

" Rent.....	22 00
" Wages to clerk	2 00
" Bailiff and Sheriff's preferred costs.....	33 11

\$212 80

Balance in assignee's hands for distribution is..... \$4 45
Accounts (proved) to be paid \$987.92

There are a number of accounts that have not yet been proved to me.

Book debts uncollected \$65 00
Bad debts.

B. E. SPARHAM,
Assignee.
Dated Smith's Falls, November 26, 1890.

The point upon which our correspondent lays emphasis is the fact that the assignee's charges are over 30 per cent. of the assets realized. But it is possible that the assignee would say that he is poorly paid by this sum for the trouble he has had winding up. The more serious feature seems to us to be the small proportion which the assets bear to the liabilities, viz., about 22 cents to 100. The rent and other preferred claims, legal charges, advertising, and necessary costs of auction sale, of course eat the entrails out of so small an estate. One ten times the size might have been administered for the same outlay. After all, it comes to this: a commentary upon too cheap credit and slipshod methods of retail business.

From Nova Scotia we have a reference to the same article on realization of insolvent estates in the Old Country. Our subscriber says: "I enclose a statement in the same line which I think downs your specimen. Mr. Clement Carvasso Hart, the insolvent in this case, is the hero of several failures, and this statement shows the result of the last winding up. Mr. Lindsay, the assignee, is not supposed to know much about the matter—having employed the insolvent to wind himself up."

Estate of C. C. Hart, in account with J. A. Lindsay, assignee:

1889.		
Feb'y 28	To paid Registrar	\$ 2 00
May 25	" Manager's expenses to Halifax and back	20 96
June 18	" Clerk's salary & board from Feb. 27 to date...	98 63
88-90.	" Telegraph account '89-'90	19 67
	" Freight and wharfage 1889 & 1890.....	80 57
	" Coach freights '89 & '90	18 00
	" Truckage 1889 & 1890 ..	10 20
	" Taxes 1889 & 1890.....	48 03
	" Postage and registration stamps 1889 & 1890 ..	27 00
	" Attorneys	74 27
	" Posters, newspapers, adv., and photos of store....	80 25
	" Printed bags, wrapping-paper, wrapping-twine, &c	21 50
	" Petty expenses	19 00
	" Manager's salary Feb. 27, 1889, to Nov. 5, 1890, at \$900	1,510 00
	" Auctioneer and clerk....	58 56
	" Extra expenses stock taking	12 00
	" For merchandise purchased on account, and for benefit of estate, from Feb. 27, 1889, to close of estate.....	6,383 76
	" Preferences under Mr. Hart's deed.....	650 00
	My commission 5 % on \$7,000	350 00
		\$9,475 40

CONTRA.

89-90.
By net proceeds real estate. \$ 500 00
Proceeds of stock, debts, &c., under my control as assignee, since date of assignment, and of goods since purchased and dis-

posed of, for and on account of estate 8,866 57
9,366 57

Balance due assignee\$ 108 83
E. & O. E.

Sheet Harbor, N. S.,
November 15, 1890.

Any further particulars desired will be cheerfully furnished on application to assignee.

We feel impelled to remark upon this statement that it does not quite exhibit the simplicity of life and economy of resources that might be expected when the circumstances are considered. Sheet Harbor is a village in Nova Scotia, looking southward over the broad Atlantic, about midway between Halifax and Torbay. It is in a mining district, and before the mining excitement was a ship building and probably a fishing station. One might suppose therefore that a frugal shopkeeper in such primitive surroundings could get along without spending \$80 for "posters, newspapers, and photographs of the store." Also that he could get on without "extra expenses in stock-taking," since it appears he already had a clerk, and the whole turn-over in eighteen months was only \$9,000. Retail merchants who are anxious to pay a hundred cents in the dollar and to make a living besides, are in the habit, when they do take stock (which many do not often enough), of working early and late with the staff they have on hand. It is just possible that special circumstances in Mr. Hart's case may have justified this outlay. At any rate he seems by this report to have had what is sometimes slangily termed "a soft thing." A salary of \$1,510 for him as manager, other expenses of \$582, and then a commission of \$350 for Mr. Lindsay, in all \$2,442, where the total receipts were but \$8,866—these items added together make a heavy percentage of expense. What the creditors think of such a result we do not know, but it is odd to find, as a postscript to what cannot be pleasant reading for them: "Any further particulars desired will be cheerfully furnished on application to assignee."

