

MR. ROBERT THOMSON, lumber merchant, a prominent and well-known gentleman, died somewhat suddenly on Tuesday morning, at his residence in Hamilton. Deceased was president of the Hamilton Electric Light and Power Co., vice-president of the Traders' Bank of Canada, and one of the license commissioners for Hamilton.

A FIRM of manufacturers of moldings and planing mill men in Montreal, Mantha, Lefebvre & Laferriere, have consented to assign on demand. The liabilities are figured at \$44,785, of which amount some \$28,000 is due on mortgage. The business has been a very good one in the past, but the attention of the partners has not been of late what it might have been.—A. R. Archambault, piano dealer, Montreal, whose failure we noted last week, has come before his creditors with an offer of 20 per cent. on liabilities of about \$30,000.

As an instance of the rapid increase in the general prosperity of British Columbia, it is interesting to note the growth of the imports and exports of the Province for the last ten years. The table is as follows:

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
1889	\$3,763,000	\$ 4,334,000
1890	4,379,000	5,763,000
1891	5,477,000	6,199,000
1892	6,358,000	6,574,000
1893	4,918,000	5,641,000
1894	5,269,000	8,142,000
1895	4,376,000	9,121,000
1896	5,566,000	10,576,000
1897	7,031,000	14,017,000
1898	8,690,000	16,919,000

This is a very satisfactory showing, says the Rossland Miner, but everything points to a much more rapid growth for the next decade.

STATE INSOLVENCY LAWS AND THE BANKRUPTCY ACT.

In the case of the Parmenter Mfg. Co. v. Hamilton (51 N. E. Rep., 529), the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts holds, upon what appears to be sound reasoning, that the United States Bankruptcy Law supersedes all State insolvency laws from the date of its passage and deprives State courts of the jurisdiction to entertain petitions for the commencement of insolvency proceedings filed after July 1st, 1898. The Act provides that it is "to go into full force and effect upon its passage," and the Court holds that the rights of all persons, in the particulars to which the Act refers, are to be determined by the Act from the time of its passage, and not by the State law.

—The Australian record for shaft-sinking has been made in the Brilliant Deep Lead, Charters Towers—1,053 ft., through hard grey granite, in less than a year. The shaft is 12 ft. by 4 ft. in the clear, timbered into three compartments.

—A bank in New York has largely increased its business, particularly among fashionable women, by issuing to its depositors gilded cheque books, with monograms thereon. The blank cheques are printed in gold from exquisitely engraved plates.

—The Railway Review learns that an order for 2,000 tons of 83-pound steel rails for an Irish railway has been placed with the Maryland Steel Company. American rails have before this gone to British colonial possessions, but this is understood to be the first time that they have been bought for use in the United Kingdom.

—The project of a canal to join the Great Lakes and the Atlantic, on which the Deputy Waterway Commission authorized by Congress and appointed by the President, has made a favorable report, is being pressed upon the consideration of the Anglo-American Commission, and a likely result will be the creation of a Canadian sentiment in its favor. It is estimated that an Anglo-American canal following the proposed route would cost from three to four million dollars. Precedents show that estimates of such engineering work are apt to be too moderate; but, assuming that the calculations are approximately correct, the cost divided between the two Governments would be a mere bagatelle for each.

—The Rossland Miner, of December 1st, says that the handsome new assay office, just completed by the British American Corporation, on Nickel Plate flat was partially destroyed by fire at 12.30 o'clock Sunday morning. The flames originated in the furnace-room, and doubtless were due to a crack in the chimney, which permitted the surrounding woodwork to become overheated. The loss on the building was about \$500, while on the fixtures and apparatus the damage was equally great. The building was just completed last week. The furnace had been in use Wednesday. The assay office was one of the finest and most complete in the West. It had facilities for doing all sorts of chemical work, as well as for carrying on metallurgical experiments. The building itself was a handsome structure, which cost, complete, \$2,000. The damage was largely limited to the furnace-room and the roof. Damage covered by insurance in the Commercial, represented by A. B. MacKenzie.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, 7th Dec., 1898.

Stocks.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Closing Price.		Average, 1897.
				Sellers.	Buyers.	
Montreal	24 1/2	24 1/2	27	250	245	239
Ontario	114	114	14	21	112 1/2	99 1/2
Molson	245	245	70	250	240	200
Toronto	110 1/2	110 1/2	59	...	11 1/2	229
Jac. Cartier	179	178	42	...	17 1/2	182
Merchants	145	145	13	147	14	134
Commerce	112	112	5	125	110	101
Union	177 1/2	1 7/8	80	180	176	181
M. Telegraph	101	100 1/2	270	101	10	106
R. & O. Nav.	281 1/2	27 1/2	25 0	2 1/2	28 1/2	238
Street Ry	276 1/2	273	825	277	276 1/2	231
do. New	20 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	187
Gas	80 1/2	80 1/2	19 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2	81
C.P.R.	173	170	111	170	169	173
Land Grant bds.	169	169	32	...	...	...
Bell Tele.	...	...	...	55	53 1/2	54 1/2
do. new	...	...	...	...	...	...
N. W. Land pref	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mont. 4% stock	...	...	...	...	...	...

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This is the Time

when the annual inventory, the necessary repairs and contemplated changes is an interesting topic with most manufacturing concerns. Many proprietors do not know or realize how much money they are throwing into the air every month by the waste of useful steam. Your old traps which have been in use for years are played out or doing inefficient service—not worth their value in scrap iron for the purpose.

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DIVIDEND NO. 49

Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of six per cent. per annum on the paid up capital of the company for the half-year ending 31st December, 1898, has this day been declared, and the same will be payable on the Second day of January next.

The transfer books will be closed from the 22nd to the 31st proximo, both days inclusive.

By order of the Directors,

R. H. TOMLINSON, Managrr.

Toronto, 29th November, 1898.

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