

quently revoke such assignment without the consent of the assignees, or is the same irrevocable?"—[It appears to us that this case may be covered by sub-sec. 1, section 6 of chap. 136 Revised Statutes of Ontario, where it is provided that the insured may by an instrument in writing, etc., vary a policy or an apportionment previously made. Look up the law for yourself, however, or let your lawyer decide. Judge Armour's recent decision as to the effect of a will upon a life policy alters one's idea somewhat as to the meaning of this statute.—ED. MON. TIMES.]

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Quebec grocery clerks hold periodical out-door demonstrations by way of encouraging the early-closing movement.

The Whitman fish drying establishment at Annapolis, N.S., has suspended work for a time, owing to the scarcity of fish.

The Canadian Department of Agriculture has received enquiries from C. H. White, of Washington, U.S., who says he purposes to start the cultivation of hops in Manitoba or the Northwest on a large scale.

During the years from 1882 to 1894, the fishermen of Lunenburg county, N.S., were paid fishing bounties to the extent of \$235,000. The increase in that period was almost doubled, being \$18,274 in 1882, and \$35,318 in 1894.

There is either something very radically wrong with the fishery regulations of British Columbia, or some clever agitation is being done for political effect. The former would appear the most likely conclusion, as the various reputable boards of trade in that province have from time to time asked for commissioners to investigate affairs.

At the annual general meeting of the Association of Wine and Liquor Merchants of Quebec the following gentlemen were elected officers for the current year: President, Elz. Dalaire; vice president, A. Grenier; treasurer, Elz. Paquet; secretary, P. L. Turgeon; assistant-secretary, F. X. Soucy. Committee of Management—Jos. Chateauvert, L. A. Boisvert, J. T. Donnelly, A. Cawford, sr., F. Bouret and Ed. Trudel.

Essex grape growers have not found the last several seasons profitable, and are attempting to organize a fruit exchange for the better disposal of their fruit. The movement is one worthy of encouragement from merchants. The distribution of fruit is very unequal; while some markets are glutted others are bare. With the injury to the native wine industry consequent upon the French Treaty, grape growers must turn increased attention to the local fruit markets.

Robert H. Lauder has been talking to the farmers of Leamington about the establishment of a beet root sugar factory. He proposed an establishment employing 300 hands four months in the year and 50 hands the year round. The factory would cost \$350,000, and the farmers were to take \$150,000 in shares, to be paid within six years. There would be a daily consumption of 500 tons of beets, requiring 3,500 acres of land to produce them. It was possible that a canning factory might be started in connection with the sugary.

HARDWARE AND METAL TRADES.

The dairy station at Hillsboro, P.E.I., has contracted with Bruce Stewart & Co. for an engine and boiler.

We have received from Messrs. Bolling & Lowe, of Laurence, Pountney Hill, London, England, a catalogue descriptive of iron and steel sleepers, locomotives and rolling stock which they manufacture.

The hardware business at Melita, Man., formerly owned by J. Young, has been purchased by C. W. McLennan and Thos. Sturgeon, who have formed a partnership and will trade under the firm name of McLennan & Sturgeon.

The foreign coal shipments from Nanaimo for the month of March were as follows: New Vancouver Coal Co., 24,144 tons; Wellington, 20,377 tons; Union, 25,066 tons, showing an increase of 1,500 tons over the February shipments.

The New Glasgow firm of Fraser Bros. shipped last week an engine and hoisting gear to the New Glasgow Gold Mining Company, at Goldenville, N.S. The engine is on the tandem compound principle, and an air compressor is being built for the company by the Ingersoll Rock Drill Company at Montreal. The Fraser Bros. are at work fitting up the machinery for a crushing mill for the same company.

It is announced that the Kingston civic committee has closed with the Dominion Steel and Blast Furnace Company, of Youngstown, Ohio, for the erection of a blast furnace and steel plant at the city of Kingston. Terms have been agreed upon. The report will be approved by the council, and a by-law submitted to the electors asking for permission to raise by way of loan \$250,000, the granting of exemption from taxation for ten years on a site to be given free for the works.

