

The bill ratifying the Pacific Syndicate contract has received the Royal assent, and become law.

BECKETT's spool factory is likely to be removed from Drummondville, Que. to New Brunswick.

MR. J. H. GENDRON of Sherbrooke, Que. has purchased the stock-in-trade of A. Dubuc valued at \$1700, and his book debts valued at \$4000, paying 30 cents on the dollar of Dubuc's indebtedness which is \$8000.

BETWEEN 300 and 400 cords of hemlock bark, for tanning purposes, was bought in one week at Richmond, Que. The average price paid, according to the *Sherbrooke Gazette*, was \$6.25 per cord.

THE creditors of Robt. Wilson, boot and shoe dealer in Hamilton, have wiped out 45 per cent. of their claims against him and extended the time of paying the balance fifteen months.

MR. J. W. CHEESEWRIGHT, a small druggist whose shop is at St. Thomas, is said to have found it inconvenient to keep a cash book for some months past. He was last seen in Chicago. When leaving the shop he gave no notice of his intended absence, and his creditors have now put a receiver in possession of the premises.

A NEWMARKET grocer, Mr. W. R. Roche, who did a good trade, mostly for cash with a small margin of profit, has his store temporarily closed and is asking his creditors to compromise his indebtedness of about \$5,000. His assets are about \$3,000, and it is said that the deficiency is largely caused by extravagant household expenses.

OF the considerable sum "taken out of" the insurance companies by incendiarism or fraud of other sorts, a little has come back. We are told that a letter was received by the London Mutual Insurance Co at London, a week ago, restoring \$500 conscience money. The letter contained only one word: "restitution." What precise transaction it represents is not stated, and can only be guessed at.

SHIP-BUILDING timber is none too plentiful now-a-days in Western Ontario, and trees suitable for spars are scarce. A Guelph paper states that a Puslinch farmer, has been offered \$100 each for ten pine trees. The trees were to be used for spars, but the offer was refused. Several speculators are now scouring the country for timber suitable for ship building purposes, and the farmers are holding their best for fancy prices.

THE extensive and handsome Palace Hotel of Dr. Pierce, at Buffalo, was burned to the ground on Wednesday. The insurance on it amounted to \$267,300. Canadian companies figure as follows in the list: Western, \$8,500, British America, \$5,000. A dozen British companies had \$60,000 in risks upon the building, French and German companies \$7,500, and forty nine American companies carry the remainder, of say \$186,000.

MESSRS BROWN & BIRD, woollen manufacturers

at Ruthven are about selling out, and James Miller, a carder at Huntsville, is anxious to dispose of his property. The old firm of J. M. Fraser & Co., general dealers in Elora have sold out to J. T. White. B. McCallum a grocer at Leamington, Wm. Pehale general store keeper at Ridgetown, and Bruce Davis grocer, at St. Thomas have also sold out. Alex. C. Gibson retires from the boot and shoe firm of Jno. Currie & Co., Toronto, and Peter S. Furness is admitted.

THE annual meeting of the Kingston and Montreal Forwarding Company was held in Kingston last week, when the following gentlemen were elected directors for the ensuing year: A. Gunn, M.P., James G. Ross, Thomas Cramp, James Swift, and Gilbert Scott. Mr. Gunn was elected President, and Mr. Ross, Vice-President. The General Manager's report showed a satisfactory year's business.

W. F. FLEMING, of Moncton N.B., who has been doing a snug little grocery business for a few years past, has just been sold out by the sheriff. About a year ago, he allowed his good nature to get the better of his prudence, and endorsed for some of his friends, which got him into trouble and has finally resulted as above. The case conveys a warning to others who may be importuned to do likewise.

MR. M. J. BYRNE, a farmer's son who grew tired following the plow, received a present of \$1,000 from his paternal ancestor, and began store-keeping about a year ago in the village of Arthur. He now finds himself owing nearly \$2,500, and it is thought that his estate may pay about two thirds of the liabilities. An assignment has been made for the benefit of creditors generally, and Mr. Byrne is probably thinking of going to some commercial college or school of logic to find out where in creation that other thirty-three per cent has gone.

