

Mr. STEPHEN NAIRN, of the Winnipeg Oatmeal Mills, is at present filling an order from the Dominion Government for cleaned seed oats for the settlers on the Saskatchewan.

At a meeting of the creditors of Mr. Peter Ryan, held yesterday in this city, it was decided to accept his offer of 30 cents on the dollar, one-third cash and the balance in three and six months, unsecured.

An association of druggists of St. John and Portland, N.B., has been formed with the following officers:—President, George A. Barker; Vice-Presidents, Charles McGregor, E. J. Mahoney; Secretary-treasurer, Struan Robertson; Executive committee, S. McDiarmid, C. W. Parker, G. A. Moore.

A GENERAL dealer at Dominion City, Man., named Wm. Ginn, lately called a meeting of his creditors and asked for an extension of one year. His liabilities pledged are about \$1,700 and unsecured creditors will get a small, if any dividend. It is evident that store keeping was not Ginn's forte.

R. OATEN & SON, grocers at Bracebridge, have assigned.—D. C. Clark, a general merchant, at Madoc, is in difficulties, and has made an assignment, being in business since 1880, and doing, as was supposed, fair business.—At Rat Portage, M. P. Anhalt, a general storekeeper, claimed, not so long ago, a surplus of about \$6,000. But he has assigned.

MESSRS. HABBICK & Co., dry goods dealers in Galt, have assigned. This business has been really carried on by John Habbick, who failed three years ago, and the estate was sold by creditors' and bought by his wife.—John A. Rudolf, at Neustadt, who has been in business as drover about five years without any apparent success, has failed, owing about \$10,000; assets unknown. His father has endorsed a portion of his paper.

THE stock of T. Cowan & Co., of Drayton, amounting to \$3,806.89, was bought last week at Suckling, Cassidy & Co's., auction rooms, by Wm. Holmes, of Wingham; the stock of Alexander Webster, of Cookstown, amounting to \$5,000, was purchased at the same sale by Gray Bros., of Schomberg, for 66½ cents on the \$. Next the stock of W. B. Hymes, Toronto, was bought by Wm. Martin, of Toronto, for 64 cents on the dollar.

THE Cochrane Manufacturing Co., at St. Thomas, has at length come to a stoppage. The causes are too numerous to explain. At a meeting of creditors they offered to pay 22 per cent, which the creditors present were recommended to accept, or their banker would throw the concern into insolvency. The statement submitted shows a deficiency of about a \$100,000. The company's business was the manufacture of agricultural implements.

The Queen's Bench divisional court has delivered judgment at Osgoode hall in the case of Miller vs. Confederation Life Association, tried at a recent Toronto assize. The action was brought upon a life insurance policy, and the jury gave the plaintiff a verdict of \$10,000. A motion was made before Chief Justice Wilson and Judge Armour for a new trial, and these two judges now disagree, the chief justice holding that there should be a new trial, and Judge Armour agreeing with the verdict. The result is that the plaintiffs retain their \$10,000 judgment.

THE Collingwood line has two good boats for next season's business, the "Campana," and the "Owen Sound," rebuilt this winter, but the managers, says the Lake Superior News, have not decided whether or not to run them to Duluth. The Canadian Pacific line

will consist of their two remaining boats, the "Alberta" and the "Athabasca," and but for the treasury regulations they would run the coming season to Duluth. But when their all rail route is fully in working order there will be less use for their steamers and hence a small amount of local business is all that their boats can profitably do."

IN Nova Scotia we note the following occurrences of interest to commercial men: H. S. Martin, general storekeeper, Kingsport, has assigned in favor of A. McDougall & Son, Halifax, having about enough to pay that firm. It would thus seem that other creditors will have but little chance to get anything.

—Dodge & Lawrence, Kentville, grocers, have assigned, their assets are about \$9,000; liabilities not known, but \$5,700 of them are preferred. The local press has severe comments on this failure.—H. M. Ferguson, tailor, Kingston, N. B., has assigned with small assets.

THE annual meeting of the Ontario Cotton Mills Company was held in Hamilton on the 24th February last. The report of the directors showed that after paying interest on the company's bonds and all other expenses, there was a balance of profit on the year's operations, and a considerable supply of orders on hand for goods to be made. The report was adopted, and the old board of directors re-elected; and the opinion was generally expressed that the company had "turned the corner" of depressed times, with a good prospect of success for the current year. The machinery, we understand, is nearly all employed and running full time. This company's product consists of grey and colored cotton goods, bags and flour-sacks.