The oil market, says the *Topic*, April 4th, is stronger than ever. Last week Petrolea crude was quoted at \$1.31, but it soon advanced 1½ cents and stayed at that figure all the week till yesterday. On Wednesday oil opened on 'Change at \$1.33½ and closed at \$1.34, with several hundred barrels sold at both figures. All the oil offered is easily sold, and things are looking quite rosy for the "poor, down trodden" producer, but not so nice for the refiners, who claim that they cannot afford to pay such a price with refined at its present price, and, for certain obvious reasons, the price of the latter cannot be advanced much at any rate.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS.

Some years ago a company obtained a charter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Legislature to build a street railway in Truro. The time lapsed, and an extension of time lapsed. Yet nothing was done. A few days ago a bill was introduced by Mr. Wickwire, of Kings, for a further extension of time. This a number of the citizens of Truro oppose, and a public meeting passed a resolution in opposition to the grant of a charter in reference to the provisions in which Truro citizens had no voice.

—On Wednesday last, according to a St. John despatch of 5th inst., a meeting was to be held of the Colonial Iron and Coal Company, which proposes to erect a blast furnace at Carleton, N.B. The company, it is stated, has already secured coal areas in Queens county, and also has secured the right to build a railroad from the coal areas to Gibson, opposite Fredericton. The Central Railway is to build a line of railway from Chipman to the coal fields, about fifteen miles. Mr. Robert G. Leckie and some local people are associated in this enterprise with English and American capitalists. The works are to have a capacity of 100 tons pig iron per day.

—On this day week a meeting of the business men, citizens of Elora, was held in the Town-hall for the purpose of forming a board of trade. Much interest was manifested, and the result of the meeting was the organization of the Elora Board of Trade. The following officers were elected:—Honorary President, Mr. Charles Clarke; president, Mr. T. P. Smith; vice-president, Mr. Thomas E. Lipsey; secretary, Mr. E. Burns; treasurer, Mr. John Gibb. Messrs. Jas. Wells, S. Springer and F. Wissler, with the officers, will form the council.

—It is a satisfaction to hear occasionally—we certainly do not hear it too often—that an incendiary has been arrested and punished. Such unfeeling and dangerous scoundrels deserve the lash, for there is no knowing what suffering and loss of life as well as loss of property their fire-raising may cause. We observe that at the Montreal Court of Queen's Bench last week Sir Alexander Lacoste sentenced a barn burner, Camille Landry, whose guilt was well proven, to ten years in the penitentiary.

—The Government of New Brunswick, we learn from a St. John paper, has closed a negotiation with the Imperial Trusts Company for the sale of \$150,000 of six per cent. bonds at a premium of 2.26. Of the amount issued \$110,000 will be used toward retiring six per cent. bonds about maturing, and probably the remainder will be used in connection with the construction of steel bridges under authority of acts of the legislature.

—We are informed that at a recent meeting of the board of the London and Canadian Loan and Agency Co., Limited, Mr. Thomas Long was unanimously elected a director, in the room and stead of C. E. Hooper, lately deceased. Mr. Long is well known in financial circles, having large business interests both in Toronto and in Collingwood.

—Among the latest places to form a board of trade is Beamsville, in the rich fruit district of Lincoln. The gentlemen chosen officers are: C. E. Riggins, president; J. H. Beatty, vice-president; J. D. Bennett, treasurer; F. W. Barry, secretary. The council consists of William Hearle, sr., W. F. Tallman, A. H. Dodsworth, T. A. Simpson, and W. J. White.

—We learn that the cashier of the Merchants' Bank of Prince Edward Island, Mr. William McLean, who has occupied that position for twenty years at least, has resigned his post in consequence of health. His successor is Mr. J. Milton Davison.

—Having to go to press on Thursday, by reason of the Good Friday holiday, we are without the usual Clearing House returns for this week.