POULTRY AND EGGS.

Having concluded his investigations upon the possibilities of working up a trade in eggs and poultry with the Old Country, a task which was imposed upon him by the Dominion Government, Mr. John Sanders has now laid before the Minister of Finance the result of his labors. A report will shortly be issued in the form of a bulletin. His enquiries lead him to the conclusion that a large and profitable trade in poultry can be established and carried on between Canada and England.

One firm in Liverpool, Messrs. Nelson & Brothers, who have nearly 500 licensed meat stalls in connection with their business in various parts of England, besides a very extensive refrigerator store in Liverpool, offered to take all Canadian goods that may be shipped to them and place them on the market at the usual trade commission of 5 per cent.; and they also offered—a privilege of the utmost importance—to give to the Canadian shippers, free of charge, the use of their cold storage, which is capable of accommodating the whole Canadian product, for the safe-keeping of any goods that might not be sold immediately upon arrival, in consequence of dull markets, unfavorable weather, or any other circumstances.

Mr. Sanders lays stress upon the importance of carefully following the directions given as to the manner of preparing fowls for shipment.

Both turkeys and geese must, before being killed, be starved twenty-four hours, or at least until the crop is entirely empty. Turkeys should be bled in the neck, and the head and feathers left on and entrails undrawn. Geese should be bled in the same manner, but the feathers should be picked off excepting those on the wings, leaving the down on the body and the entrails in. Geese must not be scalded, but simply rough plucked. All poultry should be killed the day before delivery to the Canadian purchaser, so that the animal heat may be completely gone. Fowls should be packed in cases, each of which should contain not more than 200 pounds weight, say eighteen or twenty fowls. Each package should be marked with the number of birds, the weight of the package, and whether it contains cocks or hens.

Turkeys can be placed on the British market at any time from the 1st December to the 1st March. Geese hold their value in the English market after the holiday season for a longer time than in the United States market, as after the holidays they are always almost valueless in the American market, in this respect quite differing from turkeys, a fact of considerable importance in that line of goods. He is strongly convinced that Canadian poultry will compare favorably with any he saw in the British market, both as to weight and quality.

Taking all things into consideration, the commissioner is of opinion that Liverpool would be the best point for distribution, as within a radius of fifty miles of that city there is a population of about 4,000,000. The average wholesale prices at the time of his visit in November were: Geese, about 12 cents per pound; turkeys, about 16 cents per pound.

The freight rate for dead poultry packed in cases, from Montreal to Liverpool, would be 40 shillings per ton measurement of 40 cubic feet.

Speaking of eggs, Mr. Sanders says he found that the market in England for their consumption is as unlimited as that for poultry. They can be placed there and find ready sale at any season of the year in which they can be delivered in good condition, except, perhaps, May and June, during which months there is always a very large supply of spring eggs from the European countries. It will be seen by the trade returns that Great Britain last year imported for consumption ninety-four million dozens of eggs, and the imports are each year rapidly increasing. Of this vast quantity, Canada contributed practically nothing, and the twelve million dozens, the amount of Canada's annual export, would not, he thinks, in any way injuriously affect the price in such a large market. His personal investigation, both of raw and cooked eggs, satisfies him that as to size, weight and flavor, the Canadian egg is equal, on the average, to any egg placed on the British market. Shippers are advised, as far as practicable, to make two assortments or classes of eggs—that is, shipping the larger and smaller eggs separately.

A shipment made by Mr. Sanders himself and sold before his arrival, resulted in a profit of at least one cent a dozen more than could have been got at that time in the United States.

He favors packing in clean cut straw, and in cases large enough to contain twelve long hundreds—that is, 120 dozen. This size of package necessitates their being handled by two men, and the experience of European shippers shows that there is a much smaller percentage of breakage than if packed in cases that can be handled by one man. The usual commission charged for selling is five per cent., but Mr.