

THE percentages of freight handled by the six eastern Trunk lines of rail carrying from Chicago this year were: Michigan Central, 17.20; Lake Shore, 23; Fort Wayne, 16.10; Pan-Handle, 25.50; Baltimore & Ohio, 8.20; Grand Trunk, 10. The percentages last year were: Michigan Central, 24.20; Lake Shore, 31.30; Fort Wayne, 16.30; Pan-Handle, 14.70; Baltimore & Ohio, 4.40; Grand Trunk, 9.10.

THE receipts at the Montreal Custom House on Monday last were \$15,750.65. The receipts for the week ending Saturday the 19th inst., were \$188,903.13, the amounts paid on the different days as follows:—Monday, \$24,919.32; Tuesday, \$26,204.78; Wednesday, \$43,030.27; Thursday, \$28,156.80; Friday, \$23,917.82; Saturday, \$42,674.14.

A SHAREHOLDER is taking legal proceedings to have the Banque de St. Jean, at St. Johns, Que. closed and its charter annulled, alleging maladministration, false returns made to the Government, and that the required 40 per cent. of the \$500,000 capital has not been paid up as required by law. The bank officials deny the charge, and contend that the prosecution occurs because the bank has taken criminal action against certain parties, who want revenge.

THE trustees to the estate of A. & C. J. Hope, of Montreal, met on the 21st instant, to consider a proposition made by the firm to pay 35 cents on the dollar to general creditors; the cases where seizures had been made before judgment to be allowed to be decided by the court. The offer was not closed with, certain amendments being proposed by the trustees. There is a probability of a settlement being effected shortly however.

THE creditors of Mr. L. E. Benton, a dealer in metals at St. Thomas, met a few days ago and advised him to assign. He owes about \$24,000; nominal assets \$43,760. In June last he was reported to be doing a very large business and was supposed to have been making money. In September he endeavoured to form a joint stock company to carry on his business. So far he has not completed these arrangements. He had been frequently sued, and under the circumstances the course adopted was probably the best.

LAWYERS are about the most numerous class of professional people in Winnipeg and it is often wondered how so large a number appear to thrive on so small a community. Possibly some of them encourage litigation. Indeed it would almost seem so, as we are told that a short time ago no less than twenty-three writs in civil suits were issued in the Court of Queen's Bench in one day.

THE statement of foreign imports at Winnipeg for the three months ending September 30th, shows as follows:

Dutiable goods	\$2,227,583
Free goods imported	1,022,183
Free imports by the C. P. R.	924,276

The *Sun* says that the above statistics do not, of course, include the goods imported from the other provinces, which alone average \$1,000,000 a month; so that the real value of the imports at Winnipeg for the period stated would be \$6,000,000, or an increase of \$4,000,000 as compared with the corresponding quarter last year.

MR. R. MILLER, dealer in dry goods at Elmira and Berlin, finds the sheriff in possession of his premises. This young man succeeded to the business of his father at Linwood, where a stock valued at over \$5,000 was purchased at 25 per cent. discount. On the 1st of August last he sold out, and about two months afterward he began business in Berlin, having a branch at Elmira. Before he had been in business one month some one had issued a writ against him

for \$3,500 and the sheriff took possession as above stated. Some of the creditors are not satisfied with the appearance of matters, and investigation will probably be made.

A MOUNT FOREST hotel keeper, J. H. Campbell, who went thither six years ago from Barrie, where he kept an hotel, is now in trouble. This was not expected as he had paid his local creditors.—Another hotel keeper, A Euler, at Neustadt a neighboring village has become involved by produce operations during the past two years. All his property is held by a Waterloo brewer as collateral security for endorsing paper. It is thought that if his affairs are prudently managed he may in time pay in full. In the meantime he is acting as agent for his wife in the same line of business.—F. A. German, at Castleton, also an hotel keeper, has assigned after being about eighteen months in business.

A NUMBER of professional thieves are prowling about the country. Early last Sunday morning the store of J. S. Henry, Son & Co. at Beamsville was entered by professional burglars and \$5,000 in notes and money taken. The safe, which is one of Taylor's best, with combination lock, was drilled into and easily opened. The whole contents of the safe was taken. There is no clue to the robbers. At Kingston about the same time Messrs. Shore, Loynes & Co. found their safe in the grocery store tampered with. The lock was broken, and when the door was pulled open, all the money put in the safe on Saturday night—about \$60—was found to be removed.

