

F. Fearnly, a farmer from near Hamilton, although possessed of only \$1,600 to \$2,000 capital, started business on a large scale. After the disposal of his farm, he removed to Guelph, and last September opened three flour and feed stores, and in addition bought produce on the market. His three stores by degrees declined to one; and being served with several executions and harassed with debts contracted before commencing, he has fled the country. Liabilities not known. Skelton Bros., Orangeville, general store men, have been together as a firm for two and a half years. One brother, we are told, formerly a pedagogue, the other a farmer, of course neither of them knew much, if anything of the merchant's life; and the same result has been brought about as in the two first cases. Heavy expenses, rent, and the maintenance of two households, was too severe a drain on their small capital, and they called a meeting of creditors on 30th April. At this meeting they offered 50 cents in the dollar, in three, six and nine months; the last two payments secured. \$2,000 of the assets is in Real Estate, and the estate shows 100 cents in the dollar.

SOME time in January last, the Drew Bros. of Orillia, jewellers, etc., visited Toronto, ostensibly to take up certain notes endorsed by their Mother, which had been given to two of their creditors as a partial security for their indebtedness, but in reality to effect a compromise. The statements made by them at this time were so contradictory, that the creditors determined to put them into insolvency. In their safe was found a letter written from Orillia, by one of the firm, John C. Drew, to his partner, M. C. Drew who was then in Toronto, which is highly entertaining. It mentions a legal opinion based upon a draft agreement, referring to the cash payments made by them and how these will apply on the notes endorsed by the mother. We quote.—“I think by what he says we are sure of being able to hold on to all the cash in our hands at present, with the exception of the sum required to make up the balance of the safe. I have no doubt in my own mind that they will be obliged to give up mother's notes on the payment of balance. I think we have the ball in our own hands, especially when we take into consideration the fact that they can't touch the fixtures. I think the best thing we can do is to go through while we have things in so good a shape as they are at present, otherwise we will be pestered out of our life by the whole tribe of our Creditors during the winter. You know there's a great many bills which will fall due this winter outside of—which will require to be met and will drain us very near all the cash we can rake and scrape together.”

A chattel mortgage to their mother covered their stock and fixtures, valued at \$800; the furniture of M. C. Drew's house, bought with money drawn out of the business, was secured to his wife by a marriage settlement; a \$240 horse and buggy went to their brother-in-law in Toronto; a \$40 cutter went to the father-in-law, entered (and dated back) as in payment of rent; and they made no deposits in bank between November and January, and paid almost nothing to creditors. In short they appear to have deliberately prepared to beat their creditors. A second letter was written in January by John C. to his brother, which says: “I would take advantage of the position in any and every way I possibly could. I think I would not offer more than 30 cents to commence with, and if they

won't accept that we can advance to 35 cts. or 40, that being the most I would be willing to give.” Armed with these letters, the creditors made a demand on these impudent schemers for the money they had secreted and on their refusal of it, had them arrested for fraud. They were tried before Mayor Ardagh and committed for trial. Their father proving to be foreman of the Grand Jury, however, it was deemed best to adjourn the case till fall. In the meantime, the Drews offered through their friends to pay all costs of procedure and 60c in the \$ to creditors. This, we regret to say, was agreed to and their punishment dropped. Even now, we understand, the insolvents and their mother demur to the agreement they had made and boldly ask for better terms.

RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

	Week ending	Total earnings.	Like period 1878.	Increase or decrease.
G. T. R.	May 1	\$181,138	\$151,659	\$29,479
G. W. R.	April 23	88,109	76,417	11,692
I. C. R.				
N. H. & N.W.	April 30	29,559	20,517	9,042
Midland	“ 21	6, 49	3,141	3,308
T. G. & B.	“ 17	7,130	5,247	1,883
T. & Nip.	“ 21	3,190	3,375	185
W. P. & L.	“ 30	2,099	1,399	700

FORGED CHEQUES.—The ingenious forgeries which have been brought home to the man Walters have revived the discussion as to the best means of preventing such frauds. One certain safeguard would be for the customers of the banks to advise the latter daily of what cheques they had drawn. It was this precaution on the part of Messrs. Arthur & Co. that led to the detection of Walters, and if this plan were generally adopted successful forgeries would be comparatively rare. It is doubtful, however, if many business men would take this trouble, more especially as the loss, in the event of forgery, must be borne by the banker, although, of course, any one who has filled up cheques carelessly, and in such a way that they could be easily altered, ought to bear the responsibility. It might be well for the banks, therefore, to consider whether they might not be able in some measure to protect themselves by agreeing to employ cheques arranged in a certain form for small amounts—say, up to £50, and in other forms for larger amounts. By some such plan the difficulty of falsifying cheques would be greatly increased.—*Economist*.

THE TIME TO DO IT.—There is one thing that traders, dealers and store keepers generally ought to bear in mind—and that is, while money is being made is the time it is spent, and the way for them to obtain their share of it is to advertise. To be silent in these days is to be ignored. Let the public know what you have to sell, to cause them to head directly for your establishment before all others. There has not been such a time when advertising would surely pay such large returns since the crisis. Now is the time for those who have bargains and attractions to offer to herald them far and wide, and customers will flock in. Not to do so can only be compared to a farmer having great crops but neglecting to take them in. There are to-day immense crops in the advertising columns of the papers for those who have the enterprise to gather them.—*Ex*.

—A co-operative insurance policy is of no use to a man who does not intend to die before the company fails. It is something like the glory which comes to a military corpse on the field of battle.

HEATING CITIES BY STEAM.—The Boston *Journal of Commerce* is in favor of steam heating, and for these among many other reasons: “The cost of it, as compared with the present so-called system, is insignificant, being anywhere from one twelfth to one-quarter. For power, it has been proved that it can furnish it from 25 to 50 per cent—anything up to 25 or 50 horse—for what a man can keep his own engineer and furnish his own fuel for, and the steam is always ready, night or day. The gas companies, horse railroads, and the property owners—some of them—are always found to be ready to fight an innovation on their ‘rights;’ yet we presume the people of Boston, as well as of many other cities, will sooner or later come to this common-sense way of doing business. Baltimore is already putting in these works, and estimates and specifications are made for two other cities which we are aware of, and we hope sooner or later to see the conservative men of Boston take the matter up and make a business of it.”

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