

For a long time past there has been almost complete stagnation in the flour trade here, and this is one of the causes assigned for the present embarrassment of J. & A. Clark, the well known firm of flour dealers in this city. A meeting of their creditors is called for to-day, when it is probable that an offer of fifty cents will be made. The liabilities are estimated at \$40,000.

An arrangement has been made between the Grand Trunk and the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba companies, by which the former will enter Winnipeg over the latter's tracks. The Winnipeg and South-Eastern Company has been formed to build a line 90 miles long, connecting with the Duluth and Winnipeg, which has 120 miles yet to build. The distance between Winnipeg and Duluth will thus be reduced to about 300 miles.

The annual meeting of the Hamilton Bridge and Tool Company, was held, a few days ago, in Hamilton. The election of directors and officers for the ensuing year, resulted as follows:—President, Mr. Wm. Hendrie; vice-president, Mr. W. A. Robinson; directors, Messrs. M. Leggat, A. T. Wood and George Hendrie, Detroit. Mr. C. Teiper was re-appointed engineer and manager; Mr. John Stewart, secretary-treasurer of the company. Sixteen bridges for the Grand Trunk Railway, were built by this company during the year.

We have already made reference to the failure of W. A. Snyder & Co., a fruit canning firm in this city. An adjourned meeting of their creditors took place on Monday, when it was expected that the insolvent would know whether he could furnish the necessary security for the carrying out of his offer of fifty cents on the dollar. Mr. Snyder did not, however, materialize, in fact it is rumored that he has left the city. The assignee was, thereupon, instructed to wind up the affairs as speedily as possible. His task will be the realization of assets amounting to \$8,000 to meet liabilities of \$26,000. In the former are \$1,400 worth of labels, the remainder being composed of machinery and book debts.

—Since our announcement that Mr. E. A. Colquhoun had, owing to ill-health, been compelled to resign his position as cashier of the Bank of Hamilton, the directors of that institution have secured a successor in the person of Mr. James Turnbull, manager of the London and Canadian Loan and Agency Company in this city. The appointment has been most favorably commented upon, as it might well be, for Mr. Turnbull, in substituting banking for his present occupation is but returning to his first love. He will be remembered as having a prominent position in the old Consolidated Bank, while his experience in a not dissimilar calling since then furnishes added equipment for his new duties. We are pleased to observe that Mr. J. F. Kirk, the accountant, is promoted to the place made vacant by Mr. Turnbull's retirement from the London and Canadian.

The misdoings of the Winnipeg bank teller, W. A. Cameron, so plentifully noticed in the newspapers during the week, ought to be a warning against keeping fast company, and living beyond one's income. The latest about this wretched young man is that "he got in with the wrong crowd in Winnipeg; and was spending more money than his \$1,000 salary would allow." Thus he went behind in his accounts some \$500. In desperation, possibly in liquor, he rolled up the day's deposits or payments of the bank, \$39,000, and took it home, then made off beyond the United States line. Being pursued and found, he told where

this money was, namely, in the charge of two Winnipeg hotel-keepers, from whom it has been recovered by the bank. An indication of growing callousness to embezzlement is found in the way in which these two men accepted the custody of this money, knowing it, as they must have done, to be stolen. Their arrest is sure.

HAVING eloped with a pretty female clerk in his employ, Wm. Dulmage, the general store-keeper at Bluevale, now returns and makes an assignment of his effects, and, it is to be hoped, of the girl, too. His estate will pay about 50 cents on the dollar.—A. Gregg, of Churchill, also in the general store line, has failed.—With a poor stand and no knowledge of his business, it is no great wonder to find, as we do, John Thorburn, a grocer at Kincardine, a fit subject for the assignee.—It is said that T. R. Sherwood, shoe dealer at Omemee, has been sacrificing his stock and closed the store on the 13th, with little effects on hand to meet considerable liabilities.—The Owen Sound Telephone Company has been placed in liquidation.—The creditors of J. H. Wheeler, a city builder, have been called together for the 20th. It is expected a rather bad state of affairs will be disclosed.—Andrew Paton, a hardware dealer at Wroxeter, is about seventy years of age and finds himself a bankrupt. He never made any headway.

