

A CONVENTION of bankers, under the auspices of the American Bankers' Association is to be held at Niagara Falls on the 10th of August.

THE statement is made in the *Brockville Recorder* that an Ogdensburg lumber merchant, Mr Proctor, has just made a purchase from Messrs Perley & Pattee of Ottawa, of 15,000,000 feet lumber.

MONTREAL journals announce the death in Birmingham, on the 24th ult. in his 61st year, of Mr. Benjamin Thompson, of the well-known Montreal firm B. & S. H. Thompson.

THE Halifax firm of B. Chamber & Co., flour dealers, have been embarrassed for some time through loss by A Nickerson, a grocer whose stock they bought. Last week they assigned to Mr. J. A. Markle.

BOND & Co., hardware dealers, Halifax, have made an assignment in trust to Mr J CMackintosh. The business was a small one and did not suffice for living expenses. Some of their paper lately came due unpaid, and their difficulties culminated in this assignment some days ago.

A FACTORY of worsted goods is very likely to be erected in Quebec. At a meeting of leading citizens held in the Board room of the Quebec Bank the other day, it was resolved to form a company with \$200,000 capital and to apply for incorporation. Subscriptions were made of \$5000, \$10,000 and \$20,000 each, and the whole amount was subscribed inside of three days.

A GENERAL store keeper named John R. Tindall was burned out at Ethel, in the County of Huron in April last, having \$1,000 insurance, while he owed \$1,400. He was suddenly missing about the Queen's Birthday, having in the meantime collected outstandings to amount of \$900, and is supposed to be in the States. The inference is that he leaves the insurance money for his creditors.

A MAINE paper prints a laconic correspondence between two personal friends. One wrote to the other: "Do me the favor to lend me a dollar to get my cow out of the pound." The other wrote back: "I would, but I paid my last dollar to the boys to take the cow to the pound."

ELSEWHERE we note the unfortunate burning out of the wood factory of Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co., at Amherst, N.S. It now appears that they are asking permission of creditors to use their \$9,000 insurance money to rebuild their premises. Their loss was about \$18,000, less insurance; but against \$13,000 liabilities they have total assets now of \$17,000, of which \$3,300 is in good debts and \$4,600 in land, lumber, logs, etc. They ask six, twelve, and eighteen months time, and creditors have appointed a committee to look into their claims and report to a general meeting.

MR. B. J. HICKEY has been for many years a grocer in Uxbridge, bearing a good name. He was not prompt pay, however, being weak in capital, he removed to a new stand last winter and carried a stock of \$4000. Last week his troubles came to a head by his landlord seizing for rent, when a Montreal house put in an ex-

ception for \$2300 and Hickey's sister and other executions brought up the amount to \$3,900, under which goods were advertised to be sold on 8th. An assignment was made on the 4th instant, however, and an offer of 30 cents in the \$ submitted.

THE Owls Head Silver Mining Company is operating on the mountain of that name, in Potton township, Que. Some specimens of ore were found on the surface and some in a shaft sunk twelve feet; these are said to be rich in lead and silver. Two assays have been made by different parties, says the *St. Johns News*; one finds the ore to be worth \$474.90 per ton and the other \$475.28. The directors of the company are Wm. L. Thompson, prest; Truman Lawrence, vice prest; Wm L. Hibbard, Wm Fuller, F. B. Wells Mr A.W. Bisson is Secretary.

IN December 1876, Mr. Jerry Robinson, now of Emerson, Man., failed in Mitchell, Ont., and his estate paid a dividend of 80 per cent. to creditors. Having been successful in the gateway city he has paid the remaining 20 per cent. of his old indebtedness—an act which should be imitated by many, but is as rare as it is creditable. It should be stated that Mr. Robinson held his discharge from creditors, and this action is purely voluntary on his part. One of the leading houses in the Dominion, themselves exemplars in business morality, and excellent judges of the proprieties in commerce as in other walks of life, in acknowledging dividend write as follows: "It is rarely we are asked to take payment in full of a debt that has been compromised and we appreciate the high sense of honor which dictates Mr. Robinson's action in the matter."

