MITCHELL BOARD OF TRADE.

At the annual meeting of the Mitchell Board of Trade held last Friday night, the secretary's report was encouraging. It showed that there had been no business failures among the business men of the town during the year; that the factories, though not numerous, were busy, and that Mitchell still maintained its reputation as one of the best cattle shipping stations on the G.T.R. Officers of the board for the ensuing year were elected, as follows: President, W. G. Hinds; vice-president, S. R. Stuart; secretary-treasurer, Isaac Hord; council, John Broderick, A. Cameron, William Forrester, R. D. Hannah, E. F. Davis, A. Burritt, T. S. Ford, W. Thomson, F. Dufton, Fred. Davis, William Lester, W. Bailey.

CLOSE upon the failure of Harper Bros., another long-established publishing house in the United States suspends. It is that of D. Appleton & Co., whose circular, issued last month, announces "the suspension of our personal operation of the business which three generations of our family have uninterruptedly and successfully pursued." The necessity for the suspension arises largely through the extension of our business on the instalment contract basis (which contracts amount to fully $900,000, now outstanding). An idea of the lock-up of capital involved in carrying on such a business as this is given in the single fact that out of $3,604,028 of assets, there is $830,000 in plates and stock in process, besides $360,000 in the plates of special books. The trouble is that their capital (their surplus is shown at $446.398), is inadequate to the carrying of a business that involves so long waiting for instalment sales to mature. As the matter is put by an American paper, there is "no such interior decay as caused the Harper troubles, but rather an unwise use of some of the less legitimate commercial methods which are resorted to by furniture, sewing machine, and piano dealers."

A SPECIAL general meeting of shareholders in the Hall Mines Company, Limited, of British Columbia, was held in London, England, on March 16th. It was stated that an offer had been made by a Canadian firm to take over the whole property. A committee of shareholders was formed, and according to the British Columbia Review, the old directors will retire, with the exception of Robert Ward, of Victoria. The temporary board is said to be S. Boulnois, D. H. Gibb (or Freeman), Charles Harvey and Robert Ward. The aim appears to be the reconstruction of the company.

ONE hundred and forty-five employees of the Hamilton Bridge Works went on strike last week. The riveters demanded an increase in wages of 10 per cent., and when it was not at once acceded to, quit. The bridgemen and others went out in sympathy.

THE hardware store of G. F. Beverley, at St. John, was destroyed by fire last Friday night, entailing a loss of $10,000, partially covered by insurance.