

THE general stock of O. C. Lee & Co., Lisle, Ont., sold at 49½ per cent. R. D. Gardner's general stock, Mount Pleasant, realized 60 per cent. The hardware stock of O. & F. Shoemaker, Chatham, brought 51½ per cent. James Allan & Co.'s general stock, Beamsville, was put up at auction, but only 50 per cent. being offered, it was withdrawn.

AN application has been made to the court for a winding-up order for the Electric Despatch Company in Toronto.—A. W. Godson, a somewhat noted city contractor, had good success in his business for a number of years. But unfortunately he invested most of his surplus in real estate, where it is now locked up. Under these circumstances he assigns to E. R. C. Clarkson. It is thought that the estate will show a good surplus.

AN offer of compromise at 40 per cent. is made to the creditors of W. E. and C. Stanley, dealers in grain, general storekeepers, etc., Lucan. This offer has been declined until the inspectors appointed look into the matter. They owe about \$25,000. It will be remembered that five years ago this firm succeeded B. Stanley, who retired with a big surplus.—Forty per cent. is also offered to the creditors of D. Allen, Malton, whose assignment we noted a week ago.—J. Snowball & Sons, brickmakers, Markham township, assign.—In May last R. J. Thompson went from Toronto to Uxbridge and opened a hardware store with but small capital. Being somewhat inattentive to his mercantile duties, he already finds an assignment necessary.

#### THE NEWFOUNDLAND DELEGATES.

From reported interviews with some of the Newfoundland delegates, at Ottawa, it would seem that they have not come with any cut and dry plan for uniting the island with Canada, but that they want to see what terms of admission can be obtained. Still, it is reasonable to expect some proposal should come from them. They have not at their back, it is admitted, the authority of both branches of the Legislature of the colony from which they come. Before confederation can be consummated, there must be a reference of the question to the constituencies by a direct question to which an answer, either yes or no, would be made. It now turns out that the Imperial Government proposed a royal commission to enquire into the affairs of

the island, the reason being, according to one of the delegates, Mr. McGrath, that the enquiry would have exposed more corruption than would have been pleasant to expose to the public gaze. When the present railway across the island is completed, the public debt will be \$14,000,000, which, for a population of 200,000, is enormous. The fishery, the principal industry, has of late years not been profitable; the means of the merchants to furnish supplies for the fishermen has been lost, and the capital of the banks has largely gone the same way. The difficulty of getting supplies this spring is

causing anxiety. The want of a municipal system and the debauching of a large part of the population by a system of poor relief, make the outlook anything but pleasant. And the difficulty is that no certain means of improvement are within sight. A vicious economic system has had much to do with producing the disaster. The revenue is derived almost wholly from import duties, and under our tariff, with tea free and sugar nearly so, the revenue of the island would be reduced much below what it is at present. This fact will need to be borne in mind during the negotiations

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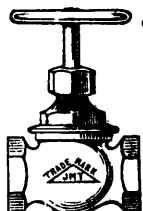
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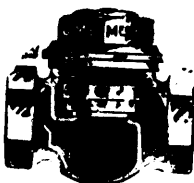
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