THE new lessee of Booth's Theatre in New York is guilty of innovations. He is a Philistine in fact. He actually makes it a part of his theory of business management that people have a right to see what they are doing and whom they are transacting business with. And he goes so far as to say that people have a right to receive civil answers to all the questions they choose to ask! Listen O ye bank officials and hotel clerks: "I shall put up a kind of counter with sliding windows over it so that when my treasurer is at work people can have a full view of him and can talk to him freely without stooping down and poking their noses through little pigeon-holes. I never had a man in any of my box-offices who would not answer questions, and answer them civilly, just as long as people desired. It sometimes consumes more time than the other system, but it hurts nobody's feelings, and that, I take it, is one of the elements of popularity in this business as in any other. You rarely hear of a dry-goods clerk who has the assurance to be impertinent to people who come to purchase goods of him. Such an action would immediately secure his discharge. Why should this condition not also apply to the sellers of tickets in theatres?"

The following extract from the correspondence of a civil engineer in the employ of the Canada Pacific Railway in the Bow River Country will be found of interest; It is a long trip by rail and

water to Fort Benton, Montana, from Winnipeg. We shall have 400 miles to walk from Benton to the Kicking-Horse Pass of the Rocky Mountains, and it will take 50 teams to carry the material, I shall have charge of a party comprising 30 or 40 men. The steamer *Helena*, of which I am on board in the Missouri River, is a large flat-bottomed, light-draught boat, with paddle wheel at the stern, she has 200 passengers and 300 tons freight for Benton. It is a pretty hard class of people one meets in this part of the West, and the country we see is not the most inviting. Some parts of Montana are very pretty, but there is very little wood upon the land. In parts of Dakota, there is no wood visible for hundreds of miles. I cannot see what should attract Canadians thither, I would not be induced to settle in such a barren state. We have seen large numbers of Buffaloes, Mountain Sheep, Deer, Antelopes, Beavers, Wild geese, &c., &c., on this river. The party is furnished with first class shot-guns and rifles, and expect to have plenty of fresh meat of the kind I have named above. There is also abundance of fish in the rivers of the Rockies, such as salmon in the Columbia River, speckled trout, &c. The distances on the Missouri are striking. From St. Louis at the mouth, it is 1614 miles to Bismark; thence to Porcupine Creek is 563 miles, while Two Calf Island is 311 miles farther; Steamboat Rock another 100 miles; then we pass Coal Banks, Fort Assiniboine Landing and in five hours reach Fort Benton, 2663 miles from St. Louis. From Benton it is 225 miles overland to Fort Macleod and 475 miles to Fort Edmonton.

FOLLOWING closely upon that of two other old merchants of Montreal, already noticed, comes the death of Mr. Joseph Mackay, which took place on Friday last, in his seventy-first year, resulting from a paralytic stroke received some three weeks previously. Mr Mackay was a native of Kildonan, Sutherlandshire, Scotland, and came to Canada about fifty years ago. He began his career as a merchant in a modest way, but possessing excellent qualities of head and heart he founded a business than which none in Canada has been more solidly successful. No Montreal house was better known at home and abroad than "Mackays" and the many who know it will sorrow to learn that its founder is no more. It is some years since the deceased gentleman and his brother Edward retired from active participation in the dry goods business and were succeeded by their three nephews, the present partners in the house of Mackay & Brothers. Mr. Joseph devoted some years to travel, and much time and thought to schemes of active philanthropy. A devoted friend to the Presbyterian Church he did much to further its work; nor did he neglect the charitable institutions of his own and other Canadian cities, for his benevolence took a wide range. The Mackay Institution for Protestant Deaf Mutes is a noble monument to his memory. This fine building on the western slope of Mount Royal, was erected entirely at his expense, and when completed was given by him into the hands of trustees appointed to carry out its objects. In