

STRATFORD proposes to spend during her fiscal year \$44,058, and, after deducting revenue, will require to raise \$35,064, which will necessitate a rate of fourteen and three-fifths mills per dollar. Public, separate and high school requirements amount to 12,000 additional, making the total tax 20 mills on the dollar.

THE slight advance in lake freights has made a visible change in the number of vessels employed. St. Clair river has presented an unusually lively appearance the past week.

THE Windsor, N. S., brig *Como* cleared from Halifax for London with 10,661 cases of canned fish, 163 casks cod oil, 11 casks seal skins, making a total value of \$64,000.

THE rails on the New Brunswick Railway are now laid to Edmundston, Victoria County, to which point regular trains will run in a short time. About six miles of the road are now ready for ballasting.

THE Albert Brick, Lime and Cement Company, of Hopewell, Pictou County, N.S., has been formed to quarry and manufacture lime, hydraulic and other cement, marble, pottery, glass, fire and other brick, ties, water and sewer pipes, and other articles from stone, rocks, clays, sands, &c., a tolerable wide range of industries.

As illustrating the profits of bee keeping, Mr. Wm Pomeroy, of Lakelet, Huron County, who, in the spring of 1876, commenced with one hive, had increased the first year to three; the second year to eight, and this year to 18 hives, from which he has during the present season sold \$65 worth of honey.

A THREE story factory, to make barrel bungs, butchers' skewers, &c., for the British market, has been erected by Charlton & Atkinson, at Amherstburg, Ont., and is now at work.

THE St. John Relief and Aid Society, established after the great fire last year, has still much work to do in looking after the indigent or destitute in that city. During September it had 508 applicants for relief, 90 of whom were widows, and it assisted some 200 of them by clothing, rations, paying rent, &c.; 832 persons were also assisted to shelter.

THE first spike on the Eastern Extension Railway in Nova Scotia, was driven at New Glasgow, on the 3rd inst. Mr. James McDonald is the contractor, and will push on the track-laying during the winter, and erect station houses in spring, so that trains may be expected to be running from New Glasgow to Antigonish early next summer.

At the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition, there was only a meagre exhibit of home-made machinery, and but little furniture; stoves and ranges were in good assortment, and the sleighs and carriages fine. Agricultural implements were shown by four Ontario firms. The Windsor, N.S., Foundry Company showed a double action ship's pump, which attracted notice. Yarmouth sent only one exhibit, a ship's forged tiller, and the *Herald* asks: "Seeing that Yarmouth has such a reputation for manufacturing. Where are the goods of the Burrell, Johnson

Iron Co.? Wilson, Clark & Co.? Kinney, Haley & Co., and many other Yarmouth firms." The Londonderry Stove Works send stoves made from the celebrated Londonderry iron. Governor Archibald's speech remarked upon the fact that when the first Nova Scotia Exhibition was held, in 1853, there was not a single entry of improved stock, and in 1868, fourteen or fifteen years later, the entries were very few. At the present exhibition the entries of improved stock are numerous, and the Nova Scotia herd book is assuming respectable dimensions.

A STEP in advance has been taken by the merchants of Listowell. Disgusted with the unbusiness-like, and unfair custom, which compelled them to pay the same price for each and every lot of butter brought to them, regardless of its quality; they have appointed a butter inspector, Mr. Wm. Fisher, who will grade all butter which comes to that market.

A WOOLLEN factory is to be erected on King Street, Kingston. Messrs. Offord's shoe factory in the same city was to resume work this week.

MR. STEPHEN TOBIN has been chosen Mayor of Halifax, beating his opponent, Mr. W. J. Coleman, by 296 votes.

THE grain shipments from Belleville to Oct. 7th this season exceed the largest previous record. They aggregate 152 073 bushels of barley, 70,657 bushels of rye, and 25,818 bushels of peas.

TWO new lighthouses are to be erected on the Island wharf at Montreal, by the Department of Marine, and not before they were needed, for the old ones were rotten and insecure.

THE population of Toronto is given by the assessors this year at 73,813 against 70,867 last year, an increase of 2,946, or about four per cent. There are more cattle and more dogs in the city, indeed there is one dog to 23 people, but fewer horses, the number returned being 1,600.

FOR the best portable engine for manufacturing or agricultural purposes, of six horse power or over, operated upon the ground, Mr. John Abell, of Woodbridge, took first prize at the Provincial Exhibition, and subsequently received a like award at the London Exhibition. For a stationary steam engine in operation of one to four horse power, Wm. Hamilton, of Peterboro, received the prize.

A MERCHANT of very long standing and considerable influence in Sherbrooke, Que. and who owes \$60,000, in the course of an advertisement in last week's *Gazette* of that place addressed to his creditors, thus sums up the commercial situation, so far as it affects him. "Fires, Bankruptcies, both of customers and competitors, failures to pay of those indebted, throwing their paper upon me in addition to my own, added to depreciation of values of property, real and personal, have proved too much for me to overcome. And to cap the climax 12 writs and 4 executions ready to levy upon my effects, have compelled me to allow my estate to be placed in the hands of an assignee."

THE contractors of the Grand Junction Railway, Messrs. Bickford, McDougall & Cowan, made a proposition that the city of Belleville should pay half its bonus of \$50,000 to the road when completed as far as Campbellford this season, and Hastings in August 1879, which they bind themselves to accomplish, the remainder when it reached Peterboro in 1880. The difficulty has hitherto been that contractors would not agree to wait till the road reached Peterboro before any of Belleville's bonus was payable, which was the tenor of the by-law. Now, that by-law is relaxed as above, and has been agreed to by the Belleville Council, 13 to 4. This action of the Council is to be legalized by act of Parliament and the road will likely be built at an early day. Belleville is to be congratulated.

Mr. John Barclay, of Oakville, announces that he adopts the cash plan in his business from the 1st inst. As an old and experienced Canadian country merchant his reasons are entitled to consideration. We think they are weighty: "My experience during the past twenty-five years has thoroughly convinced me," he says, "that however useful it may have been in the past, the altered circumstances of the country, the changes in the terms of the wholesale trade, the comparative small profits now realized, the almost universal lack of promptness in paying accounts when due, and the large amount that has to be carried over from year to year, renders the credit system greatly adverse to the interests of both buyer and seller. It entails upon the merchant a very heavy financial burden; not unfrequently his whole capital is locked up in accounts, thus perilling his own standing, occasioning him great additional labor and expense, and is always accompanied with numerous and frequently heavy losses."

AN attachment has issued against James Mulen, a grocer of St. Lawrence Street, Montreal. He has done a considerable trade, but, being good natured, credited too freely, and finding himself unable to collect has of late been very slow in payment. Liabilities amount to \$8,000 or \$10,000.

APPLES are a plentiful crop in Nova Scotia this season, and are cheap. They were selling on the St. John market square this day week at from 60 cents to \$1.90 per barrel. A car load from Cornwallis sold in Halifax same date at \$1.50 to \$2.25 per barrel, while another firm realized \$1.90 to \$2.00 for Gravensteins, and \$1.30 to \$1.80 for other varieties.

THERE is perhaps no class of trade which sooner feels commercial depression, or national economy, than the jewellers. But for all that, Canadians were not prepared to hear of the stoppage of the old and respected Jewellery house of Savage, Lyman & Co., of Montreal. The house has had a business career of thirty years, and during that long time, has survived many a hard struggle, indeed, its solvency was never brought into question. But the heavy depreciation on such an expensive and varied stock as theirs carry, and heavy outstanding accounts which they cannot now collect