

terms for a year or more. Liabilities are \$6,000, assets nominally \$8,000.

THE J. W. Mann manufacturing company at Brookville, has been shipping seeders for some time and has up to date sent away about 700. It is making 1,100 seeders this season and expects to have them shipped by the 15th of April. They will then commence on their season's supply of horse rakes.

A MERCANTILE correspondent of a Boston paper says, speaking of the business situation: "I have carefully looked the situation over, and know, from actual computation, that 75 cents will buy more of the necessities of life than \$1 would in 1881 and 1882. In fact there never was a time when so much could be purchased for a dollar as now."

A DECISION was rendered a few days ago by Commissioner Butterworth of the United States patent office, in the matter of the telephone interference case of Bell & Gray vs. McDonough, the same against Voelker and others. The decision affirms the findings of the Board of Examiners and awards priority of invention to Alexander Graham Bell in all claims of importance.

THROUGH a misunderstanding, we last week mentioned Mr. John A. Peebles as the Toronto representative of Messrs. Walter Wilson & Co., Canadian agents for Jno. Clark jr., & Co's. thread. It is true that an agency has been opened here, at the address named, by Messrs. Wilson & Co. for this thread, but it is in the charge of their own representative, Mr. A. McDonald, who simply rents a part of Mr. Peebles' premises.

WE observe that the firm of Forbes, Waugh & Co., dealers in men's wear at wholesale in this city has been dissolved, Mr. Waugh retiring to resume personal connection with his retail business in Hamilton. Mr. Forbes has been joined by Mr. George E. Convey, for some years the book-keeper of the firm who takes the place of Mr. Waugh, and the business will be conducted under the firm name of Forbes, Convey & Co., Mr. Evans still continuing as a special partner.

R. B. CHAMPAGNE & Co., of Montreal, dealers in hats and furs, have assigned, having liabilities of \$6,000. They show a nominal surplus of \$2,000. — Joseph Bussiere, general store keeper, St. Gregoire, has failed and shows assets of \$2,000, to pay liabilities of \$3,500. — F. X. Grenier, a Quebec grocer has got into trouble, and his affairs are in the hands of J. S. Budden for settlement. In Montreal, P. F. Carmody, a furniture dealer, has failed, owing \$800, and C. O. Leclair, confectioner, has also assigned with liabilities of \$1,000.

THE earnings of the Intercolonial Railway for 1884 have been made public. The revenue for the six months ending December 31st last was \$1,239,006, of which \$750,556 was derived from freight and \$416,553 from passenger traffic. A return of the earnings and expenses of the railway for the past 11 years shows a net loss for the first seven years ranging from \$408,000 in 1874 and \$243,000 in 1876 to \$716,000 in 1879 and only \$97,000 in 1880. But in the next year, 1881, a slight profit was shown, which has continued, and at the close of last year the profit was \$9,068.

HON. SENATOR T. R. BENSON died at Ottawa on Wednesday last. The deceased gentleman had been long connected with the commercial life of Canada, as an owner of shipping, as well as of mills and manufacturing concerns. Years ago he was president of the Niagara District Bank and became a director, afterwards, of the Imperial Bank of Canada. He was also a director of the London & Canadian Loan & Agency Company and of several companies on the Niagara frontier. A gentleman of high

character and good sense, it was fitting that he should be chosen to the Senate, in which he has sat for many years.

A NEW firm has entered the lists to compete for a share of the grain exporting trade here and at Montreal, the style being Norris & Carruthers. The partners are Mr. James S. Norris, formerly of St. Catharines, who has been for years in the trade at Montreal, in the firms of Norris & Routh and J. S. Norris & Co., and Mr. James Carruthers, late a member of the firm of Crane and Baird of Toronto and Montreal. Both these gentlemen are favorably known to the trade, both are in the prime of life and possess many of the qualities which make successful business men. The firm's offices are in the Corn Exchange Building, Montreal, and on Front street in Toronto.

MESSRS. THOMAS MARKS & Co., of Port Arthur, write us as follows, respecting the condition of commercial affairs in that locality during the past year: "Trade has been very good indeed. Our jobbing and retail business for the year ending December 31st 1884, aggregated \$479,241 26. Of course the large business done in this section for the last two years has been brought about to a certain extent, by the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway along the North Shore of Lake Superior; this is now to all intents and purposes, as far as business is concerned, finished, and we may look to a considerable falling off in trade from that, but of course this will be made up in some degree by the through traffic which will shortly commence over the entire road, and which it is not now possible to estimate."

