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THE TRADE REVIEW

Intercolonial Journal of Commerce.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1868,

The Business Office of the "Trade Review" is removed from No. 4 Merchants' Exchange to No. 58 St. Francois Xavier Street, Room No. 5, Up Stairs.

The clipper ship "Qioniffer" has reached the Clydo after her third voyage this season out and home from Quebec. She made the passage from port to port in sixteen days.

We notice a further advance in the price on the London Stock Market of Canadian Goveenment sixes, dividends payable in January and July; the latest quotations to hand, under date of November 6th, being 1071 to 1081, as against 107 to 108 of the previous week. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia sixes, dividonds also in January and July, showed an advance of one per cent. from the previous week, the quota-tions being for the former 104 to 106, and for the latter 1041 to 1051.

CHEAP TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

WE have at various times urged the propriety of our Government following the example of the Imperial, and taking over the business of the telegraph companies now in existence, to be conducted in connection with and as a part of the Post Office system, with greatly reduced rates. A similar measure has been proposed in the United States, but the difficulties in the way are deemed great, and Senator Ramsey has suggested an alternative. He has prepared a bill to authorize the Postmaster General to receive bids from any telegraph company for the transmission of messages, received through the Post Office, to all citics and towns in the United States of 2,000 inhabitants and over, and to all towns and villages on the line of the telegraph where stations may be established; the contract for the service to be given for a term of years to the lowest and best bidders. It is proposed that the tariff shall not exceed twenty-five cents for twenty words (including date, address and signature) for any distance under five hundred miles, with five cents for every five additional words; and proportionately for every additional five hundred miles.

The argument in favour of the employment of a telegraph company to maintain and work the wires instead of the Government purchasing and working them, is based on the mode of transmitting mail matter. The Government employs railways, steam. | very great advantage of cheap telegraphy,

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MORLAND, WATSON & CO., General Agents for Canada.

FRED. COLE, Sec etary.

Inspector of Agencies-T. C. Livingston, P.L.S. 9-19

boats, or other carriers, and does not do the carrying itself, but were this the only argument in its favour, Senator Ramsey's plan would find few supporters. It must be remembered, that railways and steamboats have much other business as well as the carriage of letters and papers, and that consequently they can do this part of the postal work much more cheaply than Government could do it, and of this there can be no possible question. With respect to telegraphy, the one single business of a company is to transmit messages, and this Government could do through its paid agents quite as cheaply as a joint stock company. Under Senator Ramsey's plan, some company would have to do the work, and for doing it, would have to receive such a sum from Government as would give at least a reasonable return for capital invested, and something over. Now, in considering the working of the wires respectively by the Government direct and through a contracting company, it seems to us, the balance of economy and efficiency would altogether be in favour of the former; and the profits which would otherwise go to the company, could be used in paying the interest on the purchase money, if the lines were bought up, and in providing a sinking

The plan of Senator Ramsey might possibly answer in the United States, and be preferable to the purchase of enormous property by a Government that could only borrow money on onerous terms. Here in Canada the case is differerent. The property to be purchased is as yet not of very great cost, and our credit being good we can easily negotiate a loan for the purpose, and if necessary, make the interest a first charge on the receipts from the telegraph business. There is not a single obstacle to be overcome, which cannot be very easily surmounted, if once Government should decide in favour of amalgamating the telegraph with the postal system. Should the existing company endeavour to make too hard a bargain in handing over its proporty, it could readily be ignored altogether, and new lines built throughout. The competition in this case would be found very severe, and would probably result in making the proprietors very amenable to reason. And we make no doubt that the Government would be fully supported by the country at large, in any measure to scenre the