

during the year, to the value of \$178 90; a list of 44 newspapers and magazines supplied to the Reading Room, gratuitously, by the publishers; and of 54 such publications subscribed for by the Institute.

The report of the Directors was adopted, when the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year: *President*, F. J. Rastrick, *Vice-President*, A. Macallum, *Directors*, Dr. W. Craigie, Alex. Stuart, H. M. Melville, Thos. Simons, S. Sharp, C. W. Meakins, T. B. Harris, T. McIlwraith and Wm. Michael.

Votes of thanks were unanimously passed to the President, Vice-President, Directors and Superintendent for their valuable services rendered to the Institute during the year; and also to the several publishers and others for the various donations made to the Library and Reading Room.

Dr. Craigie spoke of the action taken at a meeting of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute, which had resolved to petition the Legislature to transfer the funds, now granted to the Electoral Division Societies in cities, to Mechanics' Institutes and Horticultural Societies, so that suitable education might be imparted at small cost to those who desire it, and he hoped that similar action would be taken by this meeting. He also laid on the table petitions to the different branches of the Legislature on the subject.

Mr. Macallum briefly alluded to the importance of establishing evening classes for education in Science and Art, but regretted that the Institute did not afford the requisite accommodation. The alley-way at the side of the building, which was now an intolerable nuisance, could easily be turned into class-rooms, if the municipal authorities would allow of its being made use of by the Institute, and he hoped that steps would immediately be taken to bring about such a result.

The meeting then adjourned.

New Barometer.

At a recent meeting of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, Dr. Joule described a barometer for measuring small atmospheric disturbances. It consists of a large carboy connected by a glass tube, with a miniature gasometer formed by inverting a small platinum crucible over a small vessel of water. The crucible is attached to the short end of a finely suspended lever, multiplying its motion six times. When the apparatus was raised two feet, the index moved through one inch; hence he was able, in serene weather, to observe the effect corresponding to the elevation of less than one inch. The barometer is placed in a building, the slated roof of which affords, without perceptible draught, free communication with the external atmosphere. In this situation it was found that the slightest wind caused the index to oscillate, a gale occasioning oscillations of two inches, an increase of pressure being generally observed when the gusts took place.

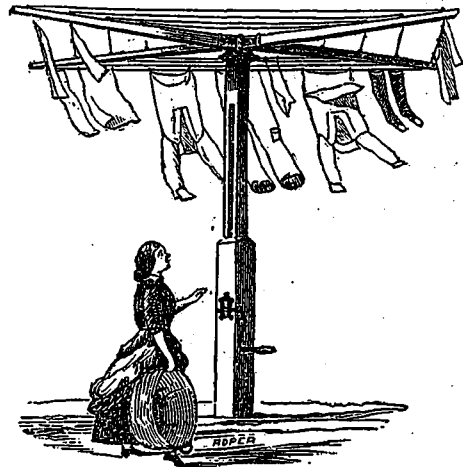
Patent Laws and Inventions.

RECENT CANADIAN INVENTIONS.

We place before our readers two views of a new Clothes Dryer, invented by Mr. R. H. Oates of this city, and patented the 12th day of January of this year. The first view represents the dryer closed down receiving the clothes; the other view shows



the dryer when elevated with the clothes to dry.



Description of Machine.

A box post made of one and a-half inch plank, eight feet long, and seven inches square, leaving a three and a-half inch square hole in the centre. This box post is placed three feet in the ground, leaving five clear feet above. An inside post three and a-half inches square, eight feet long, fills up the square hole in the box post. On the top of this inside post revolve four wooden arms with three or four lines stretched round the arms to hold the clothes. On one side of the inside post is a cast iron rack made fast. On the box post is a cast iron shaft and pinion wheel working into the said cast iron rack. A cast iron crank with handle is made fast on the pinion wheel shaft to raise up and down the clothes. Nine turns of the crank elevates the clothes eleven feet and a-half feet from the ground.