

A BEET-ROOT sugar manufactory is to be established during the coming summer at Tilsonburg, says the *Liberal*. A committee of eight is appointed to secure stock in it.

THE rateable property in the town of Simcoe is valued at \$810,844, and the municipality owes \$22,817. It is now proposed to increase this debt by \$10,000, issuing 20 year debentures at 6 per cent., to give a bonus of that amount to Mr. Ben. Steinhardt, for the establishment of a silk factory, which shall be exempt from taxation for ten years. The ratepayers voted on the project last Wednesday, and carried it.

IMPORTS of silk goods at New York for February last, were of the value of \$2,845,801 against \$2,250,931 for February 1878, and about \$2,500,000 each for that month of 1877 and 1876; so that after touching the lowest point, the purchases of foreign silks are beginning to creep up again. Velvets and satins show the largest increase in the list, the former advancing from \$45,020 imported last spring to \$111,033 this spring. Laces, hose and gloves show a falling off, ribbons an increase from \$198,745 to \$251,831, silk and cotton, and silk and wool mixtures have both declined. Silk dress goods imports are \$1,917,064 this year against \$1,434,645 last year in February.

SARNIA exports for the last fiscal year were of the value of \$426,195; imports, \$750,211, on which \$40,780 were collected. Canadian steamers arriving during that period numbered 101, of 61,170 tons; sailing vessels, 21, of 1,846 tons. Total craft arrived, 931, of 444,943 tons.

KANSAS CITY now ranks sixth among the pork-packing points in the United States, having increased the number of hogs killed from 74,474 in season 1875-6 to 220,205 in the season up to close of February, 1879. According to the *Indicator* of that place the pork-packing cities rank as under: Chicago, first; then St. Louis, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Louisville, in order.

THE "cattle drive" of the State of Texas will be less than last year. An estimate by a San Antonio correspondent of the above paper gives a list of 45 firms which will drive from 2,000 to 13,000 head each. The aggregate of cattle thus expected is 179,000 according to the agent of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway.

RAIL rates for passengers from Detroit to Winnipeg have been advanced from \$19 last season to \$21. Several lots of horses have been received there, Messrs. Ross & Benson bringing in some Lower Province stock, Mr. David McGregor some fine ones from Ontario, and the Messrs. English a car load.

BLYTH has voted on and carried the by-law under which that village grants a bonus of \$3,000 to Messrs. Gray, Young & Sparling, for the erection of salt works within her borders.

THE Strait of Canso, separating Cape Breton from Nova Scotia mainland, was at one time a good point for business, and a number of well-to-do people had establishments along its shores, through which they supplied fishing vessels with provisions, barrels, bait, salt, etc. The depression of the past five years seems to

have told very disastrously upon this district, for during the year 1878, no less than five of the prominent merchants on the Strait—after struggling long with adverse circumstances—have been compelled to go into the bankrupt court. Messrs. Geo. C. Lawrence, of Port Hastings, F. C. Cook, M. Keating & Co., and J. Wallace, of Port Mulgrave; A. & J. McGuire, Steep Creek, are in the hands of the assignee, with poor prospects before them. The few remaining in business on the Strait ought to benefit by the concentration of business consequent upon those changes.

THE estate of Messrs. Stafford & Co., boot and shoe manufacturers, Montreal, was sold by the assignee last Wednesday forenoon. The stock amounting to about \$25,000, was sold for 73½c. on the dollar and the book debts amounting to about the same sum at 43½c. both being purchased by Mr. Struthers, of London. The machinery which cost about \$12,000, realized \$1,950. In the afternoon of the same day the estate of Messrs. Mullarky & Co., was sold under the hammer. The stock realizing 78½c. and the book debts 36½c. the former being purchased by Mr. Slack and the latter by Messrs. Cochrane, Cassils & Co., shoe manufacturers, Montreal. The machinery was knocked down at \$1,650.

