

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. G., PICTOU.—The method of mining coal with lime cartridges has been repeatedly referred to in these columns. It is not exactly new, but has been in course of trial for a twelvemonth in England and Scotland. See *MONETARY TIMES* of 23rd March and January 12th this year, and 16th July last year.

J. S. W.; GLASGOW, SCOTLAND.—Hamilton, Brantford and Galt, in Ontario, Montreal, and perhaps Sherbrooke in Quebec.

—The following is a summary of the business of the Dominion Lands Agencies for the fiscal year 1882:

Homesteads, acres.....	438,707	1,171,652
Pre-emptions, acres.....	263,947	904,211
Sales, acres.....	353,165	613,282
Total.....	1,057,519	5,699,155

Homestead fees, acres....	\$ 28,330	\$ 72,930
Pre-emption fees.....	16,855	54,499
Cash on account of land sales.....	176,566	1,347,935
Timber, mining and grazing receipts.....	44,504	85,984
Registration and other fees.....	1,639	2,227
Scrip and bounty warrants.....	84,097	54,791
Total.....	\$352,000	\$1,618,366

If we compare this with the receipts for 1881, an increase for 1882 of \$1,266,366 is shown, and if to this increase be added the sum of \$547,711, derived in 1882, from the sale of colonization lands, and the sum of \$5,780 derived from miscellaneous sources, the total increase of receipts in 1882 over 1881, was \$1,819,857. The total income for 1882 was \$2,171,857. The quantity of land granted to colonization companies under the regulations of December, 1881, was 3,000,000 acres net income from which amounting to \$547,711 up to 31st December last, consisted of the first instalment of 40 cents per acre due upon the purchase of odd numbered sections within the respective tracts to be colonized by several companies to whom grants were made.

—The total quantity of spirits manufactured in Canada in fifteen years ending 1882 was 54,993,866 gallons, paying a duty of \$47,445,679. This we gather from a government return. The number of gallons of spirits imported for consumption during the same period was 49,743,240 upon which \$42,130,428 duty was paid. The quantity of grain entering into the manufacture of spirits for these 15 years was 1,063,925,006 pounds; of molasses, 74,965 gallons; of sugar, 2,201,029 pounds. The quantity of malt used was 399,927,788 pounds; of sugar, and other substances 1,785,819 pounds. The production of spirits in 1882 was greater than in any year since 1874, while the production of malt liquor was larger by over 2,000,000 gallons than in any previous year. The following table shows the quantity of spirits imported and manufactured, and malt liquor produced, in Canada in each year since 1867:—

Year.	Spirits Manufactured.	Spirits Imported.	Malt Liquor Produced.
1868.....	3,400,040	3,203,830	6,194,788
1870.....	2,903,823	3,175,857	6,075,451
1873.....	4,622,932	3,732,844	9,217,107
1875.....	4,682,724	3,303,302	9,312,190
1877.....	3,546,877	2,942,538	9,115,258
1879.....	3,664,131	3,646,255	8,884,208
1880.....	2,296,897	2,290,366	9,201,213
1881.....	3,048,145	3,214,541	9,931,176
1882.....	4,028,847	3,552,990	12,036,939
Total gals	54,993,866	49,743,240	128,495,491

—Over four tons of postal matter left Winnipeg by the last mail for the Saskatchewan.

—An Exhibition of Foreign Products, Arts and Manufactures is to be held in Boston, beginning in September this year and to last for three months. An enormous building is being erected on Huntington Avenue, Dalton St. and the Boston and Albany R. R. for the purpose in that city, and a space has been allotted for Canada on the plan, flanked by England, Russia, Australasia and the Indies. No charge will be made to exhibitors for space. The suggestion is made that some of our manufacturers may find it worth while to send specimens of their products to be shown, and thereby catch the eyes of visitors from foreign countries who are expected to be present in considerable numbers. We would further suggest that the occasion may prove a good one on which to display specimens of our minerals as well as our woods. For this reason the attention of the Dominion Government and the local legislatures, if it has not already been engaged, might be profitably directed to the project.

—The whiskey distillers of the United States are estimated to have, at the present time, a surplus of that article on hand equal to 85,000,000 gallons. This is in bond for the internal premium duty of ninety cents per gallon, which amounts to the tidy sum of seven and a half million dollars. The time approaches—we think mid-June is about the date—when the bonds for this liquor must be cleared either by export of the goods or the payment of the duty, and the distillers are discussing what they will do to clear their bonds. An easy solution was thought to have been reached when it was proposed to send the troublesome whiskey to Canada, store it till their bonds are cancelled and then reship it to the States and save the duty. Accordingly the Secretary of the United States Distillers' Association, Mr. Pratt of Louisville, visited Ottawa last week to obtain the permission of the Government to such a proceeding. But he found some difficulties in the way. For one thing our law specifies packages of not less than 100 gallons, while the American packages are 40 gallon barrels. Finally permission was refused, and the distillers now talk of sending it to Bermuda.