A BOOT and shoe dealer in a small way, at Ridgetown, Jacob Kauffman by name, has assigned. Messrs. Reid, Bull & Co., dry goods dealers, St. Catharines, are not unknown to failure, as both their names have appeared in our columns in that connection. Their assets are something over \$22,000 and liabilities a similar amount.—Another well-known name in the retail dry goods trade is that of James Carrie, who, as we already announced, failed. We now learn that his liabilities are about \$40,000. In about 1876, he sold his business and went to London, giving a bond of \$1,000 not to begin business there. In less than two years he paid this bond and returned to that city, where he failed in 1881, owing about \$14,000, nominal assets of \$17,000. He settled at about 72 per cent. cash. Since then he has continued with liabilities as above stated.

CORNWALL manufacturers have sent forward their contribution to the exhibit of Canada at the Colonial Exhibition in London. The Toronto Paper Company, whose mill is at Cornwall, has prepared an exhibit, consisting of samples of the varieties of paper made in their extensive mill. The paper has been selected from the make of the past few months and will be displayed, we understand, in pyramidal shape, having been cut for the purpose in gradually diminishing sizes, the different colors and tints alternating attractively. The paper filled several large cases, and will be a notable feature. The Stormont Cotton Co. despatched a number of large cases, on Tuesday. Their quota comprises three lines of shirting; gingham; striped shirtings, seersuckers, plain and fancy; sateen tickings, 1 piece fancy ticking—in all 60 pieces—representing all the latest dress goods, etc. The Canada Cotton Co. has sent off eight large cases of the choicest products of their looms, including gingham, cantons, tickings, shirtings seersuckers, &c.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE RETURNS.

CITY.	Feb., '86	Feb., '85	Inc or Dec
Montreal customs..	\$647,447	\$484,319	163,128 I
do. excise ..	160,552	91,906	68,646 I
Toronto customs..	393,007	366,849	23,158 I
do. excise ..	42,298	46,264	3,966 D
Halifax customs..	54,283	59,310	5,027 D
do. excise ..	14,048	9,858	4,190 I
Hamilton customs..	50,268	51,747	1,479 D
do. excise ..	91,492	18,446	73,046 I
London customs..	.....	.....	.....
do. excise ..	22,567	18,535	4,032 I
Ottawa customs..	33,348	.....	.....
do. excise ..	18,166	12,707	5,459 I
Belleville customs..	2,135	4,103	1,968 D
do. excise ..	.....	.....	.....
Winnipeg customs..	42,863	33,380	9,493 I
do. excise ..	13,396	.....	.....
Quebec customs..	.....	.....	.....
do. excise ..	28,875	27,725	1,150 I
Brantford customs..	8,206	.....	.....
do. excise ..	16,158	.....	.....
Stratford customs..	1,827	.....	.....
do. excise ..	5,854	.....	.....
Guelph customs..	4,202	4,220	18 D
do. excise ..	17,811	9,001	8,810 I
St. Cath's customs..	5,088	.....	.....
do. excise ..	3,432	.....	.....

MERCHANTS' BANK OF HALIFAX.—The shareholders in this bank, which has a paid capital of a million dollars, a circulation of three-quarters of a million, and deposits not far from two millions, held their annual meeting last week. When it was made known that the Nova Scotia Sugar Refinery had lost money on the year, rumor greatly exaggerated the amount this bank was liable to lose by that concern, and the shares went down from 103 to 97 and 98. They recovered, on February 12th however, to 99½ and since the meeting, we understand, have touched par. The president declared at the meeting that what had been written off was fully sufficient to cover losses. It appears to have taken the earnings for the year, the amount (\$34,064) at credit of Profit and Loss at the beginning of the year and \$80,000 transferred from Rest, to cover these losses and to pay the dividend. This is now at the rate of six per cent. The Rest remains at \$120,000. Shareholders present unanimously confirmed the report.

—At a meeting of the directors of the Temperance and General Life Assurance Company of North America, held in this city on Wednesday, the 24th February, the following officers were elected:—Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Minister of Education, President; Hon. S. H. Blake, Q.C., and Robert McLean, Vice-Presidents; H. O'Hara, Managing Director. This new Company has made a not inauspicious start. Already something like \$125,000 worth of business has been done. There are many Canadians who have adopted the principle upon which the Company will largely rely, that of total abstinence among its policy-holders and there is ample room for a very interesting experiment in its working. Abstainers are stated, in the experience of English companies, to be much the best risks.

—The need of additional capital has induced the management of the Nova Scotia Steel Company at New Glasgow to issue preference stock. The annual meeting of the company in February was adjourned till last week, when the directors' proposal was discussed for the issue of \$100,000 of preferential eight per cent. stock, payable in five or ten years at the option of the non-preferential shareholders. The increase of capital to be thus obtained will enable the company to add sufficient plant to their premises to manufacture one half more steel than at present, and at reduced cost. In spite of depression and decline of prices in the iron business this company was able to hold its own last year and realize a small margin of profit. The Chronicle understands that subscriptions to the new stock are being freely made, nearly \$40,000 having been subscribed in this country, and some \$15,000 to \$20,000 by parties at a distance.