

THE Privy Council in England, having decided that the assessments on expropriated property by the Montreal City Council is illegal. Ten years' interest, amounting to \$8,000, will have to be refunded to the parties illegally assessed. How will this decision affect other cities?

THE receipts, for the month of July, of the Quebec harbour commission, show a decrease of \$3,639.31, as compared with the same period of 1877.

THE Quebec Board of Trade, at its quarterly general meeting, elected Mr. Wm. Rae as Vice-President; and the vacancies on the Board of Arbitration have been filled by the appointment of Messrs. H. Hagens, Beckett and A. Joseph; those in the Council have been assigned to Messrs. R. H. Smith and J. B. Verral.

A CARGO of canned lobsters and Salmon, valued at one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, was shipped this week from Halifax, per the barque "Ocean Express," for London.

A BILL has been introduced into the British Columbia legislature for the imposition of a tax of \$60 per annum on every Chinese resident of that Province.

EXPORTS from the port of Ottawa for July last were of the value of \$168,756. Imports reached \$119,701, on which the duty collected was \$11,775.

TENDERS have been made and accepted for the building of the Andrew Mercer Reformatory for females, in this city. They amount to \$60,210. The foundations are dug and the building is to be finished next year.

THE New York Bank statement for last week shows an increase of \$195,600 in circulation, but a decrease of over half a million in loans; of \$1,704,800 in specie, and of \$2,155,200 in deposits. The reserve had lessened by \$965,500 and the legal tenders were increased by \$200,500.

THE name of P. B. Owens, dealer in dry goods, St. Catharines, must now be quite familiar to our readers. His business career has certainly been a chequered one. With him failure has almost become chronic, and it has long been a matter of astonishment how he got his supply of goods every season. Would not Mr. Owens be much happier, and the dry goods trade better, were he to retire from the business? We think so, and so do the dry goods merchants in St. Catharines. Mr. J. W. Coy, in the hardware business in the same city, has been attached; his liabilities are about \$75,000. No statement of assets has yet come under our notice.

IN Scotland, 91 per cent. of the men and 82 per cent. of the women are able to sign their names to the marriage register. In England, 84 per cent. of the men and 78 of the women; while in Ireland the percentage is 69 and 63. But all this is a great improvement on forty years ago; for the percentage in the whole United Kingdom is nearly 80, while in 1837, it was but 58.

THERE appears to be an unusual accumulation of freight at Western railway points. A

thousand empty freight cars of the Great Western road were ordered west from Windsor last Monday.

A SLIGHT increase is reported in lake freights eastward, very slight it is true, but as the Railways arranged to put up their figures on Monday last to 25 cents per hundred pounds from Chicago to New York on fourth class freight (including grain and flour) two cents a bushel has been asked and obtained on wheat to Buffalo this week, while last week a cargo of 90,000 bushels was carried at 1½ cents. This is an indication of a rise which vessel men are anxious to obtain, and which they certainly need badly.

THE following Michigan railways have not only earned no money for stockholders, but their running expenses last year exceeded their receipts by the amounts named: Chicago and Canada Southern, \$21,964; Chicago and Lake Huron, \$208,097; Toledo, Canada Southern, and Detroit, \$96,185; the Michigan Air Line, \$255,813; Hecla and Torch Lake, \$6,145; Michigan Midland and Canada, \$821.

CANADA came into the Postal Union on the first of this month. The exchanges of international correspondence between the United States and Canada, excepting registered matter, are not affected either as to the rates of postage, condition of prepayment or modes of exchange by the Postal Union. Formerly, letters only were registered, but now any parcel may be registered.

IN consequence of ill health Mr. J. H. Plummer Inspector of the Bank of Commerce has resigned. His future occupation will probably be of a character which is more conducive to health.

MESSRS. JAS. CARROL & Co., retail dry goods merchants, of St. Lawrence, Main street, Montreal, evidently had a great deal of faith in printer's ink, but may not have used it well. Few city merchants advertised more liberally, but it did not save the firm from the Insolvent Court. A writ of attachment having been issued a few days since. We think we are safe in saying that with a few exceptions every dry goods house on this thoroughfare, has been in the same position at some time or other. The opposition and keen competition are such that but little margin can be realized. This house has been in business some years, did quite a large trade, and were supposed to be progressing, until suddenly we find them closed, and owing about \$18,000.

A WRIT of attachment has been issued against Pierre Delorme, one of the oldest leather merchants in Montreal, having been in the trade for upwards of twenty years, but unfortunately for some years back Mr. Delorme has not given his business that personal supervision, so necessary for its welfare, and has been gradually descending the hill until now he has got to the bottom. The liabilities amount to about \$6,000 held in a few hands. Assets small.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Drum Furniture Manufacturing Co., recently held in Quebec, it was resolved to wind up the business and dispose of the mill, &c.

ON Tuesday last Messrs. Ingham & Blong, of this city, left for England with 1,400 sheep, 250 cattle and 200 hogs. This is the second venture of this firm, which is hoped will be successful.

MESSRS. Weir Bros. & Co, of Halifax, extensive ship chandlers, have suspended payment and called a meeting of their creditors. The firm suffered to a considerable extent some time since by the failure of Messrs. E. Albro & Co. Their liabilities amount to \$65,000, and their assets \$67,000.

A WRIT of attachment has been issued against Aime Beliveau, proprietor of the well-known Canada Hotel, Montreal, who has catered for the travelling public for the past ten years or more; but travel the past year or two has not been what it once was, so that hotel proprietors under heavy expenses are almost unable to pay their way. His liabilities are placed at \$22,500 with assets representing about \$15,000.

THE leather trade in Western Ontario has long been familiar with the name of Parsons. After the failure of Messrs. J. & C. Parsons, in 1865, the business underwent a number of changes. Mr. C. Parsons acted as agent for his uncle, Wm. Thorne, who died in July, 1868, since which date the business was carried on for a number of years, with the executors of Mr. Thorne as partners. In 1871 Mr. Vennor retired, and the present firm, Thorne, Parsons & Co., continued with varied success. During the past few years the firm suffered losses in connection with the heavy failures, that occurred in the Province of Quebec. These losses impaired their capital seriously, and since that time they have had a struggle to make both ends meet. Often being compelled to do business without profit, in order to get paper to meet present obligations. This had a demoralizing effect upon the trade generally; and the prices of hides being relatively too high to that of leather, there was little or no room for profit. The thorough weeding this trade has had, in Canada, ought to have a salutary influence on those who are still engaged in it; and they ought now to be in a position to adopt many necessary reforms in their mode of doing business. These we need not now refer to. Those specially interested know what is wanted and ought at once to adopt the remedy.

R. B. CONANT, another Boston defaulting cashier has confessed to have taken \$70,000 from the Elliott Bank, which he had lost in California Mining Stocks. The Bank holds \$25,000 bonds from Conant.

MR. CHARLES GRIFFIN, a Montreal broker, who has been living extravagantly, has misappropriated \$21,000 entrusted to him to invest in Bank of Montreal stock, and is now fully committed for trial at the Court of Queen's Bench. The bail is fixed at \$2,000, and it is expected he will obtain security.

THE difficulty about the crossing between the Great Western and Credit Valley Railways has evidently been amicably arranged. The Great Western Railway have erected a signal station, and are placing their semiaphores. The