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J. B. MILLS of Toronto, in a communication received in Montreal recently, says, "In my libel suit against the *Budget* the jury gave me \$300 damages and all costs, which amount to over \$1000."—The Sovereign Fire Insurance Co. of Toronto, with agencies in this city and elsewhere, is endeavoring to negotiate for a reinsurance of its risks. The company thinks 35 is not too much; they are offered 20.

A PROMINENT and enterprising dry goods merchant of Chatham, Ont., has become embarrassed, and has recently given chattel and land mortgages for \$7,200 and \$55,500 to a Toronto bank having a branch in that town, to secure indebtedness to the latter. A company in which the merchant is interested, whose paper he has endorsed for a large amount, are said to be in difficulties, and the bank secures itself as above. It is to be hoped the bank will grant the necessary indulgence to enable him to pull through all right, which there is every probability he will do. His troubles are also attributed to land speculations in the Northwest and elsewhere. His direct liabilities to the bank are about \$60,000.

JOHN HABBICK, of Galt, Ont., a merchant of many years' standing in that town, has assigned to Wm. Blackley of McColl Bros. & Co., milliners, Toronto. About three weeks ago Mr. Habbick gave a chattel mortgage on his dry goods and millinery stock to a prominent wholesale house in this city, to secure some \$10,000, and this firm are now in possession. A Hamilton wholesale grocery firm are said to

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**FALL TRADE, 1883.**

have an execution in the sheriff's hands for some \$8,000, and a seizure has been made. The inadvertent publication of the above mortgage in a Toronto paper is said to have precipitated the collapse. Liabilities are estimated at \$25,000.

A DELEGATION from the Board of Trade composed of two or three of our leading business men, accompanied by Mr. Thos. Darling, accountant, has gone to Toronto to confer with a committee of the Board of Trade in that city respecting some insolvency legislation at the approaching session of Parliament. It is highly important for this purpose that the mercantile community should agree upon some common ground and work together for the general good, and it can matter little where the Act is framed if it can be made to serve the purposes for which it is intended, in the interests of the retail as well as the wholesale dealer.

By the official list of awards at the Fisheries Exhibition, Canada obtains gold medals for best collection of cured tinned fish, shipped fish, salmon nets, deep-sea fishing gear, fishing boats, antiseptics, whale oil, signalling telegraph system, most complete breeding establishment and steam fishing tug. The Dominion exhibit was also awarded five medals for distinct varieties of fish of commercial value and also fifteen silver medals, six bronze medals and four diplomas. Special mention was also made in the award list about twelve other awards, in reference to which decision has not been reached. Newfoundland obtained ten gold medals, eight silver medals, five bronze medals, and three diplomas.

JOHN B. KELLY, a dry goods dealer of Chatham, Ont., has recently assigned for the benefit of his creditors. He commenced business in Chatham some years ago, this being his third

failure, the first time he compromised and went on. The second time his stock was sold, and he remained out of business two or three years. About a year ago he purchased the bankrupt stock of R. M. Calder, and has since been doing a good business. His trouble in this instance has been caused by the fact becoming known to his creditors that he had endorsed to the extent of \$6,000 for W. H. Davy, a jeweller in Chatham. Kelly, to secure himself, took a chattel mortgage on Davy's stock in trade. The transaction brought both Kelly and Davy to the wall. Davy has been in business in Chatham for 5 or 6 years. The probabilities are that both parties will arrange matters so as to go on.

A WINNIPEG widow named Smith, formerly keeper of the Brighton hotel, Toronto, has been showing her heels to her creditors in Manitoba. She went to Winnipeg during the boom, and opened the Hotel Brunswick on Main street. Mrs. Smith was her own clerk, business manager, and bar-tender, and was literally coining money. As her bank account increased, so did the number of suitors. There were two widows in Winnipeg then who divided the attention of the impecunious Lotliarios. She was "rated" worth from \$20,000 to \$50,000. But Smith was not matrimonially inclined, and when the boom began to subside she sold out for \$12,000 and lived at the Grand Union. A few evenings ago Mrs. Smith went out for a walk, and it is said proceeded to Point Douglas, where she took a train for St. Vincent. A local paper says: The proprietor of the hotel at which she boarded mourns his unpaid bill; a liquor dealer has a trifle of \$1,100 against her; Messrs. McArthur & Dexter, barristers, have given her legal advice worth \$1,000; Penrose & Recan have a bill of \$600 against her, while unpaid servants want to know when she is coming back.