ON the winter port question Sir Charles Tupper stated in the House last week in reply to Dr. Borden, that the rate for grain on the Intercolonial Railway to Halifax was 30 cents. "This," says a Halifax daily, "is not encouraging. It has been generally believed, during the past year, that a much lower rate would have to be named to make the movement successful." The opinion which undoubtedly prevails in Ontario and Quebec, that lower province people are, like the waggoner supplicating Hercules, asking Government for too much help, is well combated by "HALIGONIAN," in a letter which we print elsewhere.

AS we intimated, the estimate which had been placed upon the surplus of the firm of Messrs. Jno. Robertson, Son & Co. was much too high. The business, or the deceased head of it, was never worth half the sum named. With respect to a report set afloat that losses had been sustained by assisting newspaper enterprises out of the means of the house, we have good reason to believe that no loss was made in this direction. A great cause of their difficulties is stated to be over-importation. Mr. Alex. J. Robertson has made an offer of forty cents in the dollar.

THE decision of the Dominion Supreme Court

in the *Jonas vs. Gilbert* case, was the means of settling a similar case which came before the city police court, in St. John, N.B., on Saturday last. John Sheppard was charged with selling goods without license in the city, but in view of the decision, Recorder Tuck announced that the case would not be pressed because the Supreme Court were unanimous in allowing the appeal in the Commercial Travellers case, on the ground that the by-law was illegal because it discriminated between residents and non-residents. Thus the city will have to fix the license either at \$20, at present charged residents, or at \$40, the fee charged for non-residents.

THE New Brunswick Railway Company has secured the passage of a bill through the Legislature of Maine extending its running powers in that State. They will at once begin the work of pushing on their road to Presque Isle. Negotiations are completed or nearly so, for the purchase of eight or ten engines of the standard gauge, to be delivered in August or earlier. In the meantime Mr. Burpee is about to have built two hundred freight cars at the company's works opposite Fredericton. The rails are expected in March, and a contract has been concluded with a St. John maker for a large quantity of spikes. It may be put down as likely that broad-gauge trains will run on the road by August next.

THE making of tin cans for preserved lobsters is a considerable industry at Bathurst, N.B. Seven persons or firms are engaged in it, employing some thirty or forty men, and the cans with their contents are intended for shipment, mostly to Great Britain. There will be made for next spring's operations, by Messrs. Miller and Gatin, 200,000 cans, by S. Bishop, 200,000 cans, by A. McLean, 150,000 cans, by G. Sutherland, 100,000 cans, by J. Buthmer, 80,000 cans, by W. Mann, 150,000 cans, by J. Mann, 150,000 cans. The total, is thus over one million cans.

APPLICATION is to be made at the next session of the Halifax Local House, to incorporate the Nova Scotia Graving Dock limited. We presume, thus is the enterprise of an English firm which offers to build a graving dock at their city if the council will grant \$10,000 a year and give certain exemptions as to taxes. This proposal will receive attention from the same committee of council which had the Turner Graving Dock scheme in charge.

THE following list of the largest shipowning counties of Nova Scotia is from the *Windsor Mail*:

	Vessels.	Tons.
Hants Co. ....	259	155,900
Yarmouth ....	262	141,830
Annapolis ....	73	22,840
Digby ....	136	20,840
Lunenburg ....	225	14,680
Shelburne ....	163	18,950
Queens ....	93	8,980

THE Grand Junction Railway has been completed from Belleville to Peterboro, and the contractors released at the annual meeting. The following gentlemen were elected directors:—Thomas Kelso, E. O. Bickford, R. Cowan, Hon. Robert Read, H. Cameron, M.P., J. McDougall, Alex. Robertson, M.P.P. Subsequently Thomas