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# THE TRADE REVIEW

Intercolonial Journal of Commerce.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1869.

We have furnished accounts to nearly all subscribers to the TRADE REVIEW, for arrears to Dec. 31, 1868, and for advance subscription for 1869 at the reduced rate of One Dollar. Many have remitted already. Those who have not yet done so, will confer a favor by remitting the amc nts due at their earliest convenience.

# CHANGING BOUND.

NOTHING can be truer than that high duties neces-The experience of all nations fully attest this. The adventures of smugglers on the British coasts in de gone by, have filled many an interesting volume, even on this continent smuggling has at various tines played an important part. This has been the case for the past three years between this country and the United States. There can be no question that, despite the vigilance of the American officers, considerable smuggling has been carried on between the two constries. This illicit trade received little or no counte nance from the people of Canada, and it is gratifying to know that they have been mostly Americans who have engaged in this reprehensible practice. The high duties in force across the lines has, of course, been the cause of these attempts to defraud the revenue, and as the American tariff was much higher than ours, our revenue officers have had consequently little to do. Things are now, however, changing round, and fears

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are being entertained that these smugglers will soon (if they are not now) direct their operations against us. Whiskey is an article which the smugglers delight in. Up till recently, the American duty upon whiskey was \$2 per gallon, whilst ours was 650.; the result was that considerable quantities of Canadian "forty-rod" found its way across the lines in a surreptitious manner. Sometimes the delinquents were detected and punished, as they deserved to be, but still the balt was so tempting as soon to produce fresh attempts. The American Government has lately reduced the duty on spirits to 50c. per gallon, and our Government now perceive that "the boot is on the other leg." It no longer pays to smuggle whiskey from Canada to the States, but would it not do so to bring it from the intter is o Canada? It is believed by several journals that this will be the result, and that our revenue officials will have considerable work to do before long. The difference in the duties is not very great, but it will be well for the Government to be on its guard, and, if possible, nip any attempts at smuggling in the bud. We are inclined to keep the duties on spirits is high as possible, without producing smuggling and fraud. But it would be better to reduce them to the same as those of the United States, rather than that these demoralising results should follow.

## IMPROVED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BT. JOHN AND HALIFAX.

PHOSE who have had occasion to travel between the chief cities of the Maritime Provinces, know well what a tedious performance it has been, and few made the trip who could well avoid it. But all this is to be changed, and it is now expected that some time during the coming summer a new route will be opened, which will bring St. John and Halifax within nine hours of each other. From an exchange we learn that the track of the Annapolis Railroad is completed to within seven miles of Annapolis, and that all the important bridges on the line are in a forward state of construction. Arrangements have been made by the Company interested in this Railroad to lease the Windsor Road from the Government, and they have also ordered, and ander contract at the. Clyde, two fast-sailing steamers, which are to run from St. John to Annapolis, thus completing the connection to Halifax. They are to make the run in four hours, and the distance by rail, 130 miles, can easily be made in five hours more. From Annapolis to Windsor the road runs through a beautiful valley, one of the most fertile in the world, so that travellers will shortly have a quick and agreeable trip, instead of as now, even under most favourable circumstances, a long and tiresome one,