

THE prospective opening, early in the coming year, of the branch of the South-Eastern railway, between Sutton and Acton, will give the South-Eastern a through line from Sutton Junction via Knowlton, Waterloo, Acton and Drummondville to Sorel, a distance of about a hundred miles, and will open up, it is said, a desirable business connection.

THE famous "P. & O. Co.," the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, the 38th annual meeting of which is reported by *Herapath's Journal* lately, earned net profits of \$133,625, out of which dividends of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  &  $2\frac{1}{2}$  percent, in all  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , have been paid. The Company's fleet consists of 44 steam ships of 118, 527 tons and 20,240 horse power, besides the *Ancona* and *Verona*, building, of 3,200 each, and 17 steam tugs and launches.

MR. W. MACKLIN, of Woodstock, who bought out the stock of J. M. Macfarlane & Co and has been doing a large trade in dry goods at retail, is in financial difficulty. He began in 1877 with a very fair cash capital, but the shrinkage in value, and perhaps also the high prices he paid for Macfarlane's stock have absorbed his nominal surplus.

MR. J. MURRAY KAY has been appointed by the London board of directors, sole manager of the St. John and Maine Railway Company. Hitherto, Mr. Murray has been associated in the management with Mr. E. R. Burpee, Mr. H. D. McLeod is continued as Superintendent, with Mr. Alex. McNaughton as Accountant and Cashier.

M. CALMAN, a former sous-Secrétaire under Thiers, has been, it is stated, appointed Governor of the Bank of France. The decline in specie at that Bank during the last week was 12,485,000 francs.

THE forty Nova Scotia ship carpenters whose fate was uncertain at the date of our last issue, arrived safe in port per the "Three Sisters," after the storm.

THE Library Association of Emerson, Man., will erect, this winter, on the corner of Winnipeg and Church streets, in that village, a building 24 x 40 feet with walls 12 feet high. This is the sort of items we like to find in the early history of a settlement.

A GOOD use of money was that made of her ample means by Mrs. Shaw, of Cambridge, Mass. She has set apart \$30,000 a year to be used for the purpose of establishing kindergarten schools among the poorest classes to be found in and around Boston. At the present time there are about eighteen of these schools in active operation, and the entire cost of teachers, rent, books, etc., is borne by the benevolent patron.

GEORGETOWN brick town hall was opened last week by a concert. It cost \$7,000, with furniture, including piano, and has a bell, which is rung thrice per day.

THE contract for completing the Midland R. R. to Midland city, has been awarded to Gibson & Dixon, who built the Whitby R. R., and the work is to be finished by early spring.

Fergus has a handsome new stone banking building, erected for Mr. John Beattie, heated by hot air; the upper floor will be rented for business offices.

A LETTER from Emerson, Manitoba, received last week, announces the shipment thence of seven car loads of flax seed, grown in the Mennonite settlement, destination Minneapolis. But little wheat is brought in on account of want of store room and consequent low price—45 cents per bushel. Hay, which in previous winters brought \$3 per ton, is now worth \$7. Wood is in demand at \$4 per cord for oak, green or dry.

Bright, Ont., shipped, last week, 200 bbls. flour to Glasgow; 100 bbls. to St. John; 1 car barrel heads to Paris; 1 car lumber to London; and received 100,000 lbs. corn from the States.

THE firm of Messrs. Mason & Risch, of this city, gave a Christmas celebration upon completing the manufacture of their first hundred pianos.—Mr. Wm. Fahey, long known in connection with the warehouse of Messrs. John Macdonald & Co., was presented with a handsome piece of plate by his fellow employees of that firm, whose service he leaves to become an agent of the Isolated Risk Insurance Company and also of the Inman steamship line.—Mr. H. Gordon, of this city, who designed the Central Presbyterian Church on Grosvenor St. is the architect for the new college of that denomination at Kingston.

GUELPH, also, is to brew lager beer. The Silver Creek brewery there has had an addition 60 by 70 feet in extent, and costing \$8000, made to it for the purpose of producing the lighter beverage.

It is stated that a new line of steamers will ply next season from Alexandria Bay to Montreal and intermediate ports. They are, it appears, large, open-decked steamers for passengers, and their owners are Messrs. Paulson & Hill.

TIMES are changing, says the *Guelph Mercury*. It was rather a novel sight to see on the cattle fair grounds teams bringing in cattle on sleighs boxed up. One farmer left home at six o'clock in the morning, and drove 14 miles to Guelph in time to effect good sales of his live load.

WHITBY papers say Mr. George Gould returned from his second trip to England with sheep. The trip was a successful one. Mr. Joseph Gould is getting up a shipment of turkeys for England, to be sent in a frozen state.

THERE are nine cheese factories in the township of Elma, Ont., the largest being the Elma joint stock cheese company's, who have received for their cheese this season the sum of \$15,921.29.

AN apple merchant, C. M. Mills, of Sparta, packed 1000 barrels of them, but did not "hae the siller." A hotel keeper has his horse and waggon locked up for board. One farmer who allowed him to pack and ship eighty barrels, netted just nine dollars for the season's crop, after paying for the barrels, Mills disappeared and when last heard from was in Rockford, Ill.

A SUBSCRIBER, in Durham County, tells us that the sum of \$3000 is now in process of collection from residents of that county, for shoddy goods sold by peddlers; while the purchasers of these profess to be unable to pay their store accounts. But for the goods in question they had given their notes, and now these must be paid. This is not the first attempt of the kind, says the writer, made upon the farmers and country residents of that vicinity. "A shawl for \$3, worth \$6," is a temptation; so is "30 yds. good grey cotton for \$1;" or may be, "a trouser pattern of fine Canadian tweed for a dollar and a quarter, worth three dollars." It should be patent to people that there is something wrong as to possession or quality, when goods are offered at such prices as these. Much money is thrown away upon trash in these transactions, and people who are bent upon so spending it ought first to have it of their own to spend.

FOUR dollars per ton is the price offered New Brunswick farmers along the Aroostook Valley, by the Maine Beet Sugar Company for next year's crop of beets. Fifteen to twenty tons per acre can be raised there.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., exported during the season of 1878. no less than 105,100 cases canned salmon, 5,051 barrels salted salmon, 2½ tons herrings, and 1,500 gallons herring oil, the manufacture of which last is a new industry there.

BURLINGTON CANAL piers are pronounced by Mr. Haskins, City Engineer of Hamilton, after inspection to be in a most dilapidated condition and requiring immediate repair.

THE *Scientific Press* regards it as certain that the electric light will supersede gas. It suggests that the gas pipes be used to distribute steam for cooking and heating purposes, and sketches a plan by which this can be done.

ONE hundred thousand broom handles have been ordered by an English firm from a house in the Eastern States. Our Elgin, Kent and Essex makers of such goods may take note.

INFRACTIONS of the law prohibiting the exportation of venison are reported as occurring in Essex and other Ontario counties. The punishment for the offence is a fine of from \$5 to \$25 for each carcass exported.

IN Lunenburg County, on the south-west coast of Nova Scotia, west of Halifax, coal is stated to have been found, close to Bridgewater, and right of search has been applied for. At East Dalhousie, in the same county, a copper mine is being worked, under an American engineer, with favorable results.

MR. THOMAS DOUGLASS, a respectable store-keeper for many years at Cambray, has fallen a victim to the wretched credit system so largely carried on in the northern counties of this province. Each year he found the balance due from his customers larger, and his inability to meet his liabilities increased in about the same ratio, until his creditors became impatient and attached his effects. We have not learned the amount of his liabilities.

GEO. SWANSON, doing business in Kingston