THE growth of Regina, properly Wascana, originally Pile o' Bones, has been very remarkable, and it may be doubted if the United States during the development of her Great West can furnish an example to equal it. Eight weeks ago the town was established on an open prairie in the North West territory. On the 1st November it contains eight hotels, eighteen stores, two blacksmith's shops, one saddler's shop, two livery stables, two tin shops, two laundries, three billiard halls, two bakeries, one drug store, one jeweller's shop, two doctors, six lawyers, and four lumber yards, and a population of between eight and nine hundred souls. Six church sites have been purchased and two banks have obtained land upon which to erect branch offices.

A GENERAL storekeeper at Newmarket, Wm. Keetch, was engaged for ten years as a pedlar around the country, after this he began business in Ravenshoe where he remained two years. Having some spare money he took a year's trip to Egypt. This trip it appears injured him as a successful business man; for after being six months in trade at Belle Ewart he failed and paid only sixty per cent. of his debts. The next place at which he turns up is at Bruce Mines, where he acted as auctioneer for six months. From that place he went to Newmarket in 1869, and began storekeeping with a very small stock of goods. From this small beginning he grew rapidly; in 1875 he had a large stock of goods and in 1877 he claimed a surplus of \$10,000. This claim was doubted by some persons. In January 1879 a meeting of creditors was held, when his liabilities were \$21,000 and nominal assets some \$5,000 more. They granted him an extension of two years. At this time he had a sort of mania for branch stores having no less than four at different ports on the upper lakes. In 1880 he claimed to have a surplus of over \$15,000. In May 1881 he sold the business at Prince Arthur Landing. He was evidently a victim of his unfortunate craze for branch stores and now he has assigned with nominal assets of \$28,000 and liabilities of \$24,000, so far as can now be ascertained.

THE building outlook for the coming fall is excellent in Hamilton. There are at present under contract, says the *Times*, buildings which in their construction will require upwards of 4,000,000 bricks. The brickmakers of the city have facilities for turning out 14,000,000.

THE Beaver Line of steamers which ply between Liverpool and Quebec in the summer will call at Halifax during the winter months. The *Lake Nepigon* was the first vessel of this line which has called at that point this season.

ON Saturday last telephonic communication was established between London and St. Thomas, a distance of sixteen miles. The *Free Press* says that the conversation could be heard with perfect distinctness, and that the completion of the new line will prove an advantage to the residents of both cities, as it will facilitate the despatch of business.

THE value of goods entered at Sherbrooke, Que., for last quarter was \$189,966. Of this aggregate \$59,328 consisted of dutiable goods, the remainder of free goods. The customs' duties collected at that port in October last amounted to \$6,537, against about \$4,500 for the previous October.

THE monthly report of the Virginia Tobacco Trade shows sales of 2,788,300 pounds of leaf, at an average price of \$8.67 per cwt., against 702,100 at \$17.01 per cwt. last year. The internal revenue tax on manufactured tobacco for the month was \$108,218.36; the same month last year realized \$103,054.32.

W. J. POPE & Co, sawmill men of Charlemagne, Que., are somewhat embarrassed, and a seizure before judgment was issued recently for \$2,256. This however is likely to be withdrawn, and it is stated they will ask a general extension. The liabilities are understood to be heavy, two creditors alone representing some \$65,000, but it is stated that with time they can pay in full.

D. A. BULLOCK, a general dealer of Georgeville Que., shows a deficiency of assets, and at a meeting of creditors held in Montreal last week made an offer of fifty cents on time. Creditors suggested he should pay sixty cents secured, which he agreed to, and a deed was signed by those present granting a composition at above rate provided the security be satisfactory. Liabilities \$3,975, assets \$3,211.

THE failure of Messrs. Jas. S. Macdonald & Co., of Halifax, referred to last week, develops an unpleasant feature in connection with their account at the Merchants' Bank of Halifax. The firm had been permitted to overdraw their limit of accommodation, and for this the cashier, Mr. George MacLean, has been dismissed. But apart from the Macdonald matter, it appears, that Mr. MacLean is behind in his accounts some \$10,700, which sum his bondsmen are stated to have made up. D. H. Duncan, late accountant, has been appointed cashier of the bank in room of Mr. MacLean.

A BIG reduction in rates has taken place on the railways between Chicago and St. Paul. On the Albert Lea route tickets can be bought for \$3.00. The other two roads, the Chicago, St. Paul & Omaha and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, are not asleep by any means. They claim that the shortness of their routes more than compensates for the extra \$2 difference between them and what they call the roundabout Albert Lea route. The \$3 and \$5 draw the crowd, and a large number of people arrive in St. Paul daily now to take advantage of this low rate to Chicago. Freight rates have also been reduced to about one half the old prices.

ACCORDING to a telegraphic report from London England, The Hudson Bay Company committee will not propose an interm dividend, because it cannot give an estimate of the probable result of