

Official Gazette and of the statutes; and of another in the Register Office; and further to effect a saving of nearly \$1,000 by combining the duties of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery with those of the Deputy Registrar General, the aggregate amounting to a diminution of expense of at least about \$2,900.

The reduction of the number of persons employed and therefore of the amount of salaries, was also extended to the contingencies of the department, which have amounted to about one third less than the sum voted by Parliament to meet them in the year 1867—8 and which will not exceed \$8,000 for the year 1868—9 being about two thirds less than the estimate.

At the Secretary's office, properly so termed, have been received, in the 18 months ending on 1st January last 7133 letters, either single or containing documents, that is to say, for the year 1867-8, 4,682 letters, and for the last six months of 1868, 2,451 letters.

Compared with the year preceding Confederation the figures are as follows:—

Letters received	Numbers.
In 1866—7.....	3534.
In 1867—8.....	4682.

The number of letters written and despatched has been as follows for the 18 months ending on the 31st December, 1868—3741.

Compared with 1866—7 the figures give the following result.

Letters written and despatched,

In 1866-7.....	1739
In 1867-8.....	2392

The duties of the Registrar's office are as follows:—1. The engrossing of Patents of Indian Lands and Ordinance Lands, and of all commissions issued under the great seal and the Privy seal. 2. The registration at length of such patents and commissions, as also of Patents of inventions and other documents. 3. Preparing copies of Patents, Commissions, or other documents already registered; 4. The preparation of Indexes and of copies of documents required by Parliament, by the Council, by other departments and by individuals. 5. The safe keeping and classification of the archives. 6. Preparing copies of records transmitted by other departments to that of the Secretary of State for the purpose.

The branch charged with the affairs of the Indian Lands has the management of the affairs, lands and funds of the Indians. I have instructed the Deputy Superintendent to prepare for me a report of the affairs of his branch, together with tabular statements as complete as possible to give an exact idea of the situation of the Indian Tribes, of the extent of their domain, of the funds belonging to them, and of their income and expenditure. This Report follows that which I now have the honor to present, and is as complete as it could be made. Your Excellency will perceive that most of the tribes have a sufficient income, but that those of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have no means of acquiring the education necessary to enable them hereafter to share the blessings of civilization. It would, in my own opinion, be expedient to grant the sum of \$1000 to each of the two Provinces to procure for them this advantage.

The experience which I have gained since I took in hand the superintendence of the affairs of the Indians has convinced me that the time has come for facilitating the enfranchisement of a great number of those Indians who, by their education and knowledge of business, their intelligence and their good conduct, are as well qualified as the whites to enjoy civil rights, and to be released from a state of tutelage. For this reason, I propose, with Your Excellency's sanction, to submit to Parliament a measure which would attain that object, and would be more easily carried into effect than the present law respecting the Indian tribes of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

The fourth branch of my Department is that of the Ordinance Lands. The head of that branch has forwarded to me a report which I had instructed him to prepare, and which will explain to Your Excellency the present condition of those lands; the amount which they have produced, and the actual revenue arising from them. It will show you that this revenue has been more than doubled in twelve years, without taking into account that a large portion of them is now occupied, either by the military authorities or the militia, for the purposes of defence, or by public institutions, for other purposes of general interest, among which may be mentioned the site of the present Parliament House and Departmental Buildings. This Report is annexed to the present one.

Before concluding, I ought to add that the officers of my Department and more particularly the under-Secretary of State and the heads of branches have fulfilled their duties with zeal, assiduity and exactness.

The whole is respectfully submitted.

HECTOR L. LANGEVIN,
Secretary of State.

Department of Secretary of State of Canada,
Ottawa, 10th April, 1869.

THE DUTIES ON SILK AND TEA.

NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES EUROPE AND JAPAN

WASHINGTON, August 16th, 1869.—The following has been received at the Department of State:—

AGREEMENT.

