

—Official returns show that 14,080 of the school children in New Brunswick were being taught drawing in the winter term of 1879, over 16,000 singing and 19,534 taught composition, out of a total number of pupils of 53,743 and an average attendance of 28,853. It appears from the list that in 1861, and even as late as 1868, none of these things was taught in the schools of that province, of which some statistics follow:

	1861.	1868.	1879.
No. of Schools.....	801	809	1,305
" Teachers.....	810	883	1,348
" Pupils.....	25,225	27,720	53,743
Average attendance.....	14,236	14,836	28,853
No. Learning grammar.....	6,591	8,096	27,600
" geography.....	7,213	8,041	36,921
" history.....	5,257	4,802	23,108
" reading.....	21,787	26,022	51,405
" arithmetic.....	15,431	21,035	49,881

OUR TEA IMPORTS.—A return submitted to Parliament shows the quantity of tea imported into the Dominion of Canada direct from the countries of production, either by the St. Lawrence or *in transitu* through the United States, for each six months between the 1st of January, 1872, and 31st December, 1879, exclusive of British Columbia. The following is a statement of each year:

	Via St. Lawrence. lbs.	<i>In transitu</i> through U.S. lbs.
1872 .....	333,854	2,269,160
1873 .....	501,942	3,338,776
1874 .....	520,224	3,830,001
1875 .....	22,439	2,148,528
1876 .....		2,589,749
1877 .....		1,534,252
1878 .....	12,689	1,225,007
1879 .....		3,419,868

The return further shows that from March 15th, 1879, to January 31st, 1880, there was imported direct from China and Japan, but through the United States, 1,429,830 lbs. of tea, and 2,108,319 lbs. at the city of Montreal and 9,378 at Quebec.

—In the annual report of the Minister of Agriculture for 1879, are the following statistics concerning the Mennonites in Manitoba, on the west side of the Red River, between Pembina Mountain and Emerson, being about half of the total number in Manitoba. There are 30 villages in the settlement, containing 753 farmers and 3,617 souls. The number of acres of land cultivated, 141,324; bushels of wheat raised, 127,407; barley, 34,689; oats, 48,884; flax seed, 6,884; potatoes, 31,180; total produce, 249,044 bushels, valued at \$134,483. Number of cattle, horses, implements, &c., and value 718 horses, \$43,080; 930 oxen, \$46,050; 1,012 cows, \$30,390; 1,047 young cattle, \$15,705; 12 steam threshing machines, \$12,000; 7 horse power threshing machines, \$3,500; 213 reapers and mowers, \$17,040; 492 plows, \$9,650; 543 wagons, \$27,250; total value, \$204,665. Value of buildings, \$134,200; total value of grain, stock, implements and buildings, \$338,865.

—The Commercial Union Assurance Company's report shows a profitable business for 1879. Notwithstanding the unusually heavy

losses sustained in the fire department, it has been found possible to add £20,000 to the credit of Profit and Loss Account, this account has also the substantial addition of £50,000 from its Marine business. The Life department shows a steady growth. Its premium income amounts to £99,468. The total income of the company for 1879 was £964,934, certainly a very large amount. To obtain this sum required skilful management and a great deal of work. However the proprietors are well rewarded, for with a dividend of twenty per cent., which ought to satisfy the most unreasonable, the total cash assets of the company are now £1,840,000.

—Broad silks are again being manufactured in Montreal, the Corriveau Silk Mills now occupying the spacious premises on Dowd street formerly used by the Williams Sewing Machine Company. The affairs of the old firm of D. & A. Corriveau are under settlement in the courts, and Mr. J. A. Corriveau having associated with him several other gentlemen decided to start a new factory on a larger scale, covering the whole process from the raw material up to the finest finished goods.

