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—It is sad to learn that charges of levying blackmail on insurance companies in the shape of extortionate fees for examination have been made against Supt. Smyth, of the New York Insurance Department, and have led the Legislature to order an investigation. One company is said to have paid \$75,000 to \$100,000 for an examination, and, of course, a favorable report. As we said on a former occasion: who is to examine the examiners?

—W. H. Robertson & Co., publishers of the *Times*, Peterboro, have just obtained an extension of ten months. Their business has been established about seven years, and during the whole time they have had some difficulty in keeping themselves afloat. Their principal creditors are the paper makers, and proceedings in insolvency having been threatened, the firm have induced those whom they are owing to grant them an enlargement.

—During the months of March, April, May and June last miners extracted 292 ounces, 3 dwts., and 12 grains of gold from the shafts sunk in the St. Charles Range, Seigneurie of Rigaud. The quality of the gold is very fine, and the Gold Mining Inspector of the Province of Quebec states that he has seen some small nuggets of between two and four ounces in weight: it generally sells at the rate of \$17.50 per ounce. The works promise to become very remunerative.

—The Toronto Engineer's inspection of Coombs springs and other points in connection with London Water Works, has been completed, the result being that the City Engineer's estimate is confirmed in detail. The Water Commissioners have accordingly resolved to call for tenders for four thousand tons of cast-iron water-pipes, of sizes varying from 18 to 4 inches in diameter, also valves, hydrants, &c. It is supposed that the contracts will be awarded within a month.

—Wm. McKendry, general storekeeper, Morrisburg, is in trouble. The business has

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only been established since spring of 1876, and last summer he was obliged to get an extension, which we understand he is now unable to carry out, and proceedings in insolvency are imminent. Liabilities are in the vicinity of \$12,000, nearly half of which are due to one dry goods house of this city. Mr. McKendry's difficulties may be attributed to his anxiety to do too large a business for his means, which never were more than limited.

—The publication of the *St. Catharines Review* has been suspended in consequence of the financial difficulties in which its publisher, C. Cliffe, finds himself. We alluded to these difficulties some time ago, and since then Cliffe has been endeavoring to secure the co-operation of a couple of partners with capital to assist in tiding him over his difficulties. In this he has failed, and the consequence is that he has had to suspend business. His experience wherever he has attempted to carry on business has been very much the same.

—A public meeting was held last Thursday in Oshawa to consider the erection of the village into a town. The advantages of such a step were explained, the most important being the status it would give the town abroad, and the ability to withdraw from the county if any heavy undertaking were entered into, as the recently proposed Sengog bridge, in which Oshawa has not the slightest interest, and from which it cannot derive the slightest benefit, but towards which it would be forced to contribute by county taxation. The meeting was most harmonious and unanimous in favor of the proposed change.

—The scenery on section 15 of the Canadian Pacific Railway is reported to be of the most picturesque description, charmingly diversified by lakes, woodland, and mountains of rock. Many contend that it surpasses 14 in the magnificence of its scenic beauty, but that is a matter of taste. Large quantities of ties and cordwood are being taken out all along the line. The engine is within three miles of Shelley sta-

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tion. The boundary line between Manitoba and Keewatin is at length defined, and lies about half a mile east of the Julius Muskeg. Freight-ing by teams from Selkirk will soon be a thing of the past.

—There were seven bankrupt stocks, valued at \$12,803, sold in Toronto by auction last Monday. A lot of school books and stationery brought 55c on the dollar; one lot of dry goods sold at 40c, and another at 22½c on the dollar; a stock of hardware went off at 25c on the dollar; a stock of dry goods and groceries at 43½c on the dollar; one lot of boots and shoes at 58c, and another at 69½c on the dollar. The full list were the estates respectively: F. W. Rindge, Peterboro; L. Doering, Clifford; M. Williams, Woodstock; Secord Bros., Acon; Philip Harding, Newbridge; Thos. Langton, Toronto, and H. S. Allsopp, of Toronto.

—The latest bank defalcation is a remarkable one indeed. A. M. Turney, paying teller of the New York Bank of North America, is found to be short \$100,000. His career of crime commenced as long ago as "Black Friday," 1863, when he stole \$35,000 with which to pay some losses on the Stock Exchange. He then took a cashier named Lillingwell into his confidence, and the two managed not only to conceal the crime all this time but to increase the amount of the theft. The accounts of the bank have been examined semi-annually without the fraud being discovered, and yet it was done by the simple means of altering the totals of a long row of figures. Turney had been for twenty-five years in the service of the Bank.

—*Capital and Labour* describes some recent experiments in which a new steam machine for felling timber was successfully tested. The instrument consists of a cylinder and piston, the rod of which is directly connected with a strong saw blade working horizontally. The cylinder rests on a solid framework or foundation which is fixed in the ground close to the tree, and the blade is kept in its place by firm chains attached to the trunk to be operated upon. A supply of