

THE Hon. Senator Chinic, of Quebec, has retired from the well known firm of Chinic, Beaudet & Co, hardware importers, of which he has been the senior partner for some thirty years and a member since 1840, and a new firm has been formed under the style of Beaudet & Chinic.

WM. WALSH, for twenty-five years a successful merchant at Huntingdon, Que., died last week, and his loss will be felt by the district generally. Mr. Walsh was highly esteemed for his many excellencies of character, and during his business career, which was free from any commercial disaster, had accumulated a competency.

H. A. ST. MARIE, a dry goods dealer of but a few month's standing in Montreal, has collapsed with liabilities of \$7,275, of which sum \$6000 is due to one man, a too confiding Parisian, who has only been a short time in Canada, and whose impressions of the ways of the country must have received a rude shock.

AFTER an exciting contest, the ratepayers of St Thomas have decided, by a majority of 55, in favor of giving a bonus of \$50,000 to the Credit Valley Railway. Three wards gave majorities against it, but St David's ward over-balanced them and gave the majority stated.

A SHIPMENT was recently made by Mr. John Sinclair, of Petrolia, Ontario, of 6,000 feet drilling poles, to drillers who are boring for oil in Italy. The operators at Tocco in that kingdom have finished boring their third well, which flowed oil for some time. In November it was pumping about seven barrels per day.

J. K. URQUHART, grocer, of Montreal, who bought out the up-town store of Messrs. McGibbon, Baird & Co., only last April, has failed, and a meeting of creditors was held on the 15th instant, at which it was decided to continue the business during the holidays, and then to wind it up. The liabilities foot up to about \$11,000, a portion of which is due in Britain; assets nominally about \$10,000.

The first train over the Champlain Junction Railway ran into Montreal from St. Isidore, in the county of Laprairie, last week. The formal opening of the line from St. Martine, in the county of Chateauguay, to Montreal, will take place very shortly. The track between St. Isidore and St. Martine, is being laid at the rate of half a mile a day. The junction of this new road with the Grand Trunk is at St. Lambert, opposite Montreal.

On the 7th June, last, the first brick of the Moncton, N. B., sugar refinery was laid, and on the 7th of December four casks of raw sugar were poured into its boilers, and the work of refining was begun. Such rapid completion of an important establishment may well occasion, as it does, rejoicing and pride on the part of the residents of Moncton. German workmen have been brought from New York, and some 2,000 to 3,000 sugar barrels are in readiness.

A BUILDING, 60 feet by 40, is being erected at Souris, P.E.I., by Mr. John White, to manufacture barrels and boxes for the export fish trade. The machinery is being made in Charlottetown. Messrs. Wright Bros. have purchased Morrow &

Co.'s steam saw mill at Souris, for the manufacture of flour from P. E. Island wheat. They are importing the latest machinery, French burr grindstones, revolving coolers and sieve, etc.

THE Nova Scotia Forge Company, of New Glasgow, shipped to Point Levis the crank and shafts for the machinery of the Quebec Graving Dock, which were forged at their establishment. This is said to be the heaviest work of the kind ever done in the Dominion. One of the shafts is over 16 inches in diameter and weighs nearly four tons. The machinery for the Graving dock is being supplied by Messrs. Carrier, Laine & Co., of Point Levis.

LUKE FISHER, who was in the feed and grocery business at Peterboro, has gone to the United States, and his business there has become a thing of the past. The Sheriff has two judgments against him, amounting in all to \$4,000, and he owes \$1,500 besides. His assets are estimated at \$2,200 in all, so that there is a dim prospect for unsecured creditors. Mr F. formerly did a grist mill business, but achieved no success, indeed he involved some of his relations.

E. S. ROBBINS, grocer, Barrie, has assigned in trust for benefit of creditors. He had only been in business since last spring, having come from Picton, Ont. He had not the capital to succeed in Barrie against the strong opposition to be met there. S. Manning in the same line of business in the same town has also been unsuccessful. His means, like Robbins', were also very limited. He has been sold out on judgments obtained by Messrs. Stuart & Macpherson of Hamilton, and is now offering 15c in the \$ to other creditors.

WE find the following instructive story in the Amherstburg Echo. The trustees of School Section, No. 1, in the township of Mersea, advertised for a teacher for their school during next year, and received numerous applications from teachers, among them being one from Miss —, of —. The trustees, who by the way, are intelligent men, excellent judges of a person's qualifications to instruct children, were determined to engage none but a male teacher. However Miss —'s hand writing very much resembles that of a man, and being men of business, of course, they had not time to consider whether the name was that of a gentleman or not, but at once completed an engagement with the unseen teacher. The needful documents were duly drawn up by the teacher, mailed to the trustees, and returned to her with their signatures and corporate seal attached. Imagine their surprise a few days afterwards, when they discovered that their "master" for next year was a "mistress."—Moral: Cultivate a bold round hand writing. One does not know what good it may do.

FORGERY to the extent of \$60,000 or \$70,000 is charged against Thos. F. O'Brien, of Montreal, better known as "Butter" O'Brien, from his having made a large sum of money by converting bad and rancid butter into a saleable article, by some process peculiar to himself. Mr. O'Brien subsequently became one of the largest holders of real estate in the vicinity of Montreal,

but the depreciation in property of late years involved him in serious embarrassments. The first charge upon which he has been arrested, is that of having forged the signature to a receipt, purporting to be for \$11,000 paid the heirs Hadley in full discharge of a mortgage. The second forgery alleged is that of the name of R. A. Ramsay, advocate, to a receipt for \$7,000. Mr. O'Brien was one of the favored customers of the Consolidated Bank, which had a claim against him for \$150,000. In a suit instituted to recover this amount, he filed a receipt purporting to be signed by the late cashier, Mr. Rennie, for \$50,000 in full discharge of the bank's claim. The directors, having doubts of the genuineness of the signature, have communicated with Mr. Rennie, and await his reply before proceeding in the matter.

—The Western Assurance Company declares a dividend for the half year at the rate of fifteen per cent. per annum, and the British America one at the yearly rate of ten per cent.

—At no time within the last ten years have matters connected with the manufacturing interest in Montreal, given so much evidence of activity. The demand for factory premises and power, is almost unprecedented, and it is stated that several Montreal firms, which wished to secure the lease of premises with water privilege on the canal, that have been vacant for several years, were somewhat surprised to find that they had already been engaged. At Cote St. Paul and the St. Gabriel Locks, it is stated that there is not a vacant factory, several American manufacturers of shovels, implements and general hardware having engaged all the available premises, to begin operations in the spring. The number of applications for permits to erect steam-engines in the city has been larger this year than for a number of years back.

OIL MATTERS IN PETROLIA.

PETROLIA, Dec. 21, 1890.

The crude market continues quiet, transactions being by no means numerous. The range of reported prices last week was between \$1.80 and 1.95. Refined follows suit. The refineries are all working, but the desire of everyone to have as little stock as possible on hand if the law is changed, causes them to sell whenever there is a chance, and as most of them laid in stocks of crude lower than at current rates, they can do so without loss. The average refined quotation is 21½ to 22c Imp. gallon. Other products of petroleum are in fair demand.

Forest is aroused on the question of fire protection. A meeting was held there the other day at which it was resolved to organize a hook and ladder company.

The financial condition and business of the Lancashire Insurance Company, of England, shows a material improvement, and the present promises to be the most successful year the company has had in the States. Even before the amalgamation of the Scottish Commercial with this company, its business had made considerable