

THE Town Council of Portage la Prairie, at a late meeting, fixed the rate of taxation for the current year at $4\frac{1}{2}$ mills on the dollar. It was decided at the same time to borrow \$50,000 by the issue of debentures.

MR. PAUL ROSS, well known in Walkerton as a contractor and dealer in lumber, &c., besides being a farmer and hop-grower, has unexpectedly made an assignment to J. G. Cooper. We have not been able to learn the nature of his difficulty.

AMONG Manitoba traders, Mr. F. J. Washington, of Winnipeg, has given up the grocery business; E. J. Copeland, has gone out of millinery; Joseph Coupland, of Dominion City, gives up his store and begins hotel-keeping, while Mr. R. Z. Rogers offers for sale his mills at Milford.

The grounds of the Industrial Exhibition in this city are to be illuminated by 60 electric lights, each of 2,000 candle power. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for bombarding a vessel in the lake from the grounds, and also for holding a military review at night under the electric light.

SEVERAL of the smaller concerns in Quebec, manufacturing boots and shoes for the jobbing trade have lately come to grief. This week chronicles another failure in this line, being that of Contant Lagace & Co., who only commenced some eighteen months ago on very limited capital. Liabilities are light.

It appears that, not to be behind other guilds, the threshers have held their "convention," and arranged a tariff of charges. The meeting was held in London some days ago, and it was resolved that the following tariff of rates for threshing be adhered to until further notice: Wheat, $3\frac{1}{2}$ c. per bushel; barley, 3c.; peas, 4c.; oats, 2c.; or at the rate of \$1.50 per hour, as the farmer may prefer.

THE shipments of live stock from Montreal to Britain for the week ended 29th ult. were 669 cattle and 6,550 sheep, against 640 cattle and 6,433 sheep the previous week. Mr. C. H. Chandler's list gives the following vessels: *Hanoverian* to Glasgow, *Lake Champlain* and *Toronto* to Liverpool, *Ocean King* to London and *Cornwall* to Bristol, all steamers.

THE St. John *Telegraph* says there seems to be little doubt that the New Brunswick Railroad is about to obtain control of the New Brunswick and Canada Railroad; and that this arrangement looks towards other changes, which will enlarge the facilities and extend the connections of the New Brunswick Railroad, in taking passengers and freight Westward and probably Eastward.

IN the case of Duchaine, the Belgian broker, arrested in Montreal on a charge of embezzlement, and to which we alluded in a recent number, Judde Monk has rendered his decision, authorizing his extradition in accordance with the terms of the treaty. The prisoner's counsel states his intention to carry the case before another judge upon a habeas corpus.

A RECENT statement of Pacific Railway construction in British Columbia reports grading completed for eight miles west of Emory, and from Emory to Thirteen-Mile Camp, in all eighteen miles. Thirteen tunnels have been bored, aggregate length 5,393 feet, one mile and 113 yards, since the 17th May, 1879. There are 11,390 men employed, of whom 3,440 are whites, and the remainder Chinese.

FIFTEEN years ago, says a correspondent of the *Stratford Beacon*, Wiarton was a wilderness. During the past six years its main street, which has some excellent buildings upon it, has been built up. Several private and public buildings

are in course of erection. The population is about 1300. There were some three thousand excursionists visiting Wiarton the other day, on the occasion of the celebration of the opening of the Georgian Bay & Lake Erie railway to that point.

THE St. Paul *Pioneer-Press* learns that the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway Co. is now surveying a line from Morris, Manitoba, 27 miles into Pembina. This new route will run into Pembina direct from Winnipeg, thence south and connect with the main line running north from Grand Forks, and will give the railway named two direct routes into Winnipeg.

AN important manufacturing industry is springing into existence at Bay City, Mich. This is the making of alkali, for which America is at present mostly dependent on England. The Bay City works now turn out about ten tons of refined alkali per day. Similar chemical works are being erected in Syracuse, N. Y. The abundance of salt deposits on this continent should give plenty of material for the manufacturing of alkali, and the increase of such works is of the utmost importance.

MICHAEL SLATTERY, of Louisburg, Cape Breton, who does a somewhat extensive business in supplying fishermen, &c., has been in cramped shade for some time past, has just effected a compromise at the rate of 40 cents on the dollar, spread over two years. Liabilities are about \$14,000. He showed a considerable nominal surplus some months ago but largely unavailable, having some twenty different properties, this settlement, however, should put him on his feet again.