—The directors of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association met in London on the 27th ultimo, to take action in accordance with a resolution passed at the late convention held at Ingersoll as to the appointment of a competent man as instructor to visit various factories and so further improvement in the manufacture and care of cheese. Mr. Ballantyne, Mr. Richardson and Mr. Caswell were chosen a committee to select a cheese instructor. \$500 to be paid to him for the season of 1883. The Association to pay half his salary and expenses, the factories benefited to pay the other half. It was resolved to hold the next convention of the Association in London on the second Wednesday of February 1884.

—The Hamilton city council assumes that it owns enough shares of the Hamilton and North Western Railway to enable it to elect the Board of directors, and accordingly it has nominated a ticket for this purpose. It is a curious thing to see a municipal council nominating, as it would one of its own committees, a Board of railway directors. Possibly its right to do so may be called in question.

The steamer *Passport* is to be sold or leased to an Ontario Company, in consequence of a change in the arrangements of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Co. which will this summer run its steamers only as far west as Toronto.

Correspondence.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times.

SIR,—At the risk of seeming intrusive, and imposing alike upon your valuable space and the attention of your readers, I venture to ask your insertion of a brief rejoinder to your courteous article upon this subject in your last issue.

With skill and knowledge begotten only of intimate and practical acquaintance with its operations, you have laid bare the weakness, inefficiency, uncertainty, and partial administration, and mal administration of insolvent estates under the creditors' control. The worst of its attributes and results have been told to a hitherto deceived and ignorant, but confiding commercial community, who, of course were under the delusion, that, unlike their own businesses, the management of insolvent estates, under assignees directed by inspectors, was simply perfection, and entirely free from fault. Admitting for the moment the absolute correctness and justice of all this, where are we to find the infallible panacea for it? Under what regime is the new equitable distribution act, which we hope to get, to be administered? Who is the authority that, armed with the Philosopher's lamp, is to find and instal only those assignees who are never to be incompetent, or unreliable, or defaulters, and failing this, is to set in motion a potent (patent) automatic machine, that will first endow them with competency, and then insure the absolute efficiency, honesty and accuracy, of all their proceedings, including the elimination of every unnecessary and improper item in their accounts? Who is further to detect every species of inaccuracy, and excess, in every claim upon every estate, and promptly to adjust every dispute in connection with them. Who is to set aside every fraudulent transfer of property, every preferential payment and assignment, to collect every book debt, good, bad and doubtful, which appears in the books of every insolvent debtor; to superintend the preparation of every dividend sheet, and adjust the thousand and one other points about which disputes and difficulties arise in course of liquidation.

This authority, with the aforesaid automatic attachment is to be entirely free from any interest, in any of the estates, the administration of which he is to assume. He is never by any means to stop short of any, and everything in the shape of injustice is to be foreign to his benignant sway.

Moreover this sway is to operate with the like unerring precision and effect, in every estate, in every Province in the Dominion, from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. The expense is not mentioned, but for such invaluable services, the question of expense cannot for a moment be considered.

And who, did any one ask, is to be this omnipotent authority? Why, sir, a "Bankruptcy Court," having no likeness or similitude to our County Court, or its Judges, but free from all sway by local influences and chosen from those who have had wide experience in such matters, the judges are to be fitted through constant dealings with them, to accomplish all that has been foreshadowed, all that Creditors and Assignees have hitherto failed to accomplish, or have done amiss. This is of course the "Court" not mentioned, but intended to be mentioned in the Bill of the honorable member for West Toronto, and sir, if it will accomplish what the *MONETARY TIMES* by inference claims that it will, the scope of its operation will be all too limited and may as well be enlarged at the outset. For if it can ensure the successful administration of insolvent estates, why not the enterprise of our Merchants, Manufacturers, Bankers, &c. Who will not be eager to turn over his affairs to such a tribunal to manage, and take his ease? The management of the Canada Pacific, the N. P., the Civil affairs, the Rectory Surplus, the Esplanade, and sundry other minor difficulties, would all naturally enough fall to be administered by this ubiquitous "Court" to the astonishment of legislators and statesmen, who hitherto have had such indifferent conceptions of the ability of the Courts. But, stay, there are of course precedents for such a step.—Certainly, there is the Court, wherein was inscribed the historical case of "*Jarndyce vs. Jarndyce*" ample precedent for the establishment of such an administrative Court as is advocated by the *MONETARY TIMES*. I am not surprised you should have some slight doubt as to whether the time has really arrived when such a "Special Court" as is here