—The annual report of the Montreal New City Gas Co. is generally regarded as favorable. The net profits for the year are \$187,813.04, from which two semi-annual dividends of five per cent. have been paid, amounting to \$185,516.42, leaving a surplus of \$2,296.72 to be added to the Rest Account, which now stands at \$104,538.80. The paid up capital is \$1,871,872, and the assets are valued at \$2,110,604.87, including \$56,836.40 cash on hand.

—The only excitement on the Montreal Stock Market during the week has been in City Gas, which was "beared" on Monday to 115 by electric light rumors, but has now recovered to 119 to 120. Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Co. has advanced 2½, selling at 42½, and bank stocks generally are somewhat stronger.

—An impression which recently prevailed in Winnipeg that the representations of members from the province would be successful in inducing the Dominion Government to remove the embargo on the employment of half-breed scrip and bounty warrants in purchase of lands within the railway belts, set speculators on the *qui vive* and the price went up rapidly from \$100 to \$130.

—The Easter cattle markets at Montreal brought out some of the finest beef cattle that have been seen there for some time; over nine cents per lb. was paid for extra cattle, and good to choice brought 4 to 6c. live weight.

—The schooner "George Thurston," 250 tons, has been chartered to take a cargo of ice around from Quebec to New York. This, we are told, is the first venture of the kind from that port.

—La Banque Nationale has declared a half yearly dividend of 2½ per cent.

## Correspondence.

### DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times:

SIR,—In an article in your last number entitled "Distribution of Assets," you refer to the Province of Quebec as probably better prepared than any of the other Provinces for the change that will be produced by the repeal of the Insolvent Act, in respect of the distribution of assets, for the reason that provision is made by the Civil Code of Lower Canada, for the rateable distribution of assets of a debtor amongst his creditors. The advantage to creditors of this provision is more apparent than real. It is true that if the creditors of a person against whom an execution has been taken and his goods and chattels levied upon by the sheriff become aware of the fact before the sale under the execution takes place, and file with the Prothonotary what is called an opposition to the execution creditor, getting all the proceeds of such sale, such opposing creditor, or creditors, should there be more than one, will participate rateably with the seizing creditor in the proceeds of the sale, which proceeds, however must not exceed the amount of the judgment for debt, interest, and costs. Notwithstanding that other creditors are permitted to come in and avail themselves of the seizing creditor's judgment. This privilege, whenever it is availed of, necessitates the Sheriff again levying to make up the amount for the judgement creditor; and the process is continued until the claims of all the creditors against the debtor are satisfied.

In the majority of cases where oppositions are made, the creditors get nothing owing to the heavy costs attending the proceedings. In case of no opposition, the monies are not required to be returned into court, but may be at once handed to the seizing creditor by the officer making the sale. S.

### MUNICIPAL TAXES IN HALIFAX.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times.

DEAR SIR,—I was scarcely prepared for the onslaught made on my poor pamphlet in your issue of the 19th inst., and think it rather cruel of you to punish my presumption by flinging all the economists at my devoted head. I am sure you would have been more merciful to your poor Indian, vainly struggling with his notions of improved locomotion or his discoveries in Astronomy. But, hoping you have by this time somewhat relented, and now feel in a more amiable mood, perhaps you will allow me to say something more on the subject. It is certainly important enough, and its thorough discussion may possibly enable one or other of us to reach clearer ground before long, to the advantage of ourselves, if not of the public.

On being challenged to show wherein the tax which I propose would be unjust to any citizen or class of citizens, you reply that "you undertake to prove that it would effect a total confiscation of all the rent of land, which is equivalent to a confiscation of the land itself in nearly every Canadian city." You then proceed to prove nothing of the kind, but to show that Adam Smith, Mill, Say and Sismondi hold that a tax on rent is paid by the owner, not by the occupier; and you quote from Ricardo and Mill as saying that such a tax is unjust. For the confiscation part of your programme you appeal to Mr. Henry George who you say, "clearly sees that to put all the taxes on land would have the effect of confiscating the rent." You then en-