

THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER.

His home is in the sleeping car,
No vine or fig trees shade.
His music is its clanking wheels,
His poetry is trade.
This missionary of the mart,
He spreads "the true faith's" germs,
The endless merits of this house
Above all other firms.

He buttonholes the kings of trade,
His sample case unrolls,
And talks until the love of life
Grows feeble in their souls.
The bolted doors swing wide for him,
He fears no locks nor bars,
And hears not any face of man
Beneath the sun or stars.

The heroes of baronial times
Were armed from hair to heel,
With iron pots upon their heads
And pantaloons of steel;
The hustler hero of to-day
Is armorless and weak,
But for the vigor of his tongue
And blusshless breadth of cheek.

He meets all men with fearless mien,
Nor knows to pause and swerve,
With Lilliputian bashfulness
And Brobdignagian nerve.
No dim abstractions vex his soul;
His creed and happiness
Is just to make a sale and catch
The 2 o'clock express.

—American Journal.

THE CADASTRAL SYSTEM IN QUEBEC.

The cadastral system, as it is now carried into effect in the Eastern Townships, is a fraud and a humbug; a bill of expense and trouble to government and those who hold claims on real estate. Instead of numbering lots consecutively by one series of numbers, as was done in the case of Sherbrooke and Lennoxville, the lots in Compton county (200 acres) are subdivided into at least four lots each, according to the separate rights of ownership therein, and these are numbered following the original numbers of lot and range, No. 5 A, range four, in the township of — No. 5 B, in range four, and so on. When any of these lots are again subdivided into six lots or more, there will have to be another plan in each case, and then the description will be something like this: No. 5. 1, in range four. No. 5. A. 2, in range four, etc. How much more simple to describe the fifty acre lot as north quarter, south quarter, as the case may be, as has always been done before, and thus avoid confusion and useless expense. Had Sir George E. Cartier's intention of having the lots in each municipality numbered consecutively in one series, been carried out, it would have greatly simplified the description. As it is being carried out now, it is worse than useless, for it is expensive, while the failure to renew under the new description within two years may cause the entire loss of a mortgage held against the property.

This is nearly as bad as the present law in regard to sales of real estate, which requires the purchaser to register his title and pay the tax of one and a half per cent. within thirty days, under penalty of nullity. The latter, by the way, is beyond the control of any civilized legislation. The want of registration is a matter which rests with the purchaser and is only necessary to protect himself against the vendor and his *auteurs*, and those having claims against them. His property cannot be confiscated, so to speak, by any legislature in this province, at least. Let the [Quebec] government make the transfer tax a just claim on real estate, collectable the same as any municipal tax from the occupant. The occupancy in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred will show the transfer, besides which a person's title must be registered before he can sell or hypothecate the property, as a protection to the purchaser or mortgagee against the claims of a third party.—*Sherbrooke correspondent of St. John's News.*

—The annual report of the Michigan Central for 1892 shows:—Gross earnings, \$15,908,293, an increase of \$745,333; expenses, \$12,046,095, an increase of \$938,526; net, \$3,862,198, a decrease of \$193,193; surplus, \$93,320, which is \$104,000 less.

A NEWSPAPER DINNER.

A notable event in the history of Washington journalism was the Press Club banquet at the Arlington Hotel on March 20th. The remarkable part of the affair was not the eating, nor yet the speaking, but the oddities, or what a good German friend of mine calls the "foney peezness." The table was rigged up with miniature telegraph poles and wires running from one end to the other connected with the Western Union, and messages were received during the evening. The air of the room was redolent with perfumes from the masses of costly flowers, and electric lights most happily bestowed, transformed the room into a fairy land. And so, indeed, it was. As soon as the gentlemen had taken their seats the room suddenly became pitch dark. In the twinkling of an eye the lights flashed up, and, lo! little girls in gay dresses and satin slippers were fitting up and down the table pinning boutonnières on the gentlemen's coats. They had been concealed in pyramids of banana leaves all the while. The menu in front of each plate was a miniature globe, on which were printed also the names of the guests and happy jokes about the different countries, e.g., on Panama: "All lost but dishonor." There was singing, accompanied with the banjo, the member sitting on the top of his chair back, and a thousand other oddities. But the funniest of all was a magic lantern show in which Signor Pfefferewski was figured as singing "The wind blew through my whiskers," Mr. Kilgore kicking the iridium point from the top of the Washington monument, and other fine local hits. The newspaper men from all our great cities form a remarkably clever set in the capital. I have the pleasure of knowing some of them and they do you abundant credit.—*Wash. Cor. Exam.*

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PRESS.

Kaslo's newspaper, strong in the pride of earliest youth, lately deprecated altogether the importance of Nelson, whereto the *Tribune* of the latter town thus replies amusingly: "According to the *Examiner* Kaslo is a city and Nelson a country village. Well, in the language of Bob Ingersoll, in the country village is the ideal home. There you see the rising and setting sun; you become acquainted with the stars and clouds. The constellations are your friends. You hear the rain on the roof and listen to the rhythmic sighing of the winds. You are thrilled by the resurrection called Spring. Every street is a picture, a landscape; every hillside a poem; every bud a tender thought, and every forest a fairyland. In the country village you preserve your identity—your personality. There you are an aggregation of atoms; but in a city like Kaslo you are only a bag of wind." There isn't much, however, of the ideal country village about western mining towns. There foundations are built otherwise.

