

real. He has been several years in business, but never made much over a living, and his custom falling off the last year or two, has been found slow in settlements. His liabilities are small. — F. Cohen, a former second-hand dealer in the same city, and who for the past four years has been doing a small jobbing clothing business among a weak class of customers, has been served with a demand of assignment. His assets and liabilities are about equal, \$6,000 each.

Among the assignments of the week is that of McClung, Houston & Co., dealers in fine cloths, &c., Toronto. The firm began last year; one of the partners was J. H. McClung, son of Mr. McClung, who came from Bowmanville some years ago, and was successively of the firms of McMaster, McClung & Co. and McClung, Briggs & Ferguson; the other was Mrs. Houston, whose husband, Thos. Houston, was of the firm Houston, Foster & Co., cloth dealers in this city. Unfortunately for the present firm, last fall and winter proved a most difficult one for new firms of the kind; the season was untoward and the firm was hampered by limited capital. Finding it impossible to make progress, they wisely decided to stop, rather than waste their creditors' money, and have assigned to John Ferguson. They owe English creditors between \$17,000 and \$18,000, and, including some borrowed

capital, their obligations amount to some \$22,000. The estate shows a small surplus.

A PROPOSITION has been made to the Lindsay Board of Trade by the firm of Dundas & Flavell Brothers, which a special meeting of the board was called some days ago to consider. In order to attract the grain trade the firm designs to build a grain elevator with all modern improvements and a capacity of at least 100,000 bushels. It has Ontario letters patent for "The Lindsay Grain Elevator Co'y," capital \$20,000, about \$5,000 of which is already subscribed. They have secured a lease for a site and invite subscriptions. The firm will take stock to the extent of \$6,000, or if required to the extent of \$10,000. The affairs of the company to be managed by a board of directors and not more than 6% dividend to be paid. A resolution approving the scheme passed the board, which met again on Wednesday last.

We have to chronicle the failure of a very old and respected merchant at Melbourne, Que., Wm. Beattie, who has been in business there for upwards of thirty years. For a long time he had the principal trade of the place, and was looked upon as a leading man there and in the twin village of Richmond. He was for some years of the firm of Beattie & Woodburn; the latter retired several years ago. Mr. Beattie acquired a considerable amount of real estate, some of which has of late years become a drag upon him, and he has been trying to dispose of a portion of it. During recent years his trade has fallen off, and his stock and outstandings, which are large, but old, show quite a surplus over his liabilities of \$16,000, but it is impossible to say yet how the estate will work out.

The American Institute of Mining Engineers has held its 1890 meeting in Washington. Of the matters under consideration, perhaps the one of most general interest related to the wonderful metal aluminum. Alfred E. Hunt of Pittsburg, whose company, by employing electricity, has greatly reduced the cost of producing the metal, and is prepared to supply it in large quantities, read a paper on "The

Properties of Commercially Pure Aluminum." Prof. Eggleston, of Columbia College, and Prof. William P. Blake and several other scientists made statements as to the properties and uses of this metal, which is as strong as iron, but only one-third as heavy as iron. It readily unites with other metals, and as an alloy reduces the melting point of steel, a very important thing, frees both iron and steel castings from the bubbles or "blows." Silver and copper it hardens. Aluminum's chief use just now is in being mixed with bronze, producing what is known as aluminum bronze, used in the highest grades of the arts. All sorts of ingots and castings were shown; cups and boxes drawn out of flat pieces; tubs, coils, medallions, pots, saucepans and frying-pans. With regard to the latter Prof. Eggleston said that while recently making an investigation for the New York Board of Health, he had made some experiments with the aluminum cooking utensils, and found that they were not attacked by organic acids, an important thing. Vinegar is an organic acid. — *Boston Journal of Commerce.*

—Collingwood's rate of taxation this year is to be 23 mills in the dollar; 15½ for general purposes and 7½ for schools.

—The *St. John Globe* says that at Sugar Island boom, eight miles from Gibson, on a branch of the New Brunswick railway, there are 80,000,000 of logs now being rafted for the St. John mills.

—In the advertising columns of the *London Grocers' Gazette* appears the announcement of the Sardine Union, Limited, a trust formed to control and operate one hundred and five of the sardine packing establishments of France. The capital of this trust, which it is stated will control all the factories of France with the exception of about four, is put at £1,000,000, or \$5,000,000, and the prospectus announces that the directors have confidence that the company will control the entire sardine trade, a doubtful statement.

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