

extent to be in a more or less primitive condition at the present moment, both as regards financial matters and methods of administration."

#### Mining Brokers in Court.

Fifteen Toronto gentlemen appeared at the Toronto Police Court on Wednesday morning last under circumstances that were unusual, and to them very possibly provoking. The demeanor of these gentlemen indicated that they were not accustomed to be summoned before such a tribunal, and their countenances variously expressed resentment, surprise or amusement, according to the disposition of the individual. Some of them are known as quiet and law-abiding men, some as speculatively disposed, others as "sports"—more or less. They had been summoned by one Fred. Stokes to appear before His Worship for that they, as the indictment reads, "unlawfully did publish, issue, circulate and caused to be published, issued and circulated an advertisement, letter-head and document, which stated as the capital of the ——— a larger sum than the amount of the subscribed capital, so actually in good faith subscribed as aforesaid." Happily the magistrate was in the best of humor. "It appeared that the prosecuting counsel was not ready to proceed, and so the cases were remanded for a week. It does not meanwhile appear quite certain whether Mr. Stokes is actuated by high moral feelings—a desire to protect the "tenderfoot" from credulously throwing his money (as so many do) into the pockets of gold mining agents, content to take therefor whatever sort of verbal, written or printed acknowledgment they chose to give him, or whether he himself is "on the make," like the whiskey detective or the insurance informer. If, however, next week's proceedings in the case in question shall prove that this good-looking group of gentlemen have been stating untruths in their advertisements, Mr. Stokes, like Messrs. John Doe and Richard Roe, will have served some good purpose, and will have earned the right to have his statue (in small size) erected in our minor Hall of Justice, done in Slovan silver or Trail Creek gold. The names of the brokers and their companies are as follows: Melfort Bolton, Grand Prize, Novelty and Eric; A. W. Ross, Big Three and Monte Cristo; G. A. Case, Georgiana, Palo Alto; Henry O'Hara, Mugwump; Frank McPhillips, Golden Lake; H. A. Drummond, Northern Development and Mining Company; J. E. Thompson, Bannockburn Company; E. L. Sawyer, Eastern Mining Syndicate; Frank A. Wood, Exchequer; J. A. Currie, St. Paul; H. F. Wyatt, Mayflower; C. B. Murray, British Canadian Gold Fields Exploration and Development Company; Fred. J. Stewart, White Bear; J. Grant Lyman, Colorado Gold Mining and Development Company; and Wm. Fullerton, Rossland Gold Mining Development and Investment Company.

#### About Coffee.

Some figures published by the New York Coffee Exchange exhibit the enormous consumption of coffee by the people of the United States, and are interesting in the comparison of last year with the year preceding. The monthly statistical report of the Exchange says that the total receipts of Brazil coffee in the United States for the six months ending Dec. 31 were 2,069,039 bags, against 1,670,188 bags for the same period of 1895, an increase of nearly twenty per cent. The arrivals of all kinds of coffee into that country for the same period aggregated 2,517,078 in 1896, and 2,093,808 bags in 1895. The deliveries of Brazil in the 1896 period amounted to 1,843,733 bags, against 1,641,603 in the 1895 period. Deliveries of all kinds of coffee for the last six months of 1896 were 2,384,193 bags, against 2,168,191. Stocks of Brazil coffee on Jan. 1, 1897, aggregated 507,998 bags, and 474,632 bags on Jan. 1, 1896. It is worthy of note that receipts at Rio and Santos during the six months preceding Jan. 1, 1897, reached a total of 5,787,000 bags, against only 3,944,000 bags during the same period of the year previous.

About the war being carried on by roasted coffee producers in the States the New York *Shipping List* has the following: "The news from Toledo Ohio, that the Arbuckle Brothers had applied to have a receiver appointed for the Woolson Spice Company of that city, as part of the movement in the war between the sugar refiners and the Arbuckles, was not unexpected. Judge Morris caused a temporary restraining order to issue, and will hear the motion for the appointment of a receiver on January 25. The petition names the Woolson Spice Company, its directors, and the American Sugar Refining Company as defendants, and says that the amount of the stock of the Woolson Spice Company is \$300,000, of which 1,800 shares are outstanding; that Thomas J. Kuhn and Arbuckle Brothers, jointly, own one share since March 23, 1893, and the latter sixty shares since December 31, 1896. The rumors concerning the competition in roasted coffee between the sugar refiners and Arbuckle Brothers are as changeable as

the weather. One day the chances for compromise look bright, and authorities in the trade are quoted as saying that the hostilities are nearing the end."

