

"The mines of the Canada Consolidated Gold Mining Company. These mines are about ten miles distant from the famous Medoc iron mines, which have shipped into the United States this year about 100,000 tons of iron ore. The veins on the company's property carry gold, are very large, and are distinctly traced on the company's property for 3,100 feet. The average contents of about 600 tons of ore worked in sampling the mines was \$18.65 per ton; of this over 80 per cent. was saved. The cost of mining, milling, etc., is estimated at \$3 to \$3.50 per ton, leaving a net profit of about \$11.50 per ton. It is estimated that the ore already developed will aggregate from 50,000 to 100,000 tons, and will give a net profit of from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, or even more.

There are five known veins on the property. The main vein is opened in pay ore for about 800 feet in length, while in places it is fully 25 feet in width, with pay ore from wall to wall. There are numerous shafts on this vein, the deepest being about 150 feet. The best ore that has ever come from the mines is being taken out of 140 foot levels. It contains much visible gold, and some of it assays very high, while samples in which no gold was discernable to the eye were found to carry from \$140 to \$150 per ton. This rich ore would tend to improve the average of \$18.65 per ton, but those interested do not look for its continuance; all they claim is a low-grade ore in great abundance, and which can be very cheaply worked."

The adaptability of the Eastern Townships for settlement by immigrants will soon be proven, as it is stated that a Swiss Company has bought two large tracts of land and intend to have them settled in the spring. The inducements to go to the North-West are that the land is more fertile, and it is ready for the plough; but timber for building purposes and firewood or coal are very expensive and markets are distant. These disadvantages do not exist in the Townships, the only drawback being the "clearing" of the land: that this is much preferable to the disadvantages of the North-West is probably true, and we hope to see the Townships rapidly settled.

The recent forgery in the U. S. of \$250,000 in bonds leads one to inquire why it is that advantage is not taken of chemical preparations to prevent this crime. The invention of Dr. Hunt consists of a certain colour which cannot be photographed, lithographed or otherwise imitated, and paper, it is confidently asserted, can be so prepared as to render it impossible to eradicate or alter the writing without leaving traces of the alteration. The frequency of forgeries and the large losses resulting, conclusively show that hitherto very little attention has been paid to this matter.

BANKS.								
BANK.	Shares per value.	Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid up	Rest.	Price per \$100 Dec. 1, 1880.	Price per \$100 Dec. 1, 1879.	Last half-yearly Dividend.	Per cent. per annum on present price.
Montreal	\$200	\$12,000,000	\$11,999,200	\$5,000,000	\$164	\$144	4	4.88
Ontario	40	3,000,000	2,996,756	100,000	100	70	3	6.00
Molson's	50	2,000,000	1,999,095	100,000	106½	75	3	5.63
Toronto	100	2,000,000	2,000,000	500,000	144¼	116	3½	4.85
Jacques Cartier	25	500,000	500,000	55,000	97½	57½	2½	5.13
Merchants	100	5,798,267	5,518,933	475,000	117½	90	3	5.11
Eastern Townships	50	1,469,600	1,382,037	200,000	114	..	3½	6.14
Quebec	100	2,500,000	2,500,000	425,000	103	..	3	5.83
Commerce	50	6,000,000	6,000,000	1,400,000	140	118¼	4	5.71
Exchange	100	1,000,000	1,000,000	75,000	67½
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Montreal Telegraph Co.	40	2,000,000	2,000,000	171,432	131½	95	4	6.03
R. & O. N. Co.	100	1,505,000	1,505,000	..	61½	38¼
City Passenger Railway	50	..	600,000	163,000	119½	..	16	5.02
New City Gas Co.	40	2,000,000	1,880,000	..	151½	118	5	6.60

*Contingent Fund. †Reconstruction Reserve Fund. ‡Per annum.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.										
COMPANY.	1880.				1879.		Week's Traffic.		Aggregate.	
	Period.	Pass. Mails & Express	Freight and L. Stock	Total.	Total.	Incr'se	Decr'se	Period.	Incr'se	Decr'se
	Week	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Weeks	\$	\$
*Grand Trunk	Nov. 27	54,911	155,019	209,930	195,125	14,805	..	22 w'ks	697,416	..
Great Western	" 19	37,038	72,050	109,088	100,731	8,357	..	21 "	305,922	..
Northern & H. & N. W.	" 22	6,591	17,688	24,279	21,930	2,349	..	21 "	73,949	..
Toronto & Nipissing	" 20	1,583	2,880	4,463	3,461	1,002	..	21 "	6,573	..
Midland	" 20	1,617	4,224	5,841	5,615	226	..	21 "	33,072	..
St. Lawrence & Ottawa	" 27	1,460	1,368	2,828	2,697	131	..	22 "	..	2,218
Whitby, Pt. Perry & Lindsay	" 21	583	951	1,534	1,505	29	..	21 "	6,644	..
Canada Central	" 13	2,399	8,672	11,071	7,423	3,648	..	20 "	47,199	..
Toronto Grey & Bruce	" 13	2,285	4,310	6,595	6,320	275	..	20 "	..	1,021
†Q., M., O. & O.	" 23	9,562	6,991	16,553	4,746	11,807	..	19 "	179,593	..
Intercolonial	Month Oct. 31	52,352	103,817	156,169	129,390	26,779	..	4 m'nth	119,796	..

