

A NEW fire insurance company, to be called the "Keystone," is now being stocked at St. John and Halifax. Its capital stock is \$500,000, of which one-fourth is to be paid in before it can begin business.

THE last loan of the city of Halifax, of \$20,000 city hall debentures, has been taken by a local banking house at 4 per cent. interest, the price being 97½. This is the most favorable loan ever issued by Halifax.

A MEETING of wholesale boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers was held this week in this city, to consider methods by which production could be curtailed. As a result of disension a guild was formed to limit production and regulate the trade.

CLOTH peddlers from Manitoba have been victimizing settlers in the outlying districts of Victoria. They sell cloth and deliver it, taking payment for the making up, and stating tailors will be along in a few days for the purpose. The latter never materialize.

THE Consumers' Gas Company directors are James Austin, Dr. L. W. Smith, Samuel Alcorn, James Austin, M. Baldwin, G. S. C. Bethune, Henry Cawthra, John Eastwood, Isaac C. Gilmor, George Gooderham, A. Lepper, James Scott, Hon. Frank Smith. The first-named two are respectively president and vice-president.

THE announcement was made some time ago by the *Donald Truth* that good slate had been found near Golden. Specimens thereof have since been brought to Donald. They are blue-black in color, smooth of surface, and of good grain, an excellent roofing slate or for beds for billiard tables, mantels, flagging, etc. The ledge is located near the C. P. R. track, 6½ miles east of Golden, and is owned by Mr. Walter Hogg of that place.

D. B. PHILLIPS, dealer in fancy goods, went from Brantford to Woodstock last summer, but the change did not result as anticipated. His creditors have been asked to consider his financial condition, which is approximately: assets \$10,000 and liabilities \$13,000.—Wm. Oag, a cooper in Burlington, has failed.—At Gore Bay, John Good Murphy, a general storekeeper, is asking an extension of time. Previous to embarking in an outside venture, and being the defendant in a law suit, he was in good circumstances.—In this city, J. G. Alberty, saddler, has assigned; the bailiff is in possession of the tailor shop of Mrs. L. S. Armstrong; Duperow Bros. & Co., dealers in paints and oils, have assigned.

ALDERMAN PEPLER has been appointed inspector of hides for the city of Toronto.

LITTLE wonder that the custom's revenue is increasing in New Brunswick when it is stated that a custom's official in that Province recently collected duty on a coffin enclosing the corpse being brought into Canada from Boston for burial—surely this official should be promoted.

WE learn that The Noxon Bros. Mfg. Co., of Ingersoll, has, after its annual stock-taking and making necessary repairs to works, started up with full force upon next season's output of implements. They state that the amount of their sales during the past year has never before been equalled in the history of their business, and that the outlook for next season is exceptionally good.

MR. WM. MEREDITH, Q.C., has been appointed, by the Liquidators of the Central Bank, the solicitor to succeed the late W. A. Foster, which will commend itself as a judicious appointment, to the creditors of this unfortunate institution. The clients of the late firm, too, will we think be pleased to know that the firm has been reorganized under the style of Meredith, Clarke, Bowes and Hilton: the partners being Wm. Meredith, Q. C.; J. B. Clarke, R. H. Bowes, F. A. Hilton.

WE regretfully note the death of ex-Alderman C. Melancon, Montreal. The deceased was long a prominent figure in French Canadian business circles. He was for many years engaged in the wholesale grocery trade, and had latterly been a partner in the wholesale crockery firm of J. L. Cassidy & Co., Mr. Melancon was also a large shareholder in the Hochelaga Bank, and held the position of vice-president in that institution for some time.

SAINT ANDREWS, N. B., that quaint and picturesque little old new spot on the Bay of Fundy, which has attracted so many summer visitors, is showing unmistakable signs of modern unrest and progress. A new hotel company has been organized to provide good accommodation in plenty; a supply of water is to be furnished by a gravitation system; an electric lighting plant is among the probabilities; more attractive bathing arrangements are being made.

MR. F. BENOIT, formerly chief of the fire brigade at St. Jean Baptiste, a suburb of Montreal, has been appointed chief of the city fire brigade to succeed Mr. Patton, removed. Capt. Beckingham's candidature involved a very close vote, viz., 17 to 16, and it is at least significant that 14 out of the 17 who rejected

him were French Canadian names. Benoit was appointed by a vote of 20 to 14, 16 out of the 20 bearing French names. There is much anxiety to know whether the Fire Underwriters will now lower the rates of insurance. They would probably have done so if Beckingham had been elected.

THE quality of the yarn to be obtained in the United States for knitting and darning purposes is so bad that Nova Scotia women residing in New England, who go home for their summer vacation, are driven to stuff their bustles with the honest homespun yarn of Nova Scotia. But the Boston custom house officials are determined to shut off the supply and so pounce upon the dress improvers of the bluenose women as they land, and force them to hand over the yarn or pay the duty—a pretty small piece of business surely.

LARGE gangs of foreign laborers are pouring into Nova Scotia and New Brunswick from the United States in search of work, which they obtain on the railway lines and the Shignecto Ship Railway. These laborers assert that they can earn as good wages in the Provinces as in the United States, while the cost of living is less, and they feel besides that they are under the control of more complete protection at the hands of the authorities.

A LONDON trade journal says of the styles of Christmas cards for the coming season: Card-board gives way to pig-skin, and chromolithography falls before the hand-painter, the etcher, and the embosser. Everybody is tired of the "hard up" card, therefore it is decided to go to the other extreme, and now for a trifle we can send our friends a five-pound note—in fac-simile—or we can send them an open Chubb's safe full of gold and good wishes. Punning mottoes, in which half the words are pictures, form a large proportion, and the "locket," the "key," the "cropper," and the "match" are among the best. But perhaps the card which will have the largest sale is a capital imitation of a piece of blanket, on which a number of mammoth insects of the genus "pulex" play a comical part.

THAT inviting Pelee Island, next door to the favored land of Essex County, is surpassing itself in products supposed to belong only to Southern climes. By the Amherstburg *Echo* we learn that Mr. Platt of that island got \$500 cash for his crop of peaches, from a London man who picked and packed them; that James Srigley had six acres of Concord grapes this year, which averaged six tons to the acre; that E. Wardroper has shipped during the

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