

the timber, but, on the other hand, keeps back an influx of foreign capital which the Islanders doubtless stand in need of; such legislation ought to be repealed.

IT IS SATISFACTORY to notice a growing feeling among the merchants in Ontario in favor of shorter credits. Last week the action taken in Kincardine was noticed ; now we have a circular issued by half a dozen of the best firms in Newmarket limiting all future credit to a maximum of six months commencing from the first day of April next. The very sound reason is urged in support of this action that "we shall be in a position to buy our goods to better advantage, and consequently enabled to sell at correspondingly reduced prices. Let other towns and villages follow this good example and, without doubt, the effect will be salutary.

AT A LATE meeting of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce it was decided to appropriate \$300 towards defraying the expenses of securing weather reports. The marine insurance offices were also asked to contribute \$50 each for the same object; some of them took the view that the Government ought to bear the entire expense ; so we think. It appears to us as bordering on the absurd to ask commercial bodies and insurance companies for contributions to such an object; not that they have no interest in the matter, they have a very large interest, but so also have the whole community. Besides, the only way in which it is possible to anticipate any satisfactory results is to place this branch of the marine service on a substantial and permanent footing by an adequate annual grant from the Dominion Government. To make the service depend upon the disjointed

would be a certain way of rendering it worthless, while at the same time it would be levying an unequal burden which ought not to be borne.

THE enterprising firm of Ross & Co., of Quebec, with other gentlemen of that city, give notice of an application to incorporate the "St. Lawrence, New York. and Havanna Steamship Company," to run between Canadian ports and the West Indies. We hope the government will meet these gentlemen in a liberal spirit.

THE "Epizootic" has proven a serious draw. back to trade this fall. Coming just when the grain is being moved to market in the country districts, and when a large traffic in coal, wood. and in heavy goods, which have to be moved before the close of navigation, is going on. The disease does not disappear as readily as was at one time hoped, but clings to the infected animals with great tenacity.

AN AGITATION which we are glad to hear of, is springing up in reference to the butter grievance. A convention of country merchants was called for Wednesday last at Seaforth, Ont., to deal with the question, by arranging for some united action which would tend to place the trade in a better position with reference to this important article, so as to avoid the frequent and serious losses that are suffered from bad butter. At the time of this writing the result has not reached us. We have little doubt that a thorough system of inspection and classification, if once brought fairly into operation, would prove a sovereign remedy. Inferior and bad butter would then be ranked accordingly, the latter being wholly rejected, except as grease, and would sell at a corresponding price. This action of Boards of Trade or insurance offices would bring the farming community to their

senses; it would place such a premium on good butter as must soon effect a reform. At present little or no discrimination is made, and that is the same thing in effect as paying a premium for a poor article.

Assignments and failures in Ontario reported during October were-Jas. A. Halliday, Hollin, general store; Jno. B. Ashley, millwright, of Neustadt; Jno. H. Stevens, fancy goods, Peterboro'; Moffatt & Wilson, Orillia ; David Rush, general store, Belmore; Richard Higman, druggist, Ottawa ; Moses Hudon, saddler, Renfrew; John A. Baines, builder, Toronto; A. Polson, general store, Galt; T. Robinson, general store, Hastings ; Dennis Quigley, Lucan, shoemaker; T. W. Baker, Gananoque; Robert Quinn, grocer. Brantford ; Wm. Dever, butcher, Toronto; J. A. Campbell, general store, Hull; R. G. Hillen, general store, Kendall; Neil McMillan, grocer, Bothwell; Chas. McKinnon, general store, Invermay; W. A. Watson, Uxbridge, watches, making twenty in all. There have been also several compromises, which represent a considerable loss to traders.

THE PAST month seems to have been a time of trial among the trade of the two chief cities in the Maritime Provinces; there have been a number of failures and a general disturbance of confidence. The subjoined firms in St. John have gone into liquidation :- C. J. Berryman, hardware; Oulton Bros., ship-owners and com; C. R. Brown, shipping and E. I. goods; Shiplin J. King, shipbuilder ; W. H. Harrison, shipowder; Josiah S. Turner, grocer; Geo. A. Lockhart & Son, com. and auctioneer ; Jas. Mc-Sorley, shoes; Whiting & Thompson. In Halifax the following are reported :-Elias