

THE Ottawa Board of Trade have appointed Mr. Tinkess, of Prescott, official assignee for Leeds and Grenville, and Mr J. W. Constitt for South Lanark.

MR. JAMES HEDLEY for many years manager of Messrs. Dun's agency in this city and in Montreal, and who has lately resided in Scotland in a like capacity, has now become a member of the Montreal House of Messrs. Cassils, Stimson & Co., Importers. Mr. H. won the respect and confidence of many leading business men in his late employment.

IT IS time that our Boards of Trade and other commercial bodies took action in reference to the Insolvent Act. Otherwise it will most likely be suffered to expire. There is danger that the small amount of attention bestowed upon the subject on the eve of a session of Parliament, may be interpreted to mean indifference as to the result. A feeling which in the best of our judgment does not exist.

IT 1S noticed as an interesting fact the one hundred and fifty new locomotive engines for the Grand Trunk which were in position at Point St. Charles on Saturday last, were all built in the United States. No English house could supply them, and of course we have no facilities here for their manufacture. The cost of these engines would make a handsome aggregate, all of which goes into the pockets of Brother Jonathan. The new cars were chiefly made in Canada. Surely there must be room for 'establishing such an associate industry where there is so much railway construction as in Canada.

MESSRS. FOSTER of Halifax, the circumstance of whose failure was the subject of criticism in a letter published in our issue of Sept. 26th, deny the truth of the statements therein al-

leged. We have at present no immediate knowledge of the real state of facts; and can only say that the communication was from a thoroughly respectable source. It is our duty, however, to give the parties mentioned the full benefit of their denial.

DRY goods were imported at Toronto during the first nine months of 1872 and 1873 respectively as follows:

	1872.	1873.
Woollens	\$2,365,893	1,670,921
Cottons	1,830,177	1,824,398
Silks and velvets	454,814	362,983
	_	

For the month of September alone the imports were :

Woollens		362,983
Cottons	174,121	181,20
Silks and velvets	72,786	59,795

And the total value of gross imports for the nine months ending Sept. 30th was 11,473,600 this year against 11,459,996 last year, indicating a trifling increase. The duties collected for the same period were 249,300 in 1873 and 248,532 in 1872.

THE Scottish American Journal, a New York weekly, in an article entitled "Bank Defaulters," cites several recent instances of defalcations, the latest being that of a venerable New England bank cashier for \$40,000, who had been forty years in that position, and was a quiet, old-fashioned gentleman of Puritan bearing. The article concludes: "Young men "and old, men distinguished for religious fervor " and men distinguished merely for free living, " have been drawn into the vortex of specula-" tion, which begins by 'borrowing' other " people's money, and ends with the guilt " of stealing it. The evil is catching, and " a remedy must be found for it if society is to " retain any confidence in commercial trust at

" offences more severely than they do, and re-" solve to see them followed by appropriate "punishment. It is nauseating to hear Bank. " Directors, whose carelessness has contributed . " to breaches of trust on the part of their ser-"vants, talk about the 'misfortunes' of the " speculative defaulter, and invite public sym-" pathy for the man who risked money he "never earned." Fortunately for us there is in Canada a healthier commercial opinion than is shown to exist in the States, by this and kindred articles; we have also a far more effective administration of the laws in cases of default, except, of course, where culprits escape punishment by slipping across the lines. There is, notwithstanding, a speculative spirit, latent even among ourselves, which occasionally shows itself in dangerous directions, and which, were encouragement given to it, might develop into "stealing where it began with borrowing."

## OIL MATTERS IN PETROLIA.

## (From our own Correspondent.)

PETROLIA, Sept. 30, 1873.

A little excitement was caused this week by the well got by Mr. Drader and others about 1 miles west of Petrolia. It started off at over roo brls per day, and is said to be increasing. Mr. Lawson has had a very good well near his old ones. It is between 30 and 40 brls per day. No other strikes. Although all business is excessively dull, still the late wells have restored somewhat the confidence in oil men that the oil has not all been drained out.

" of stealing it. The evil is catching, and " a remedy must be found for it if society is to " retain any confidence in commercial trust at