QUITE a number of Ontario traders appear to be selling out. Among them are Mrs. J. M. Campbell, books Mount Forest; Isidore Eby, hotel, Galt; B. N. Foster, fruit, Brantford; H. C. Brown, grocer, Ottawa; Gilbert Anderson, stationery, Woodstock. General storekeepers furnish their quota to the list. For instance W. Tredway, of Highland Creek, has sold out to Hugh Alexander, and E. H. Pinney of Petrolia to Joseph Haggard. J. Lawrence at Newbury has also sold out his store, and Gilbert Anderson of Woodstock sells his stationery out to W. G. Boyes.

THE partnership between Beverley Robinson and Stuart Heath as Custom House brokers and forwarders, in this city, has been dissolved. Mr. Robinson retires, being about to leave for New York, where he takes a position in the well known firm of R. W. Cameron & Co., the Australian shippers. Having been engaged for the last eight years in this city in the customs and forwarding business, the firm of Robinson & Heath has become favorably known to Canadian importers. Its successors are Messrs. Stuart Heath and Edwin Crickmore, late of the Dominion Bank.

M. McLEON, Tobacconist of St. John, N. B. has assigned to John Stewart. This step was not altogether unexpected, as his paper had not been well provided for of late, and he had been attempting too much for his means. His liabilities foot up to the respectable sum of some \$15,000, with apparent assets of about \$10,000, local creditors however are largely secured, several bills of sale having been registered but a short time before the assignment. Several Montreal houses are in for considerable amounts and are not feeling altogether pleasant over the way things have turned out.

HON. ADAM HOPE, who died on Monday last of paralysis, was a well known and honoured Canadian merchant, of amiable character and marked ability. He was born in East Lothian, Scotland, and at the time of his death was in his

70th year. Having been some six years in the counting-house of a Leith firm, in which Mr. David Davidson, formerly General Manager of the Bank of Montreal, was then a partner, Mr. Hope came to Canada in 1834, and entered the office of Young, Weir & Co., merchants, Hamilton. Beginning business on his own account in St. Thomas in 1837, he removed to London in 1845, where the firm was Hope, Birrell and Co., the late Mr. John Birrell being the partner, and subsequently to Hamilton in 1865, when the firm became Buchanan, Hope & Co. The deceased gentleman was senior partner in the wholesale hardware firm of Adam Hope & Co., Hamilton, President of the Hamilton Provident and Loan Society, and director of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. He had been, too, the first president of the Huron & Erie Loan Co., founded about 1864 in London. Mr. Hope was called to the Senate by Hon. Alex. Mackenzie five years ago.

THE HARVEST.

The reports of the condition of the crops along the line of the Grand Trunk Railway in Canada, telegraphed to Montreal by the Station agents on the 5th inst., form interesting reading for the business man, and their general tenor is satisfactory indeed. Accounts are given, more or less detailed, from 118 places, of which 83 are in Ontario and 35 in Quebec.

Respecting fall wheat, ninety places report: twenty nine give expectation of 30 to 40 bushels per acre; thirty give an estimate of 25 bushels; eighteen give 20 bushels; in the remainder the yield is under these figures. Eight or ten places, all in Quebec, report no fall wheat sown, and in Eastern Ontario a good deal has been killed by frost. The counties of Perth, Wellington, Waterloo and York have the largest yields in the list, and the breadth sown is unquestionably large.

Of spring wheat, a few places in Western Ontario report as much as 25 bushels per acre: forty-six places 20 bushels, the remainder 15 bushels or less, twenty-one claiming say 15 bushels. In Quebec province this grain appears to have done well. Eighty-five returns in all speak of it.

The yield of barley is generally good, though in some places stained by rain. Fifty points make returns, and only two of these refer to it as otherwise than good; "abundant," "excellent," "heavy," are some of the terms used. At nine points 40 bushels per acre is mentioned, in many places 35. But little of this grain is grown in Quebec. In the important Bay of Quinte district there appears to be a generally good yield.

Favorable accounts are also given of coarse grains, as a rule. To oats, peas, and rye, thirty-six correspondents refer as being a good average crop. In some parts of the Midland district they are described as extra good. Here and there rye and corn are poor, but about Lachine, Lacolle, and points in the Eastern Townships they seem to yield abundantly; 40, 50, and at one place (New Hamburg, Ont.) 70 bushels of oats to the acre are looked for. Of peas, 25, 30 and 40 bushels are spoken of.

Hay is reported upon from sixty-three places. In many of these it is "abundant," "the largest crop known," and the estimates range from 1 ton to 3 tons per acre. Roots are generally a good crop, it is believed. Seventy-seventy places send advices respecting them and only about a dozen describe them as less than average, these being in that part of Ontario east of Newcastle and one or two on the line of the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway. From Quebec there are universally favorable accounts.