JAMES R. KEENE, a well-known New York stock speculator, has failed. His dishonored pledges represent, say the telegrams, 150,000 shares. He was once worth a lot of money, and has lost millions in Wall Street within six months.

THE Ontario and Quebec Railway (including the Credit Valley and Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railways) having been leased to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, these lines will, from the 1st instant, be operated as the Ontario Division of the C. P. B.

THE birch lumber demand has taken a new start on account of its use in the floors of skating rinks—as every smart town or village now-a-days has to have a skating rink as well as an "opera house." The Whitehall, N. Y.. Lumber Company, which deals largely in birch, has lately received orders from every direction for birch plank to be used in rinks. Thus through the freaks of fashion, there is no timber so mean and despised to-day that may not be in urgent demand to-morrow.

THE Pacific Railway Co. has an offer of four thousand Chinese labourers, describe as first class, who have been employed on the Union Pacific and the Onderdonk contract in British Columbia. Superintendent Eagan evidently favors their employment; and the Railway Co. unless it has made promises in other directions may be expected to take the cheapest labor offering. People living on the east side of the Rocky Mountains naturally look with jealousy on the introduction of the Chinese labourers; and a new grievance is likely to be added to the already long list.

McNaughton Bros., two young lads not of age, started a crockery business, about a year ago in Kingston, and are now out in the cold, their landlord having taken possession of the stock for rent. General creditors will likely receive nothing whatever on their claims, which amount to about \$1,500. They were sued lately by some of their creditors and we understand pleaded their minority successfully.—R. J. Main, who succeeded his father in the furniture business at Kingston, about one year ago, is offering his creditors 40 cents on the dollar. He owes \$2,950, including a chattel mortgage for \$500. Assets are about \$1,500.

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An analysis of more than a dozen samples of mustard, gathered from local manufacturers who supply retail grocers with a large proportion of what is consumed of this condiment in New York and vicinity, has resulted in unpleasant disclosures. The samples in question, says the Shipping List, all contained a very large per-Shipping List, all contained a very large per-centage of flour, some as much as 70 to 75 per cent,; a number revealed from 5 to 20 per cent. of Terra Alba, but three contained a substance used for coloring purposes, known as napthol yellow, a dangerously explosive compound as well as a violent irritant poison.

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