

tion by fraudulent land agents. Already 4,000 immigrants have passed through this port this week; several thousands will arrive this month; probably 10,000 settlers will go up to the Northwest before the summer, many of whom are prepared to take up land. The Government should take special precautions to prevent these settlers being misled or kept in ignorance of the conditions of life in that region, as very serious trouble is certain to arise before these strangers are permanently settled if they are left to find things out by themselves. Strangers need guidance, instruction, assistance in selecting a location for settlement, they require information as to climatic conditions, markets, cattle raising, modes of cultivation. All these are entirely different to what they have known in the old country, so that their British ideas about farming need to be eradicated and Canadian ones substituted.

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The London "Times" has made a record by being the first newspaper in England, probably the world, to publish wireless telegraph messages sent from this side the Atlantic. The dispatches contained about 150 words. This was done as the result of an arrangement between Signor Marconi, the General Post Office and The "Times," for the purpose of testing the system. Whether these wireless messages can be relied upon to pass to and fro without any interruption by meteorological conditions, or other disturbing influences, has yet to be tested. The "Times" is so conservative that its remarks upon this marvellous achievement have great significance; it says:

"Business men may rely upon it that considerable interests are going to be seriously affected by the new developments, and they would do well to cultivate whatever scientific and economic imagination they may possess. In the same way those who are responsible for national interests ought to very carefully watch and anticipate the bearing upon various strategical problems of the agency that more than ever before annihilates space and time."

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The revenue of the United Kingdom for year ending 31st ult., was \$805,998,900, against \$763,008,185 in previous year, an increase of \$42,990,715, and a large increase over the estimates. Though so generally regarded as a Free Trade country the Customs duties in past year were \$17,234,235 in excess 1901-2. Such an increase in revenue will cause strong pressure to be brought on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to modify the taxation which has been borne with remarkable patience by the British tax-payers since the war rendered it necessary. Now there is peace they will demand a lowering of the income tax, or removal of other imposts.

Toronto papers this week have been crowing over this metropolis on the ground that while ploughing is going on in that district the land around Montreal is still ice bound. Our western contemporaries are mistaken; they have been drawing on their imagination to secure facts, which is bad journalism. The land within a mile of this city was being ploughed, and market gardening was in active progress a week ago all over the Island of Montreal.

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An Insolvency Bill has been introduced in the House of Commons, Ottawa, by Mr. Monk, M.P. The urgency of some general, comprehensive measure for regulating insolvency proceedings throughout the Dominion has been again and again dwelt upon in the columns of this journal. Every Board of Trade in Canada has urged the passage of such legislation. Representations have been made of the same tenour by commercial bodies in Great Britain where the chaotic state of the laws of Canada in this respect are regarded as a scandal, as they undoubtedly are a source of serious trouble to foreign merchants and other exporters. Why any class should object to the law being made uniform all over the Dominion, and so devised as to ensure the equitable distribution of an insolvent's estate amongst his creditors, is not easy to understand. If the objections of some class, say farmers, cause the obstruction to an Insolvency Bill, they might be left free from its operation, until they learnt to show more regard for the general business interest of the country. A partial Bill would be incomparably better than leaving the present conditions to continue.

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In regard to the burnt steamer "Montreal" the London "Times" says:—

"The insured value of the burnt steamer was £84,700, and the owners will accept £79,000 and the ship. It is contended that even if the vessel is merely scrap metal she ought to be worth as she lies more than £5,700. The loss for all practical purposes is total."

CONSOLIDATED LAKE SUPERIOR COMPANY.

A short time ago we stated the position at that time of the Consolidated Lake Superior Company. There are indications of a scheme for re-organization being under consideration. Mr. Cornelius Shields has been elected president of the company and Mr. T. C. Search, who has been active in efforts to bring the enterprise into a better condition, has retired from the vice-presidency, but will have a seat at the Board of Directors. Mr. Shields is a man of great energy and wide business experience. He has been for some time general manager of Dominion Steel