*NOTE TO GRAND TRUNK.—The Riviere du Loup receipts are included for seven weeks in 1879, not in 1880; omitting them the aggregate increase for 22 weeks is \$725,646.

†NOTE TO Q., M., O. & O. RY.—Eastern Division receipts not included in returns for 1879.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL.

No. I.

Recent events having brought this branch of the legal profession into special prominence, a few remarks about it may not be uninteresting. The term Q. C. is an English one, borrowed from the practice of the English Courts. It has no counterpart in France or America. In Lower Canada, French Canadian advocates who are honoured in this way, generally use the letters C. R.,—*Conseil de la Reine*. The first to receive this honour in England was Sir Francis Bacon, although it appears that it was conferred upon him *honoris causa*, and without any patent or fee attached. According to Blackstone, the first of the sworn servants of the Crown, appointed with regular salary, was Sir Francis North, afterwards Lord Keeper of the Great Seal to King Charles II. (*Blackstone III., chap. iii., p. 27*). The King's Counsel were selected from the Advocates before the Bar. Of these there were two grades or ranks,—Barristers and Sergeants. The former were admitted after a considerable period of study, or at least standing in the Inns of Court, and are in old books styled apprentices (*apprenticij ad legem*), being looked upon as merely learners and not qualified to execute the full office of an Advocate till they were of sixteen years' standing; at which time they might be called to the state and degree of Sergeants or *servientes ad legem*. Sergeants-at-law are bound by solemn oath to do their duty to their clients. By custom the judges of Westminster are admitted to the degree of the Sergeants before ascending the bench, and thereafter in Court address the Sergeants as *brother*. From both these grades the king selected his Counsel, learned in the law, to assist the Crown in the performance of its judicial functions. The two principal counsel are the Attorney and Solicitor-General, and the others take rank according to the date of their appointment, and are entitled to pre-audience before the Courts. In practice in England there are almost invariably two Counsel engaged on each side, called Leader and Junior. The Leader is generally a Q. C. Queen's Counsel in England are appointed by the Crown upon nomination by the Lord Chancellor. After being so appointed, a Q. C. cannot, according to the ancient rule, appear in defence of any one prosecuted by the Crown, without having obtained a special licence, which is never refused, and for which a small sum is charged.

A counsel, whether he be Queen's Counsel or not, cannot, according to the ancient rule, maintain an action for his fees; which are not given as a salary or hire (*locatio vel conductio*) but as *quiddam honorarium*, which a counsellor cannot demand without doing wrong to his reputation. And, in order to encourage due freedom of speech in the lawful defence of their clients, and at the same time to give a check to the unseemly licentiousness of prostitute and illiberal men "a few of whom" saith Blackstone "may sometimes insinuate themselves even into the most honourable profession, it hath been holden that a counsel is not answerable for any matter by him spoken relative to the cause in hand and suggester in the clients instructions, although if he subsequently publish, it may be otherwise." Counsel guilty of deceit or collusion are punishable by the statute *Westin I. 3 Edw. 1. c. 28.* with imprisonment for a year and a day and perpetual silence in the courts.

It appears that the rank of Queen's Counsel was at first given to eminent barristers, who received in return for their legal services a certain salary from the Crown, and could not unless by special permission, appear in any case against the Crown. Later on, letters of precedence were granted to others, and these assumed the position and the privileges of the Crown's Counsel, being appointed in the same way but receiving no salary—still later on, the system of salaries was abolished and the only trace of it remains in the cases of the Attorney General and similar offices.

It does not appear that a barrister upon his appointment as one of the Queen's Counsel was bound, in the event of his appearing against the Crown (in order to do which a special licence, as we have said, was necessary) to guard in a special way the interests of the Crown. In such a case his duty would be to his client alone.

In our own courts the old rules have not been enforced. No special licence need be obtained by any Q. C. before entering upon the defence of a prisoner arraigned by the Crown, nor is the Counsel in any way required to consider whether his duty to his client is modified by his own relation to the Crown; his position in such a case is precisely similar to that of any other advocate. As now conferred, the title is regarded as a reward for professional merit and is conferred upon lawyers of eminent standing, after ten or twelve years practice. Unfortunately, however, political consideration too often enters into the calculations of our Local and Dominion Governments when they determine whom they shall honour. No oath is exacted; no fees have to be paid; no special duties have to be performed.

Our leading lawyers in this Province do not hold this title in very great esteem, it having been refused on several occasions by men of whose talents there can be no doubt; it is not improbable that the recklessness with which the honour has been distributed, has led them to consider it an empty one and indicating *prima facie* no special legal ability but merely a certain amount of political influence.