"BOSSING" AND WORKING.

There never was a greater mistake, says *The Helper*, than to suppose that going into business for one's self brings with it relief from the necessity of work. A writer in the *Michigan Tradesman* tells a suggestive story of an interview with a boy. He says: Having occasion, recently, to call upon a small grocer in the northern section of the city, I found the place vacant. I thought I would go to the store on the next corner and inquire as to his whereabouts. I found that the grocer at this place had also retired from business to ruminate on his experience. In the rear of the store was a small meat market, and in there I went for information. A small boy sat by the stove. "Good morning, my boy. Are you the man who runs this concern?" "Betcher life," rejoined the boy; "w'at'er want?" "What has become of Mr. Blank, who kept grocery down on the next corner?" "Who? Pete Blank? Oh, he's workin' now."

—The steel tank steamer "El Leon," the first ever built in a French yard, will be ready for launching at Havre about March 15th. She will carry from 2,800 to 3,000 tons of oil in bulk, besides 400 tons of oil in her bunkers. She is the property of Messrs. Deutsch, of Paris, and will carry oil from America to France and Spain.

A NEW INDUSTRY.

Mr. Charles L. Mitchell, of Bangor, is erecting at Lily Lake, eleven miles from Oxford Station, Cumberland Co., Nova Scotia, a drying house heated with wooden furnaces, for the purpose of drying the water out of fossil fluor spar, a large deposit of which is found at the lake. The spar is a white powder, chemically is nearly pure silica, and is supposed to have an animal origin—the remains of animalculae. The spar is a valuable substance in the arts. It is an absorbent of water and other substances and a non-conductor of heat. It is used in the manufacture of explosives, in surgery, in place of asbestos, in place of whiting in rubber shoes and many other purposes. Should the attempt prove successful, large quantities of the mineral will be gathered and shipped to United States.—*Chignecto Post.*

THE MANITOULIN RAILWAY.

The engineers who have been out since the 1st of September on the final location of the Manitoulin and North Shore railway, have just completed their work, and are now busy preparing the plans and profiles with all haste, as the company purposes to commence building early in the spring and push the work to completion with all vigor. The road runs from the town of Little Current on the Grand Manitoulin in a north-easterly direction to Nelson station, on the Sault branch of the C.P.R., a distance of forty miles.—*Owen Sound Times.*

NOT ENOUGH.

Clerk—"These remnants are in five and seven yard lengths, and very great bargains."
Customer—"They won't do, I want enough to make a pair of sleeves."—*Chicago Inter-Ocean.*

—The early closing of stores by municipal authority has proved successful in Ottawa, and there has been general satisfaction among those affected by the regulations.

—The gross earnings of the Lake Shore railroad for 1892 were \$22,415,383, an increase of \$983,998; operating expenses, \$15,803,191, an increase of \$1,170,516; net, \$6,612,192, a decrease of \$186,518.

—A process for making briquettes out of "purple ore" (roasted pyrites), so that they may be more readily charged into blast furnaces, is said to have been patented in Germany by the Georg-Marien Bergwerks-und Huttenverien at Osnabruck. The agglutinant substance employed is the ferruginous mud from the reduction apparatus in the aniline manufacture, thus fitting the purple ore for being smelted into iron, and also turning to good account what has hitherto been a waste product.

—The Hudson's Bay fur sales commenced on Monday, says the *Canadian Gazette* of March 16, when otter, sea otter, fisher and fox skins were sold. The bidding was active. Otter advanced 23 per cent., fisher 27 per cent., silver fox 25 per cent., and white fox 14 per cent. On Tuesday marten and fox were sold. The former advanced 45 per cent., and red fox declined 5 per cent. Yesterday the sale began with bear skins, which realized about the same as last year's prices.

—At the annual meeting of the Commercial Cable Company, which was held at its head office in New York, on Monday last, the financial statements submitted show that the net earnings for the year 1892 amounted to \$1,099,587, equivalent to 14½ per cent. on the capital stock. On January 15th, 1892, the company paid off \$600,000 of its six per cent. bonds, and paid off another \$600,000 on January 15th, 1893, leaving \$400,000 outstanding out of the original issue of \$3,000,000. The company's action in increasing the capital was unanimously ratified by the shareholders. The money thus secured will provide ample funds for the laying of a third cable, which, however, it is not the intention of the company to lay until next year. The following directors were elected: John W. Mackay, James Gordon Bennett, Gardiner G. Howland, Geo. S. Col, John W. Mackay, jr.; Richard Irvin, jr.; Thomas Skinner, Sir Donald A. Smith, K.C.M.G.; W. C. VanHorne, Chas. R. Hosmer, A. B. Chandler, George G. Ward and E. C. Platt.