THE New York *Bulletin* declares, with respect to that State: "As matters now look, we shall get no National Bankrupt Law for two years, and the startling abuses of the preference system will be allowed to go on unchecked in this State for another twelve months at least. If it be true that, from motives of a narrow self-interest, some of the country banks are opposed to any alteration of the present discreditable methods of unscrupulous assignors, the opposition is one not to be easily overcome; still, our Albany representatives, with broader views of the question, ought to respect the earnestly expressed wishes of the mercantile community, and amend the State insolvency law so that creditors of any estate may at least get something out of the wreck. If honesty is the best policy, why not give the policy a chance?"

WE note the following business casualties in the Province of Quebec, since last issue: T. Laguerre, hotel keeper, Batiscan, has settled at 40 cents on the dollar. — C. C. Ricard, a general dealer of St. Barnabe de St. Maurice, is reported embarrassed, and likely to assign. — At Levis, opposite Quebec, a grocer named Etienne Guenette, has assigned his estate to Messrs. Letellier and Diebord, of Quebec, his principal creditors. — Renaud, Duret & Co., tobacconists in Montreal, have assigned, owing about \$3,000, assets estimated at \$2,500. — J. P. Brisette, of St. Elizabeth, reported failed last week, owes \$3,800 odd, assets apparent about \$5,000, considerably more than half being in book debts. — Wm. Lee, a Quebec tailor, has compromised at 30 cents on the dollar. — D. E. Dewar, general store, Aylmer, already reported failed is offering 40 cents. — Remi Brault, a small general dealer at Stottsville, has assigned.

OUR readers will remember the difficulties and delays that arose some two years ago in the postal service at Winnipeg, attributed to the wretched accommodation and the inadequate staff then provided for so rapidly growing a city. A building is now being put up at the corner of Main and Owen streets in the capital of Manitoba, which will, from all accounts, be a worthy

one for its purpose of a city post office. Its dimensions will be 60 feet on Main st. by 120 feet on Owen st., four stories, total height 90 feet. It is to be fire proof. The stairways, girders, joist and roof are all iron and the roof itself is of the same material, supported by brick arches. The material will probably be Selkirk stone and St. Louis pressed brick. The cost of the building, when completed, will be in the neighborhood of \$200,000. With the completion of the city hall, the McIntyre block and the post office, says the *Sun*, Main street will assume a metropolitan appearance.

FOR the larceny of a bucket of candy the value of which could not possibly be more than ten dollars, says the *Philadelphia Record*, two men were yesterday sentenced by one of our Judges to an imprisonment of eighteen months each. "On the day before a man who pleaded guilty of an embezzlement of one hundred and fifteen thousand dollars while occupying a position of trust, was sentenced by another Judge to an imprisonment of thirty-two months — four months less than the combined imprisonment of the two men who committed a petit larceny. Verily, the eyes of Justice are bandaged to little purpose in this age of universal discrimination!"

STARTLING statements are being made about the depression in the French shoe trade, and particularly in that of the capital. There are said to be large numbers of men who did not average three months' work during the whole of last year, while the present year offers no brighter outlook for them. Commenting upon this condition of things the *Boot and Shoe Trades Journal* says, "the depression has, of course, been well-nigh general in other trades, and this being so, it is hardly surprising that the shoe trade, which depends upon the prosperity of other industries, is participating in it. The number of shoe hands in Paris needing relief, although still not comparable with those in many other trades, has seldom, if ever, been so large as at present."

A CORRESPONDENT complains of farmers in his district holding back butter and other produce and keeping him out of his money, instead of accepting market rates. This is a wretched practice, but a long-lived one. The *London Free Press* has the following upon it: "Several farmers in this district last fall brought their butter to the market and because prices were not high enough to suit them persisted in the exploded plan of holding their butter from five to six months, and have been offered less now than they were at that time. This practice of keeping perishable goods until they are almost worthless, in the expectation of getting better prices, is a doubtful policy. Farmers may as well make up their minds that heavy losses must be the inevitable consequences of holding butter. Years ago almost as much could be got for poor as for fine stock, but now that people have been educated up to the use of choice, fresh parcels of butter, the day has gone by for selling at remunerative prices lots that have been held for months."

TWO years ago, R. B. Macklam, of Brighton, was a prosperous young farmer, with horses and cattle and sheep; to-day he is a bankrupt grocer with numerous creditors. — A shoe dealer in London, A. J. McDonald, has assigned in trust. His estate, it is said, shows a surplus. — One of the largest retail dry goods firms in Sarnia, that of Stewart & Wilson, has assigned to a Toronto house. — The sheriff has advertised for sale the machinery, &c. of Wm. Addison & Co., builders, Hamilton. — J. Powell, a general store keeper in Westwood, has assigned. — Jno. Clarin, a shoe dealer of Lakesfield has, it is said, fallen behind in his payments and the landlord is in possession for rent. As the assets will