A RETAIL tobacconist, A. R. Shantz, Berlin, has made an assignment to the sheriff.—J. & G. Peppler, general store men at Bloomingdale, have fallen behind with their payments and find it necessary to consult their principal creditor, who is now making an investigation. They are both young men, having commenced business in Jan., 1887.—Wilson & Co., or more properly speaking, Mrs. Wilson, dealers in dry goods, at Brampton, are in difficulties again, and creditors are looking into the affairs. More than one failure is recorded against them, which has necessitated the substitution of Mrs. Wilson's name as nominal owner.—The creditors of Snider & Wismer, grist millers at Doon, held a meeting on the 11th, and found matters in a very bad condition. Liabilities, exclusive of a mortgage of \$10,000, are put down at \$2,200, with but small assets.—T. & A. B. Snider, owners of a large mill at German Mills, are also interested in this last named estate. Their total indebtedness, secured and unsecured, is put down at \$58,000. An offer of 16 cents on the dollar was refused.—About a year since, Fead & McCutcheon, general dealers at Shelbourne, failed and compromised liabilities of \$6,600 at 75 cents. We now learn that the trustee is going to close out the business.—Jos. Ament, another general dealer, at Strasburg, has made an assignment. He was formerly a farmer.—Following close upon the meeting of creditors held by Clancy Bros., stoves and furniture in this city, comes the announcement of their assignment. Creditors are to meet again.

A QUEBEC VIEW OF IMPERIAL CONFEDERATION.

In the last issue of *Le Moniteur du Commerce*, of Montreal, appears a translation of our recent article on Imperial Federation. By way of preface to this, the commercial journal named, expresses the opinion that the two utopian schemes launched of late, Commercial Union and Imperial Federation, both tend to complete absorption of Canada by more powerful countries and complete ruin of our autonomy. On the one hand, the Americans promise us "the earth"

(*mer et monde*) if we will league ourselves with them against the rest of the world, "to do business, they tell us, but in reality to annex us to their great republic"; on the other hand, the 'Jingoes' of Great Britain, who willingly believe it impossible to live and to govern one's self sensibly outside of Downing street, offer to colonies accustomed for more than an age to parliamentary government, a place in the councils of the British Empire. It is to us an astonishing fact, says *Le Moniteur*, that two such utopian ideas find an echo in Canada. "It is passing strange to find still amongst us persons who forget that the time is past, forever, when the United States or England could control Canada or absorb her—at least in so far as the province of Quebec is concerned." [*au moins en tant que la province de Quebec y est conservee.*]

This question of Imperial Federation, says our contemporary, will never be taken seriously in Quebec. But there are, it seems, in Ontario some people who do regard it seriously, and discuss it as if it could have a favorable solution in the not-distant future. THE MONETARY TIMES, he goes on to say, takes the Federationists aside and tells them a thing or two. "Its opinion possesses the more interest for us, in that it comes from a commercial journal which is the most influential in the Dominion and therefore an authority."

[Here follows the article which appeared in our issue of the 6th instant.]

"The above is the opinion of an Upper Canadian journal. Now, as to us who reside down here [in Quebec province], we consider that this idea of Imperial Federation could only have germinated or been entertained in the brains of a certain group of crusty bureaucrats, persons of a former age, accustomed to look across the ocean and beg for official favors, detesting from instinct the *regime* of Canadian parliamentary government, for whom the words Canada, native land, commerce, manufactures, agriculture, have no meaning, and to whom family and official functions are everything.

"In 1791, Lower Canada secured constitutional government by dint of energetic agitation. In 1812 to 1814 she bled to defend her frontiers from invasion. In 1837 she rebelled in order to force responsible government from the authorities at her capital. In 1867, stronger and more influential than ever, in spite of all hindrances to her material progress, she gave her adhesion to the project of Confederation. Since 1867 she has steadily contended for the maintenance of the federal pact and for the autonomy of the provinces—all this in order to preserve Canada for true Canadians. Since Confederation, and even before it, Canada has had something to say about international treaties where her interests

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