THE failure of Messrs. J. L. Cassidy & Co., wholesale crockery merchants of Montreal, which has been several times foreshadowed, may at length be recorded as a fact. Mr. Cassidy has made a hard fight, and had the times given him any encouragement whatever, his indomitable pluck would have pulled him through. But since the failure of Messrs. A. Roy & Co. he has been saddled with a large amount of accommodation paper, and being pressed for payments on real estate was unable to continue further.

"THE estate will pay scarcely anything" is what the St. John's, Que., *News* states concerning the insolvent estate of Messrs. C. H. Cote & Co., of that place. The stock was sold for 40 cents in the \$ to a Sorel dealer; for the book debts 25 cents in the \$ were asked, but only 15 were offered, and they were not sold. The expenses of insolvency will render the dividend a delicate one, but the remarkable shrinkage in the assets is the most striking feature. Going six hundred miles westward, and taking an Ontario estate, that of Mr. John Morrison, merchant tailor of Mooretown, we find that against liabilities of \$6,300, he had but \$1,131 of merchandise, while he had locked up, twice that sum in book debts, \$450 in a house, \$820 in a wagon shop, and that amongst his burdens was interest on mortgages, which was sapping his business and harassing his life.

A BILL was introduced in the Illinois Legislature to compel telegraph companies to maintain offices at every railroad station where tickets are sold. Col. Wilson, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, appeared before the committee to whom it had been referred, and explained that it involved the opening and maintaining over 600 new offices in the State. The Bill will not probably be heard of again.

THE Quebec Gas Company held its yearly meeting on the 4th inst., Mr. H. S. Scott was again chosen President, and the retiring directors were re-elected. It appears that a good many consumers have taken to using coal oil instead of gas. The receipts of the company for the year from gas-rentals was \$80,918. Expenditure of the year included \$13,500 for coal \$24,000 for dividends and \$14,195 discounts to consumers.

CHATHAM, Miramichi, was made a port of registry for shipping forty years ago; and since 1838, no less than 986 new vessels, mostly built in Kent, Northumberland, Restigouche and Gloucester counties, and aggregating 311,396 tons, have been registered there. The most active ten years of shipbuilding were those from 1859 to 1869, as appears from the following table in St. John Telegraph:

	Vessels.	Tons.
From 1828 to 1839	173	32,059
" 1839 to 1849	209	58,514
" 1849 to 1859	225	94,319
" 1859 to 1869	238	101,173
" 1869 to 1879	141	25,331
Total	986	311,396

THE sum paid Sir Wm. Armstrong & Co. by the British Government, for four 100 ton guns, two for Gibraltar and two for Malta, was £16,200 each. This cost of these four destructive engines is thus about \$316,000, or enough to build four churches like the Metropolitan in Toronto.

THE suggestion is made by bankers that transfers of stock should be taxed with a view to lessening speculation in them. A draft bill has been sent to Ottawa by a Montreal lawyer, which aims at reducing the quantity of loose stock troubling the market.

Hamilton Inland Revenue receipts for last month were \$43,195.66, being an increase of \$3,840.26 over the \$39,355.40 collected in February 1878.

THREE law suits have been begun by the Jefferson Bank of Steubenville, O., against Archbishop Purcell, of Cincinnati, whose "Sacredotal Bank" is in such grave difficulty. Mrs. Gen. Sherman wants to "organize" and assist the venerable prelate.

A BOLD robbery and an equally impudent mode of raising money upon the proceeds is reported from New York. On Monday of last week three cases of calfskins, valued at \$2,000, and owned by Scheffel Bros., were stolen in daylight from their cartman, who was in veiled into a house and locked in while the thieves drove the cart off. The thieves negotiated to restore the property for \$600, through a *Herald* personal, and the goods were thus recovered on Friday. It is satisfactory to learn that the leather merchants held a meeting, and determined to secure the arrest of the thieves. Unless it were agreed to as a possible means of discovering these highway robbers, such an arrangement as the one made by the Messrs. Scheffel, appears to us unjustifiable. The easy compromising of such an offence is likely to lead to frequent imitations of it.

KLEIN, Kalbfleisch & Poehlman are the names of a group of millers and merchants at Tavis-