#### Montreal Exporters of Butter and Cheese.

The annual meeting of the Montreal Butter and Cheese Association was held on the 11th inst. The butter bonus granted by the Provincial Legislature not having given satisfaction to the dairymen, the following resolution was passed: "The Butter and Cheese Association, not only having had experience in the working of the bonus granted the past two years to those creameries which exported a portion of their product, in conformity with the regulations set forth by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, have arrived at the conclusion that, inasmuch as the bonus has been of no advantage generally to creameries in this province, we suggest that the balance of the sum now devoted by the Department of Agriculture to that object will be productive of greater benefit, not only to the producers themselves, but also to the export trade in general, were it devoted to greater facilities being afforded in the transportation of butter in cold storage conveyance from the factories to points of shipments, and thence across the ocean to Great Britain." The report of the business transacted by the association during the past year was adopted and ordered printed. The treasurer's report showed a surplus of \$38.60 for the year. The election of officers resulted in the following gentlemen being elected: President, Mr. A. J. Bryce; vice-president, Mr. James Oliver; treasurer, Mr. P. W. McLagan; executive committee, Messrs. George Hodge, Arthur Hodgson, N. F. Bedard, and J. J. Kirkpatrick. Arbitration committee, Messrs. John McKergow, W. T. Ware, James Alexander, A. C. Welland, and J. A. Vaillancourt. Mr. A. J. Brice, the newly elected president, was decided upon as the nominee of the association on the Board of Trade Council.

#### Canadian Oil Fields.

The oil fields of Kent and Lambton counties in Ontario are attracting attention from both Canadian and American petroleum operators. Bothwell and Petrolia are very busy places. A gentleman from Toronto could not get a bed at a hotel in Bothwell on Monday night last, and was taken to a private house. A Hamilton man was fain to put up with a chair in the bar-room over night. A despatch from Bolivar, New York State, says that a company, composed of John Wasson, E. C. Root, Asa Root and G. A. Root, of that town, has obtained a lease of nearly 2,000 acres in the Bothwell oil field, and will soon begin operations. Four of the firm are practical oil men, and think well of the Canadian pool that is at present engaging the enquiries of New York and Pennsylvania oil operators. New plant and modern methods are being employed by the refiners of Canadian crude oil, the object being by perfect distillation to get rid of the sulphurous smell. And there is no good reason to doubt that they will succeed. There is no more light giving power in the United States oil than in the Canadian; the reason the former is preferred by many users in Canada is the superior refining it has received and the consequent absence of unpleasant odor. The American oil comes from a deeper stratum of rock—the Trenton limestone—than ours, and differs slightly in its constituents. By-and-by, when Canadian producers exhaust the superficial deposits or "pockets" of oil, they will go deeper, perhaps 2,000 feet down, and look for large reservoirs. The present Bothwell producing belt is much narrower, it appears, and more limited than the Petrolia belt, but subsequent research may discover more and even richer territory.

#### Winnipeg Grain Exchange.

The ninth annual meeting of the Winnipeg Grain and Provision Exchange was held in that city on Wednesday, 13th inst. The attendance was large. Mr. Stephen Nairn, the president of the Exchange, in an able speech reviewed the commercial events of the year in the Province of Manitoba. The grain crop, he said, had been large, and, although it followed the phenomenal crop of 1895, good prices were realized by farmers. Some progress had been made in railway construction in the province, but there still remained a large section of farming land in need of railway facilities. The milling plant and the elevator capacity had been increased, to the great advantage of grain growers and the trade. The progress of Manitoba had been delayed by the poor roads, and Mr. Nairn strongly advocated that the local Government adopt an energetic policy of reform in this matter. Poor roads were characterized as one of the drawbacks to emigration.

Through the courtesy of the secretary, Mr. C. N. Bell, we have been furnished with a copy of the report of the Council and of the rules adopted relating to sales for future delivery, and the definitions of trade terms. The report contains a detailed account of the work of