miles in Canada for a quarter dollar.

### MONTREAL TRADE FIGURES.

We have received a statement for the month of March of foreign exports and imports at Montreal, according to the Custom House returns. This shows the value of imports for the month to have been \$3,054,802 as compared with \$2,609,034 in March, 1891, while the value of exports was \$224,453 as against \$390,843 in March, 1891. These exports for last month embraced \$145,531 worth of Canadian products, \$58,613 worth of American produce, and \$20,309 in bullion.

The increase of imports last month was mainly by reason of the unusual purchases of free goods (\$1,060,862 as against \$600,595). But for this the March, 1892, imports would have been smaller. Dry goods show an enlarged import, it is true, but metals, spirits and wines, fruits, jewellery are less, while melado does not appear in this month's return at all. We give a list of principal articles:

#### IMPORTS.

	Mar., '92.	Mar., '91.
Cotton goods.....	\$146,586	\$127,456
Fancy goods.....	44,910	53,924
Hats and caps.....	65,814	93,371
Silk goods.....	75,673	96,606
Woollen goods.....	490,555	380,159
Total dry goods.....	\$823,538	\$751,516
Brass goods.....	15,165	21,003
Copper.....	2,389	7,563
Iron and steel goods ..	177,584	198,023
Lead.....	6,426	5,870
Metals, &c.....	9,105	8,871
Total metals.....	\$210,669	\$240,330
Books and stationery....	22,846	20,705
Coal, hard.....	14,902	9,900
" soft.....	43,555	33,326
Drugs and medicines....	10,571	7,930
Earthenware, &c.....	23,439	28,750
Fruit, green and dried....	61,904	41,907
Furs and fur skins.....	19,723	15,077
Glass and glassware.....	23,757	24,059
Jewellery and watches....	17,442	11,256
Paints, &c.....	57,960	58,604
Spirits and wines.....	146,924	12,741
Melado.....	12,063	12,741
Molasses.....	19,347	18,615
Tobacco and cigars.....	28,103	25,780
Wood goods.....		

Turning to exports, which are but small at a time of year when the St. Lawrence is not yet open for ocean navigation, we find the largest item in the list to have been horses, \$28,300, and then grain, cheese and butter. Forest products are naturally almost nil in the winter; the like may be said of products of the mine. A considerable item among manufactures was leather, \$19,333.

#### EXPORTS.—CANADIAN PRODUCE.

Produce of	Mar., 1892.	Mar., 1891
The Mine.....	\$ 735	\$ 1,846
" Fisheries.....	4,210	7,309
" Forest.....	6,551	15,049
Animals, and produce..	66,948	260,246
The Field.....	25,491	5,074
Manufactures.....	41,599	54,309
Grand total.....	\$145,531	\$343,883

### DECISIONS IN COMMERCIAL LAW.

REGINA v. STAPLETON.—The defendant, with the alleged object of establishing, in the Province of Ontario, a branch society called the International Fraternal Alliance, having its head office in the United States, induced a number of persons making application for membership therein to pay a joining fee of \$5, which, in addition to certain alleged social benefits, entitled a member, on application therefor, and on payment of certain fees, to pecuniary benefits, namely, to a weekly payment in case of illness or accident, and to certain sums in case of death or after a stated