"By Article I. of the Convention of Yeddo, of 1860, it is provided that a re-adjustment of the duties on silk and tea may be claimed by any of the parties to that convention, on the basis of five per cent. on the average value of the said articles during the three years last preceding.

The Japanese Government having now advanced a claim for the re-adjustment of the aforesaid duties, in accordance with the above stipulation, the undersigned, representatives of the United States, France, Great Britain, Italy, and the North German Confederation, and the Japanese Minister and Vice-Ministers of Foreign Affairs, have met, and after mature consideration of this claim, have agreed on behalf of their respective Governments, to the following arrangement:—

"It having been shown that the duties levied on silk and tea, under the tariff attached to the aforesaid convention, are considerably lower than five per cent. upon the average value of the said articles during the last three years, the right of the Japanese Government to increase these duties is hereby recognized.

"The undersigned have consequently agreed that the duties on the aforesaid articles shall be increased to the extent specified in the following table; but it has been further stipulated that the increased rates shall be levied only from and after the 1st of January, 1870, until which date the duties shall continue to be collected by the Japanese Government according to the present rates:—

	Present Duty per 100 Catty.	Increased Duty per 100 Catty.
SILK.		
Raw and Thrown.....	\$0.75	\$0.90
Tama or Dupont.....	0.20	0.25
Floss Silk.....	0.20	0.25
Noshi or Skin Silk.....	7.50	10.10
Waste Silk.....	2.25	0.13
Tea.....	3.50	0.04

"Tea, of the quality known as 'Bancha,' may in future be shipped under the present duty of 75c. of a bus. per 100 catties, from all the open ports, instead of as hitherto, from Nagasaki only.

"In witness whereof, the undersigned have hereunto affixed their seals and signatures.

"Done at Yokohama, in the English, French, German, Italian and Japanese languages, this 1st day of June, A D 1869.

The Treaty is signed by the Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, the North German Confederation, and the Japanese Foreign Ministers.

OCEAN TELEGRAPHS.

THE advantages of competition in the business of trans-oceanic telegraphing are already seen in the fact that a reduction in the rates of the French Cable Company has been followed by a corresponding reduction on the part of the old line. The monopoly is destroyed, and as business is rapidly increasing under the new system, it is reasonable to look for a still further reduction at no distant day. The new rates fixed by the British Cable Company are seven dollars and a half in gold for ten words between New York and any part of Great Britain and Ireland. Each additional word over the prescribed number will be charged 75c. in gold, and despatches to the press will be sent at half price.

The gratifying success which has attended the efforts of the French Company has given a considerable impetus to ocean telegraphy in all parts of the world. Two new lines are now projected between this country and Europe, one of which will be built entirely with American capital. Among the new lines which European capitalists are now considering, is one from Scotland to Quebec, via the Orkney Islands, and one connecting South America with the United States, and Europe by means of a cable to Cuba and Panama, and thence along the Pacific coast to Columbia, Ecuador and Peru. It is probable, therefore, that we shall have plenty of cables within the next ten years, and that such a thing as a monopoly of the business will be wholly impossible. Capitalists are now ready to make investments in these great enterprises, and it need only be demonstrated that a line will pay a fair per centage of profits to secure its construction and operation. If the growth of the business of inland telegraphy within the past ten years be any standard by which to judge, the future of ocean telegraphy will be a great one.

THE HURON AND ONTARIO SHIP CANAL.

PERHAPS no great public work ever commended itself to general favour without a preliminary period of opposition. It was so with railroads, ocean steam navigation, the Suez Canal, and almost every other great enterprise that marks a distinct step in material progress. There were not wanting people to predict that iron wheels would never turn on iron rails. A great authority convinced himself, and all but convinced the world, that no steam vessel could ever carry coals enough to last through an Atlantic voyage. The leading organs of English opinion were quite sure that the Suez Canal was impracticable, but they failed to convince either M. Lesseps or the French people. In the same way the projector of the Georgian Bay Canal has had to meet all the stereotyped forms of opposition. The work was impracticable; there was no sufficient water supply; the capital would never be raised; even if the canal were made it would attract no traffic. Such are the forms which a many-sided opposition assumed.

