

The following persons have disposed of their business: Tufts & Son, London, sold their grocery to Russel & Son; George Lavery, grocer, Milton, sold out; R. A. Ramsay has bought the general stock of Geo. Veitch, Haysville; Messrs. McGaw & Winnett have disposed of their interest in the well-known Tecumseh House, London, to C. W. Davis, who has been managing the hotel; Walter Thomson, Mitchell, has sold the London branch of his oatmeal business to Gartley & Thomson; G. C. Norman has bought the tailoring business of W. H. Norman, Shedden; Richard Chaffey, Victor, has sold his general stock to T. J. Craig.

Is the Montreal Herald be correctly informed, there has been a decided fall in Canada phosphate stock recently, owing to the discovery of immense beds of this mineral in Florida. Mr. W. W. Pickford, manager of the High Rock phosphate mine near Buckingham, Ont., told a representative of that paper that the deposits in Florida are of an entirely different formation from those of Canada, the former being of coral origin and much lighter in color. The mineral is found in the river beds, from which it can be taken with far less labor than from the mines of Ontario and Quebec. He thought the difference in the cost of mining to be so great that English capitalists will cease to invest in Canada while the Florida deposits last. His firm is going to speculate there.

Annex O'Brien, who undertook, four years ago, to do a millinery business in Lindsay, with little or no capital, has made a failure, and assigned to Charles Langley. Another millinery venture, which met with a like fate, is that of Emma A. Desmond, Bowmanville. She has assigned to J. D. Ivey. One week ago, Beath & Paris, jewellers, Sudbury, had a meeting of creditors, and their statement showed assets of \$1,900, and liabilities of \$8,000. As they did not make a satisfactory offer of settlement, the stock will be sold by the assignee. In 1888, J. A. Wadsworth, tailor, in this city, failed. Since then his wife has been interested in the stock. Now "Wadsworth, the tailor," assigns with liabilities principally due to a Montreal house. A short time ago S. A. Langlois, hotel-keeper, Windsor, sold out. An offer of 33½ cents is now made to creditors.

Among grocers, in Berlin, the name of P. H. Good is familiar. He has been a long time there, but not always successful. In 1886 he

found it necessary to ask creditors for a heavy discount on the amount of their claims. They agreed to write off 35 per cent., and in time the balance due was paid. This arrangement did not enable him to regain his former prestige. His business, since, has been small and no doubt unprofitable, as an assignee has been placed in charge. H. F. Archer, Havelock, evidently knew more about the building trade than groceries. He abandoned the former, and with his limited experience lost money by the latter. Now the services of an assignee are necessary to help him out of his difficulties. Business in Wellandport was not satisfactory to Chas. Curry, and from there he went to Dunnville, and opened a general store. This change not improving his trade, he assigned.

W. B. KELLETT, general storekeeper, Bothwell, has been about four years in business. Being somewhat ambitious to do a large trade, he opened a branch store last year in Chatham, placing his son in charge of the same. This venture evidently has not improved his position, as he is now in the hands of an assignee. The building business has not been profitable to W. Scott & Son, London. It is stated that they have lost money on the Petrolia church and other contracts, and, consequently, they have found it necessary to assign. After doing a large trade for about a dozen of years, in Arthur, and lately, through a branch store, at Damascus, Hugh Ferguson now finds himself in difficulties. In 1889 it is said he claimed a surplus of \$8,000. If so, the amount appears to have rapidly diminished, as his store and dwelling are heavily mortgaged, and an assignment is made for the benefit of creditors.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

HOMANS BANKER'S ALMANAC AND REGISTER AND LEGAL DIRECTORY, edited by Albert S. Bolles. The half-yearly edition of this useful reference book has just been issued from the press of the Homans Publishing Company, New York. Carefully revised lists of the National, State, and private banks of the United States; banks and bankers of Canada, and principal cities of Europe, Mexico, Central and South America, and the East and West Indies, are included in its contents. The names of savings banks, trust and safe deposit companies of the United States, also principal stock-brokers of New York city, are to be found there. American clearing houses, accompanied by varied statistical tables, a summary of the interest laws, the laws of grace on sight bills, the statutes of limitation, legal holidays, insolvency and assignments in each State, are other headings indicating the scope of this work.

BOURNE'S HANDY ASSURANCE MANUAL, by Wm. Bourne, F.S.S., Associate of the Institute of English Actuaries. The statistics relating to the financial position and progress of British Fire, Accident and Marine Assurance offices, as given in Mr. Bourne's little book, cover a period of nine years. His aim has been to so compress the matter that the busy underwriter may get facts and figures in the briefest possible way without, at the same time, any sacrifice of accuracy.

—Short date local improvement bonds, amounting to nearly \$1,200,000, issued by this city, for the purpose of constructing pavements, sidewalks, etc., were sold in London, England, at 98 per cent. Investors prefer securities of a longer date, and are willing to pay more for them.

—Last year's business of the Bank of British North America shows an available profit of £90,818. Out of this the sum of £10,000 was carried to the reserve, which makes that fund now £265,000. The officers' pension fund is also increased by £2,000. On April 3rd next shareholders will receive a dividend of 40s. per share, giving them, with the dividend of October last, 7½ per cent. for the year. These appropriations will leave £3,818 to be carried forward.

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