

RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMON CARRIERS.

At the annual meeting of the Montreal Board of Trade, the question of railway and steamship companies' responsibility after a bill of lading had been signed by an authorized official, was discussed. It was held that the names of the parties authorized to sign the bills of lading should be posted on changes. A member said that the question of signing way bills from Manitoba and other western points was of still greater importance. He maintained that they were very often signed in pencil, and, although Montreal merchants honored them, and accepted drafts on the strength of their supposed validity, yet these bills of lading were not worth the paper they were written on. He said that this was a most serious matter, and instance a case where a party had lost 500 barrels of flour, owing to a railway agent, who had also been connected with a milling establishment that had failed, having signed a bill of lading, and upon the strength of which the Montrealer had accepted the draft. The merchant appealed to the railway company, and was told that they could not be held responsible for illegal acts committed by their agents, and the courts of Ontario had decided that such was the law of the land. The matter had been brought before the railway representatives of the Board of Trade Council, but they had refused to come forward and volunteer responsibility on the part of their agents. The president announced that the matter would be taken into consideration at an early date.—Bradstreet.

The business men of Sarnia are trying to organize a Board of Trade.

George M. Wilkinson, one of the oldest merchants in Kingston, died last week.

W. W. Ogilvie has been unanimously elected president of the Montreal Board of Trade.

A gang of counterfeit coin-makers are at work in the neighborhood of Lancaster, near Kingston, and have succeeded in floating a good deal of "stuff" around. They are making quarters and half dollar pieces, and it is said they have a dollar piece out.

In the Quebec Legislature last week Mr. Auge moved a second reading of his bill respecting the early closing of shops, but just as the Speaker was putting the motion to the vote, Mr. Martineau rose and moved the six months' hoist, seconded by Mr. Kennedy. Mr. Martineau was about to speak to his motion, when Mr. Auge raised the objection already made that his bill was not printed in both languages. He therefore asked permission to withdraw it. Leave was granted and the bill was withdrawn.

There was a large meeting of the creditors of the Bently estate held in the office of Assignee Dickson on a recent afternoon. A few of the creditors desired the estate to be handed over to another assignee, but by a vote of 32 to four it was decided to leave it in the hands of Mr. Dickson. Mr. Bently made no offer, and Messrs. A. E. Kemp, D. A. Rose, C. C. Woods and James Dickson were appointed to wind up the estate. The liabilities amount to \$32,726.28, and the assets \$16,530.81, leaving a discrepancy of \$16,195.47.



CAUSE FOR CONGRATULATION.

SPIERBERGER (who has slipped off his awning).—Py grascious, mine frent, you vas porn lucky! Subbosin' I mineselluf het gom' down mit der baint!