Let us see how the matter stands to-day. The question of practicability is settled beyond doubt, and that form of opposition has almost disappeared. Mere babbles have not the face to repeat it in the teeth of the opinion of engineers such as Mr. Hawkshaw, who stands at the head of the profession in England. As the question of practicability includes water supply nothing need be said on this head. When we come to talk of capital it is not surprising that an amount of fifty or sixty million of dollars should at first seem to present a serious obstacle to success. There was a time, before the financial plans of the projector were developed, when this item had a most serious look. But when it was found that the chief contractors and capitalists of two such countries as England and the United States were prepared to take the work in hand, a means of overcoming this difficulty was seen. For the rest it is like talking to the winds to tell men of common sense that forwarders will avoid a route which offers advantages to which no other can pretend. All the stock arguments being used up we have latterly been treated to what, if not labelled badinage, might readily have been mistaken for misrepresentation. It has been alleged that Mr. Hawkshaw, the chief engineer of the company, really did not believe in the practicability of the work or the capacity of the canal to earn as much as its projectors estimate. Mr. Hawkshaw has directed a reply to be made, in which it is distinctly stated that as an engineering question he undertakes to say that the effective capacity of the canal has been considerably underrated by the projectors. This has demolished the latest form of opposition.

Where is the pinch now? It is to be found in the land bonus question. On this question the legislature has not yet had an opportunity of pronouncing. The delay is costly to the promoters, but otherwise they have not lost by it if they can stand the strain of preliminary action. Their cause is not suffering but getting better. The canal has many advocates which it had not three years or even six months ago, but in common fairness there ought not to be no more delay. The energetic promoter of the canal and his friends have a right to know what is the disposition of the legislature towards the work. Be the opinion favorable or adverse it ought not to be longer withheld.

At Ottawa there has been a favorable report, but a House of Commons committee might naturally feel a delicacy in alluding to a grant of land which is in the gift of another authority; and accordingly this point was ignored. But the promoters consider this to be now the only point of importance. There may be difficulties in the way but surely the form of the legislature admit of a definite opinion being pronounced. There is always the resource of an address to the Crown. In this case there is no reason why it should be made to take a form or spirit of hostility to the Government; it should be regarded as an innocent means of obtaining a fair expression of opinion from the House—nothing more, nothing less.

The expenses of promotion running over a period of six or eight years, and including more or less complete surveys, test boring of the ridges, working plans, repeated journeys to England and the States, a large office and a regular staff of officials to aid the chief promoters, must be enormous. We are authoritatively assured that we do not overstate the amount in putting it at £20,000; add to this years of exhausting labour in the promotion, and we shall get some idea of the devotion of the promoters to their work. Men who have given such evidence of their earnestness ought to be treated with candour; and whether we agree in their views or not, we ought not to refuse them a hearing, but to meet their application by a direct announcement of policy.—*Leader*.

RUSSIAN TRADE WITH CHINA.—According to information furnished by the Russian consulate at Tientsin the total amount of commercial exchanges between China and Russia in the Tientsin market increased during the past year to 2,881,385 roubles, from 2,474,561 in 1867. It only amounted to 1,527,713 in 1866. The total amount of Russian imports at Tientsin was 980,256 roubles, made up as follows:—Precious metals, 858,608 roubles; tissues, 78,376; furs, leather and wool, 13,744; different goods, 11,582. The Chinese exports amounted to 1,921,128 roubles, in which computation tea figure for 1,889,889.

Persons who have arrived from Virginia give distressing accounts of the effects from the long drought in that State, and assert that unless they have rain soon, the corn and tobacco crops will certainly be thoroughly destroyed. Letters from Georgia also represent that apprehensions of great danger to the cotton crop are felt in that State because of the long dry season.