

the Western department of the Phoenix, of Brooklyn, is to hold forth on fire insurance. The Attorney-General of Wisconsin, will speak to the text, "The Inconsistencies of Fire Insurance Legislation;" and John A. Finch, of the Indianapolis bar, will have something to say upon "The Liability of Members of Assessment and Fraternal Insurance Organizations." Addresses by experts are expected on the proper examination of companies engaged in the various branches of insurance, mortality tables, reserve and like subjects.

INLAND ROUTE TO THE YUKON.

We have received copies of a 30-page pamphlet entitled "The Inland Route to the Yukon," with map showing proposed routes from Kamloops to Klondike, published under Government authority by the Kamloops Printing and Publishing Co. at Kamloops, B.C. The route indicated is from Kamloops, north by the Clearwater Lakes and the Fraser River, or with an alternative detour to the westward, passing Barkerville and Cariboo, and striking the Necheco River, thence north-ward, crossing the Skeena at Hazelton. The more northerly of two suggested routes follows the Willow and the Findlay rivers, then west and north along a tributary of the Liard. The Stikkeen River is crossed near Telegraph Creek, and then the route runs due north along the Teslin Lakes, across the boundary of British Columbia, in latitude 60° and longitude 132.30; thence north-westward to Fort Selkirk, Lewis River, Pelly River, and so up to the junction of the Klondike with the Yukon, to Fort Cudahy, Forty-mile Creek, and across the Alaska boundary to Circle City. The writer of the pamphlet says he has spent eighteen months with his family in the district from the Stikkeen River northward, and says the C.P.R. has already begun surveying a line north of that river, and connecting it with Teslin Lake. Says the *Victoria Colonist*: "Can Eastern people, can our own people, fully realize what it means to say that from Kamloops, nearly 150 miles from the southern boundary of the province, a railway nearly fourteen hundred miles long can be built in British Columbia, connecting the great gold and silver region of the South-east with the gold fields in Yukon, and passing for its entire length through a highly mineralized country, with millions of acres of fertile land along its route? What a wonderful fact this is!"

BRITISH COLUMBIA NOTES.

The premier of British Columbia has been visiting the agricultural districts in the Fraser Valley and the Kootenay country. Everywhere, he says—in the agricultural as well as the mining districts—he found signs of prosperity. The farmers have all had good crops, and good prices, and in the silver-lead mining districts, Mr. Turner found that the advance in the price of lead had more than counteracted the slump in silver, and had in fact caused work to be started on several properties. The early reopening of the Pilot Bay smelter had caused activity in that district. Some rich finds of copper ore have been recently made on St. Mary's River, about 14 miles from Pilot Bay, and these, together with the silver-lead mines in Ainsworth camp will keep the Pilot Bay smelter going. A trail is being built to the new finds, and there is already talk of constructing a narrow gauge railway.

Nelson, the Premier tells the *Vancouver News-Advertiser*, he found a very busy place. A large number of new buildings have recently been erected, and numerous mines in the vicinity are being actively worked. In Rossland, too, he noticed a great change, and though there are at present not many mines actually shipping ore, the town has assumed a solid appearance. While there he met the Board of Trade, and discussed several matters affecting the district. At Revelstoke the vexed question of the erosion of the river bank was again called to the Premier's attention, and he has instructed an engineer to report on the same, and has also entered into communication with the Dominion Government on the subject.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

G. C., Truro, N.S.—Cannot see that your argument applies. "Encouragement" of the kind you appear to suggest does not appear to be needed by the Massey-Harris Company, which ships its wares to Australia, or the Toronto Radiator Works, which sends its products to Norway. And both these concerns are 1,000 miles farther from the Atlantic than you. Then we heard the other day that the Robb Engineering Company of Amherst had received an order for three tandem compound engines for export to Spain. These were ordered, we understand, by an English engineering firm for electric street roads at Barcelona and Madrid. If you have a good thing which people need, and will let people know that you have it, even foreigners will find you out, and that without Government pap.

E. A., Ottawa.—(1) Don't think the Ontario Government has any-

thing to do with it. (2) Ask the secretary of the Winnipeg Board of Trade.

CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, Oct. 28th, 1897, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Oct. 28.	Oct. 21.
Montreal	\$12,953,645	\$13,463,878
Toronto	7,416,191	7,678,463
Halifax	1,139,040	1,317,248
Winnipeg	3,121,577	3,080,572
Hamilton	594,077	657,907
St. John	554,363	542,060
	\$25,778,893	\$26,740,228

Aggregate balances this week, \$3,570,058; last week, \$4,549,795.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION.—The September issue of the quarterly publications of this body has just reached us. Among critical notices is one on Medical Statistics of the Negro, and a racy attack on Mr. M. G. Mulhall's statistical methods as exemplified in his latest book, *Industries and Wealth of Nations*. The criticism says: "Mr. Mulhall has shown us his art, his peculiar legerdemain, and has confirmed our original impression that it is all humbug."

STATUTES OF CANADA.—This volume includes the local and private Acts, as well as the public and general Acts, of the first session of the eighth Parliament of the Dominion. It is two volumes in one; the first relating to the first session, lasting from 19th August to 5th October, 1896, and the second from 25th March to 29th June, 1897. S. E. Dawson, Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1897.

—A correspondent who signs his very bitter letter "Labor's Sacred Cause" finds fault with a brief article in last week's *MONETARY TIMES* on the London engineers' strike, saying that this journal must be in league with monopoly and is crying down the workingman. The impeachment is incorrect. We simply gave a statement of the true inwardness of the movement from a respectable source, and deprecated such an extension of the struggle as Mr. Keir Hardie is trying to bring about. It is not difficult for an unprejudiced man to see that the English trades unions have grown to be unreasonable in their demands. They are, indeed, making it impossible to carry on the industry with success. Here is what John Burns himself, a valiant champion of the "working-man," writes on the subject:—

"I know of unnecessary harassing in trivial matters of employers; I have opposed, and still more will strongly disapprove of the way in which some unions have allowed their district officials to raise non-essentials and to cause senseless, silly disputes over trivialities as between trade and trade, to exaggerate their importance, the employers and the men suffering therefrom. What is more, I am determined up to the hilt to use what influence I can to stop the internecine strife over demarcation of work and other questions upon which provincial, but not London, employers have some ground for complaint. I also believe that the larger unions should exercise stronger central control over the meddling minnows who fancy they are tritons."

—It is worthy of note that the Medical Association gathering in Montreal brought to the notice of European medical men some things previously unknown, or imperfectly known, about Canada. It was made clear that the air of our western plains, viz., from the altitude of them, is very dry and bracing, and a stay there has been found to be most beneficial in cases of lung and chest troubles. People in England are finding this out from the fact that not a few persons suffering from pulmonary complaints and affections of the kind have been practically free from them while staying in Canada. This is also the case in the Rocky Mountains, among the pine forests, and in the Kamloops district.

—The total amount to be raised in direct taxes for next year in New York State on the equalized value of real estate, which aggregates \$4,506,985,694, is \$12,033,651, of which \$4,101,356 is for school purposes, \$2,947,610 for canal and general purposes, and \$4,984,684 for the State care of the insane. In addition to the amount of the tax, the State will have other revenues aggregating about \$8,500,000, of which \$2,300,000 will result from the annual tax on corporations and the organization tax, \$2,000,000 from collateral inheritance taxes, and \$3,500,000 from the Raines excise law. The estimated receipts under the latter are \$3,250,000, but they will probably be nearer \$4,000,000.