

THE Quebec Board of Trade held its annual meeting on Tuesday last, 13th instant. A report of the proceedings was received last evening, too late for this issue. Mr. Chateauvert was re-elected president.

THE associated architects of Quebec and of Ontario have expressed their favorable opinion of the *Canadian Contract Record*, published weekly by C. H. Mortimer in Montreal and Toronto. In the last issue we find notice of contracts open in twenty-five various Canadian places.

AFTER wandering around a good deal, L. Goldsmith, cigar maker, came to Toronto about the first of the year, and now towards the last of it assigns, with liabilities and assets of about \$3,000 each. M. Benjamin has a special claim of \$2,400; if this claim is held to be good, creditors need not expect a dividend.—A confectioner named R. J. McNichol has been in business here for a number of years, and made a failure in Feb. last. Now creditors have closed his premises and business will be wound up.—The bailiff is in possession of the Domestic Fashion Co., owned by J. R. Wilson & Co. The stock will be sold on Monday next.

THE chattel mortgage is quite a factor in business life in Ontario these days. A number of instances of its power may be found in our summary to-day. A chattel mortgage has covered the effects of Maria Fenwick & Co., Niagara Falls, for a long time. In 1884 her husband, D. F., removed thither from St. Catharines, and failed as a jeweller in Sept., 1888. His wife then purchased the stock. Now she too assigns.—About two years ago Duncan McKellar started a small grocery in Ridgetown. Now he makes an assignment.—Orange Bros., bakers at Glenora, have also assigned.—After disposing of his fifty-acre farm at Newton, Wm. McDonald started in the lumber trade. Now the sheriff is in charge of his premises. He owes \$3,973, and assets \$3,864. A meeting of creditors will be held to-morrow.

To any one who thinks of the meaning of the Latin word "Excelsior," or who is accustomed to connect it with the song of which it is the title, its application to a product for upholsterers' use, resembling wood shavings, must seem odd in the extreme. But in this utilitarian age "everything goes." A factory for making excelsior, or wood fibre, is being started in Chatham, Ontario, by the Ontario

Excelsior Manufacturing Co., prominent members of which are: Mr. John Pratt, Messrs. McKeough & Trotter, and Mr. Geo. Marris, of Tilbury; Messrs. Pratt and Marris managers. The company will make coopers' stock, such as headings, hoops, etc., and wood fibre—the latter a staple article used by all large furniture firms and also for packing. Already over \$3,000 has been expended. The two-storey structure erected fronts 70 feet on Colborne street. The main building is of frame and adjoining is a large brick engine house. Mr. Pratt has patented a new knife for slicing the wood. It has forty knives, making fifty revolutions per minute, and great things are expected of it.

AMONG the assignments this week is that of Patrick Keena and wife, who kept a tavern at Schomberg. He being considered irresponsible, his wife had to become security for his purchases.—An offer of 10 per cent. made to the creditors of Dougherty & Edge, planing mill men at Leamington, has been refused and the firm has assigned. The liabilities are about \$22,000. It is evident that the estate will be a poor one.—In October, 1887, Wm. Bishop began keeping a grocery at Port Arthur, and now he assigns. In the early part of last year he claimed a surplus of \$4,600.—A chattel mortgage covering the effects of R. Walder, hotelkeeper at Preston, has been the instrument used in closing his premises.—A chattel mortgage is found to exist on the stock of Jas. McKay, marble dealer in Woodstock, who has lately assigned.—After being general merchants in Bolton for quite a number of years, Thomas Fisher & Co. are in financial trouble and have assigned to Chas. Langley. This is something of a surprise, as they had been doing a good trade.

A YOUNG dry goods merchant of Montreal, Albert Prevost, who has been in business barely a year, is reported in difficulty, and a meeting of his creditors has been called.—Jacques Beaulne, of the same city, heretofore a shoemaker, but who has lately been keeping saloon, has assigned to the court. He has been considerably sued of late, and owes almost \$10,000.—J. H. Giguere, grocer, has assigned, with liabilities of \$3,800.—Mrs. O. Blanchard, doing a millinery business at Mansonville, is seeking a compromise at 20 cents on the dollar; she owes to creditors \$1,400.—Cesaire Laurin, a hotel-keeper at Douglas Corners, is insolvent. He sold out a week or

so ago, and then crossed the border.—The storekeeper at Louiseville, David Giguere, already reported in trouble, has succeeded in effecting a compromise at 50 cents, secured.—Geo. Perrault, in business a quarter of a century at St. Pierre les Becquets, with a good record, has assigned on demand. He has been in poor health for some time back, and appears to have lost heavily by bad debts.—P. P. Gosselin, a Quebec grocer in a small way, has been asked to assign.

MORE than the usual number of failures are noted in Toronto this week. A meeting of the creditors of Dennis Farrel, dealer in shoes, has been held and his statement showed liabilities of nearly \$1,000. An offer of 25 per cent. was made, which will probably be accepted, as it is more than is in his estate.—In March, 1888, R. M. Butler & Bro., also shoe dealers, bought the business of George St. Leger, paying \$3,000 cash and settling for the balance of \$5,000 in notes. A fortnight ago they disposed of their stock, amounting to \$7,800, at 62½ per cent. cash. Out of this they paid \$2,600 borrowed money. The balance was then handed to Campbell & May, with instructions to divide it *pro rata* among the firm's creditors, who next day received 25 per cent. on their claims. Endorsing for friends and unfortunate real estate speculation is the cause of their trouble.—About the first of the year the Dominion Furniture Co. was started by A. J. Duffett, and now an assignment is made.—Another assignment is that of R. C. Warriner, pork dealer.

IN the course of an article on the "drink habit and life assurance the *Insurance Spectator* of London says it does not propound or defend the proposition that total abstinence is necessarily conducive to health and long life; "this, indeed, we do not believe." But that journal goes on to say: "We do maintain that, under existing conditions, it is practically impossible for insurance companies to set up any standard of moderation that will not include many who are actually shortening their lives by what is by courtesy called free living; and, that being so, we believe that total abstinence, as a whole, are a better risk than the general body of insurers, and are entitled to claim that that fact shall be practically recognized in some form by insurance offices. We do not, of course, mean that every insurance company should have a temperance section, but we approve the practical wisdom which has led

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