

A PRIVATE collection of valuable oil paintings were yesterday sold at Messrs. Coate & Co's. auction rooms in this city, realizing only about one sixth of their estimated value.

A NUMBER of Quebec gentlemen have taken steps to form a joint stock company and to erect buildings in that city for a beet sugar manufactory. They have also contracted with farmers in the vicinity for the supply of beet roots.

A NEW coal mining company, with a capital of \$300,000, in five dollar shares, has been formed. It is called the New Brunswick Anthracite Coal Mining Company. Samples of the coal are pronounced excellent quality; they are mined at Mace's Bay, Charlotte County.

TWELVE or fifteen of the harmoniums and organs made by the Smith Organ Company, of Brome, Que., are to be presently shipped to Australia, as a demand for these instruments in that colony has sprung up since their late Provincial Exhibition. Mr. Gould, the Montreal agent, also contemplates introducing the organs into Scotland.

THE municipal valuation in St. John's, Que., for the present year is as under: Total value of assessment property, \$1,458,120.00, out of which \$224,880 is free from taxes, being Government, Protestant and Catholic properties. The average amount of cash collected in 12 months varies from \$12,000 to 14,000.

A LONDON firm have sent out to this country a specimen steam fire engine, easily handled and weighing but a ton, throwing about five barrels per minute, and at a price complete which should enable many of our towns and villages to possess one, if the machine is all it is represented.

ADVERTISEMENTS are sometimes puzzling to the average reader, for the reason that they contain so much that is technical. An appropriate instance was to be seen in a Montreal daily, last week, where the following breath-arresting description of an article occurred: "Superb Tolley Paragon top snap, treble grip 12 gauge chokebore, B. L." Further on it became apparent that all this array of superlatives referred to a gun.

If people often build palatial stables for their horses or their cattle, heat them with steam, and decorate them with inlaid and carved work, why may not drovers also use palace cars provided for cattle transportation? We observe that "McPherson's Palace Stock Cars" have been placed upon the trunk railways from St. Louis to New York, and that they convey their freight with forty per cent less shrinkage on the journey than the ordinary one. The cattle have the advantage of light, air and comfortable stalls, and they are abundantly watered and fed on the cars.

THE Peat works at St. Brigide, Que., are about to be re-opened and an effort made, with new and improved machinery, to render the production and sale of this article of fuel at this point a success, which it has not proved thus far.

A FARNHAM correspondent of the St. John

News says that there is a good opening in that town and a likelihood of success for three important enterprises, viz.: a wholesale furnishing store, a grist mill, and water-works. From the order of recommendation one would infer that the "store" is the more important enterprise of the three. The correspondent can hardly be an insurance man.

A NEW swindle has been invented for dull times. A one dollar bill is cut in two, a five dollar bill also cut in two, and the halves of the one are pasted to the halves of the other. Then in a roll of bills the five end is counted, and so six dollars pass for ten.

THE fire of Saturday last at Portland, has entailed fresh suffering upon many of the poorer residents of that suburb of St. John. Out of 2000 persons who had been burned out by the fire of June, 700 have been a second time deprived of shelter by this calamity. The Relief Societies of Portland and St. John are acting in concert, and much suffering is being assuaged. Fifty families were provided with shelter, clothing and food in Portland alone on Saturday and Sunday, and committees are working so energetically and well that the distress will not be so terrible as was feared.

A NEW mode of putting up lobsters has been put into operation by Mr. Ayer at Wallace N. S. Eight refrigerators, with a capacity of 25,000 each, are kept at a low temperature by the melting of ice introduced through iron pipes, and in these the lobsters are cooled after being boiled. They are to be shipped to the Western markets about Christmas time.

THE quantity of gypsum shipped from Windsor since the opening of the navigation in the Spring to September 30th last, is 81,568 tons. Sixty tons of Manganese were also shipped during the same period.

A recent Pembroke letter states that the grain and root crops there are good, and if a revival in the square timber and sawn lumber took place business would be good. It continues, "Farmers here don't ship their produce, but depend on the lumbermen for the sale of their hay, oats, beef, pork, &c., and they don't as yet make cheese or butter good enough to export."

HUGH MATHEWSON a store keeper of Clarendon Centre, Que., who has been in business off and on for upwards of twenty years, has made an assignment, but not for the first time in his life: liabilities are not heavy.

MESSRS. A. & S. McDougall and J. L. McDougall, both lumber dealers of Renfrew who have been in trouble for some months back, have assigned. The liabilities of the former firm amount to \$123,913, of which about \$73,000 is indirect. It is said the estate will pay but a slender dividend.

THE Grand Trunk Railway return for the year shows an addition to the capital account of \$781,000. The working expenses have been reduced \$69,000. The figures for the week ending 13th of October, 1877, are: passengers, mails, and express freight, \$61,722; freight and live stock, \$159,972; total \$221,694; same period, 1876, \$64,692; \$137,290; \$201,982; increase \$19,712.

THE Ontario Manufacturers Association is now in session in this city. About fifty of our prominent manufacturers assembled in convention yesterday in Agricultural Hall, under the presidency of Mr. W. H. Howland. Mr. E. K. Greene, of Montreal, was also present as representative of the adjoining province. The President delivered the annual address in the morning, and an evening session was also held. The following committees were appointed: Business—Messrs. G. Booth, J. Ritchie, jr., W. H. Frazer, Watson, and Warnock. Finance—Messrs. McInnes, E. Gurney, R. Hay, Warnock, Wilkie, Riordan, and Pigott. Resolutions—Messrs. McKechnie, Dickenson, Bell, Elliott, Simpson, Gurney, D. F. Jones, Barber, McArthur, Greene (Montreal), and Senator Read. The Convention continued its sittings to-day.

SEVERAL car loads of rails have arrived at Belleville for the Grand Junction R. R. extension, but the Hastings county council decided to appeal against the judgment of the Chancellor, in suit of the Grand Junction Rail Co. vs. the county corporation.

FOURTEEN vessels, carrying each from 5,000 to 14,000 bushels barley, cleared from Belleville in the week ending 20th; and seven vessels, laden with an aggregate of 731,000 feet of lumber, cleared in the same period.

A LESSEE has been found for the handsome Windsor Hotel, Montreal, in Mr. James Worthington, president of the Syndicate formed to manage affairs for the stockholders. We understand the terms of agreement are to be that the Syndicate furnish the building throughout, debentures being issued to raise the funds needed for this purpose. Mr. Worthington will take \$20,000 in these debentures, and pay cash for them. The lease is for ten years, dating from the 1st July next, and the lessee has the rental free until that date. The rental is \$40,000 per annum. It is intended that the Hotel shall be furnished and ready for occupancy by the 1st January next. For the sake of the proprietors, as well as that of the city, it is a matter of rejoicing that this costly and attractive building will be certainly opened during the coming year.

APROPOS of small dividends: there are even smaller dividends going than we mentioned last week. Duncan McDougall, a blacksmith of Richmond, near Ottawa, who assigned a few weeks since, owing \$5,000, has settled with his creditors at the munificent sum of three cents in the dollar. We notice, however, two cases in Montreal even worse than the above; Noel Pratt, a small furniture dealer, and Isabella Moir, both offering their creditors one ct. in the dollar, with very good prospects of it being accepted, for the simple reason that it is more than could be realized. The liabilities in each case amounted to near \$6,000, with assets of about \$100. Mr. Henry Martin, general dealer of Trenton, pays a dividend of 3½ cents in the dollar, on claims amounting to upwards of \$7,500. This also is a shade less than the 3½ cent. dividend of Mr. Manlius Bull, which was the case previously referred to. Wm. McDonald,