

tide of grangerism throughout the North West will give them serious trouble as soon as the Legislatures meet." The discriminations form the worst feature in this scale of charges, and with these the Railway and the Warehouse Commission might be entrusted with the power to deal. The figures show the danger of railway amalgamation or any device by which competition can be killed. Perhaps some of the competitive rates are below the paying point; but some of the non-competitive rates are certainly above all reason. Some of these rates appear to be a great deal higher than those charged by the Canada Pacific Railway Company. Burthened with such charges for freight on produce, it would be a miracle if farming, at present prices, could pay.

TAX EXEMPTIONS.

The ratepayers of Toronto will shortly be called upon to vote upon the question of the abolition of tax exemptions, a matter which engages, and properly, much attention, since the keeping free from taxation Government, municipal, and religious and educational properties imposes heavier burdens upon the ratepayers than would be the case if these bore their share of civic taxation along with other real estate. It is instructive to find, as we do from a statement in the *Globe* of Tuesday, that properties valued at nearly eleven millions of dollars, more than an eighth of the assessed value of real property in this city, pay no taxes. The list is as under:—

Churches, including Separate Schools.....	\$2,332,057
City property, including Public Schools.....	1,426,505
Charitable Institutions.....	233,354
Educational Institutions.....	1,108,956
Ontario Government.....	1,753,610
Dominion Government.....	1,674,090
County of York.....	87,940
Law Society (Osgoode Hall).....	555,650
Toronto University.....	1,014,835
Miscellaneous.....	608,600
Total.....	\$10,795,597

At a public meeting held in St. Andrew's Hall, a resolution, on motion of Mr. Alfred Boulton, was passed: "That all exemptions should be abolished, and the power [to abolish or retain] be left in the hands of municipal councils; and that the government should pass a permissive act enabling this [abolition or retention] to be done." This came as an amendment to a motion which proposed to exempt churches and the ground on which they stand. One of the speakers very improperly referred to the judges as officials who are in the receipt of "fat" salaries; improper because whatever is not true ought never to be stated, and it is notorious that so underpaid are the judges that it is difficult to find suitable men to fill the offices as they fall vacant. It so happens, too, that they are about the only officials whose salaries the local legislature cannot tax. Every judge is appointed on the express condition, declared by order in council, that his salary shall not be diminished by direct taxation. Generally speaking, exemptions are indefensible and ought to be abolished. But some of the exemptions are only nominal; of this nature are those consisting of city property and public schools.

To tax them would be to go through the farce of making the city pay out of one pocket and into the other. The gain of the operation would be measurable by the loss which its cost would involve. People ought to exercise a little common sense even in the matter of exemptions. Whether the local legislature has the power to authorize the taxation of the property of the Federal government which, in Toronto, is set down at the value of \$1,674,090 is an open question, with perhaps, the odds in favor of the local government. The real obstacle to the abolition of exemptions will be found to be Archbishop Lynch; and if they be allowed to remain the credit and the blame of maintaining the impassive will belong to him.

EXHIBITIONS AND NEW MARKETS.

Canada is to be represented at the International Exhibition in Antwerp next year, and also, at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London the year following. By a recent minute of the Privy Council, we learn that Sir Charles Tupper, the High Commissioner for Canada, will be the executive commissioner for both Exhibitions. Mr. F. J. Dore, of our London immigration staff, will be secretary of the commission. The Dominion Minister of Agriculture is charged with the arrangements at both exhibitions.

Official notification with respect to exhibits, is to be published, and circulars sent to the principal manufacturers and producers throughout the Dominion, stating the conditions on which they can send exhibits to Antwerp and London; and an agent or agents will be appointed for each Province, for proper collection of such exhibits as it may be thought advisable to send to Antwerp and London.

The cost of freight of goods sent by the owners for exhibition, will be defrayed by the commission to Antwerp; and afterwards to London, also cost of freight in returning such exhibits to Canada if not sold by the order or agents of the owners. All such goods will be under the care of the commission and must remain during the exhibitions; but all perishable articles to be at the risk of the owners. All exhibits must be ready for shipment to Antwerp not later than the first week in March next. Goods sold at Antwerp must be replaced by duplicate or similar products for exhibition at London.

Exhibits of cereals and other field or garden products, also of natural mineral products, will be purchased and remain the property of the Department of Agriculture for further exhibition at the several emigration agencies in the British Islands and Europe. Owners, however, of such natural products in the Dominion may, if they see fit, send specimens for exhibition on the same terms as manufactured articles.

There is good reason to agree in the belief expressed by the official announcement that these exhibitions will afford a favorable opportunity for making known the natural capabilities and manufacturing and industrial progress of the Dominion, and also for opening markets abroad for such articles as can be made in Canada and exported with

advantage. A number of our manufacturers want foreign markets and cannot begin too soon to look for them.

—A statement of the condition of the blast furnaces of the United States as at Dec. 1st, is given by the *Iron Age*. From this it appears that 181 of the 447 furnaces using these fuels, or forty and a half per cent., were in blast, and 266, or fifty-nine and a half per cent., were out of blast. Of the 225 Anthracite furnaces 88, or thirty-nine and a half per cent., were in blast, and of the 222 Bituminous furnaces 93, or a little less than forty-two per cent., were active. The following table exhibits the condition of the Anthracite furnaces on the 1st of December, as compared with their condition on the first of each of the six previous months:

CONDITION OF ANTHRACITE FURNACES.

	Furnaces in blast.	Out of blast.
June 1.....	106	124
July 1.....	101	130
August 1.....	95	138
September 1.....	88	139
October 1.....	86	141
November 1.....	86	185
December 1.....	88	137

These figures show that there has been but little change in the condition of Anthracite furnaces since the 1st of September, the same number being in blast at both dates. The weekly capacity of the Anthracite furnaces in blast average during these seven months 24,782 tons; that of those out of blast, 30,312 tons.

The following table presents the condition of the Bituminous furnaces on December 1st, as compared with their condition on the first of each of the six previous months:—

CONDITION OF BITUMINOUS FURNACES.

	Furnaces in blast.	Out of blast.
June 1.....	98	127
July 1.....	98	127
August 1.....	88	138
September 1.....	83	142
October 1.....	79	146
November 1.....	86	136
December 1.....	93	129

This shows an increase of seven furnaces in blast, the same increase as in the previous month. The only marked increase in any of the districts is in Alabama, three furnaces having blown in. The only marked decrease is in Illinois, three being blown out. We have no reports for one year ago, but, as compared with the 1st of January, there are 88 Anthracite furnaces now in blast, as against 109 on January 1st, and 93 Bituminous, as against 101 on that date. The capacity per week of the furnaces using Bituminous coal averaged 44,244 tons weekly; and that of the furnaces out of blast, 47,807 tons.

—Nothing farther about Canadian Pacific Railway matters has been made public, except the statements of Mr. President Stephen, as reported by an interviewer, that "he thought there would be no trouble in disposing of the stock of the Ontario & Quebec railway, which is to be placed on the London market;" that though no arrangement about the Lachine bridge has been yet completed, "he thought he might safely say that the work would go on this fall (sic) and be finished by the end of next year;" that he had not