

premises at No. 38 King St. East, Toronto, having purchased the lease of Messrs. Cassels, Son & Co. The Company will, we understand, occupy these premises on the 1st May next. On Tuesday last the first meeting of the provisional board was held, in the Manufacturers' Association Rooms, in this city. Mr. Wm. Bell, of Guelph, in the chair, when the manager's address gave particulars of the progress made thus far and the arrangements for the future. Mr. Carlile has let no grass grow under his feet.

We take the following from the *Montreal Gazette* of Tuesday last: "An incident at yesterday's council meeting drew attention to the practical disuse into which one city by-law has fallen. The law in relation to the erection of wooden houses faced with brick is confessedly a dead letter. It requires that no such structure of greater height than two storeys shall be erected. It was designed in the interests of the general safety. Yet it has come to be completely ignored, even by those who should enforce it. According to the statement of the chairman of the fire committee a general permission has been extended to build houses of three storeys, and yesterday a case came up where the proprietor of one of four storeys sought to have special exemption given to him, with the prospect apparently that he will succeed. There is evident need of reform in the administration of the Building Inspector's department, as well as others in the city hall. If the law is too strict, it would be better to change it at once. The present latitude allowed may be abused, and some day, in case of fire, result in serious disaster."

#### REGISTRATION OF A WILL.

A correspondent asks us to state whether a will, properly witnessed by two witnesses, is legal if not registered in the county Registry office; or does it require to be registered before it is valid?

We reply that the will being properly witnessed, and assuming it to be valid in all other respects the necessity for registration rests on the sec. 75 of the Registry Act, which says: "All wills or the probates thereof registered within the space of twelve months next after the death of the testator or testatrix, shall be as valid and effectual against subsequent purchasers and mortgagees, as if the same had been registered immediately after such death; and in case the devisee or person interested in the lands devised in any such will, is disabled from registering the same within the said time by reason of the contesting of such will or by any other inevitable difficulty without his or her wilful neglect or default, then the registration of the same within the space of twelve months next after his or her attainment of such will or probate thereof, or the removal of the impediment aforesaid, shall be a sufficient registration within the meaning of this Act." Registration adds nothing to the validity of the will except as against the heirs or *bona fide* parties taking without notice of the will after the expiry of a year from the testator's death or removal of the devisee's disability. The will once valid, always remains valid, but registration within the year is necessary to cut out parties claiming otherwise than through the will. For example: if the heir of the testator sold after thirteen months to a *bona fide* purchaser for value without notice of the will, it not having been registered, such purchaser's title would be good as against that of the devisee under the will who had failed to register.

**BRANDON BOARD OF TRADE.**—The annual meeting of this body was held last week when the report submitted showed that there were 149 traders in the city classified as follows:—Grocers and fruit dealers (wholesale and retail) 15; horse dealers 15; grain dealers 12; general (merchants) 11; implement agencies 9; dry goods and fancy goods 8; hardware and tins 6; lumber dealers 5; butchers and cattle dealers 5; blacksmiths and carriage makers 6; contractors and painters 8; and so on. The estimated amount of business transacted, excluding real estate transfers and hotels, amounts to \$2,426,300, divided as follows:—General trade not classified, \$1,159,000; grain, \$432,000; agricultural implements, binder, twine and fence wire, \$400,000; horses, cattle and pork, \$222,900; lumber, \$100,000; building contracts, \$80,000; fuel, coal and wood, \$30,000. The officers of the board for the current year are as under:—Mr. J. C. Robinson president; Mr. Larkin secretary-treasurer; Mr. Smith vice-president, and Messrs. Bowden, Whitelaw, Durst, Pilling, Kirkpatrick, More, Fraser and Adams councillors.

**TRENTON BOARD OF TRADE.**—Under the statutes of May, 1874, and April, 1876, authorizing the incorporation of Boards of Trade, the above named board has been organized. A pamphlet comes to us containing the by-laws, etc., from which we learn that the officers are: David Gilmore, president; S. S. Young, vice-president; Mr. Stewart, secretary; H. B. Wilson, treasurer. The council of the board is composed as follows: Jas. Craig, G. W. Dench, A. H. Drewry, R. P. Fidler, A. W. Hawley, J. H. Nulty, R. B. O'Flynn, A. Urquhart, Robert Weddell, H. B. Wilson.

—It was announced at the weekly meeting of the Montreal Board of Trade that canal tolls would be reduced to the same as last year. A communication was read from the Auckland, New Zealand, Chamber of Commerce, asking for information that would be of service in the event of trade relations being opened up between the two countries. The writer thought that a large and profitable business might result. Export houses are asked to furnish price lists. The letter stated that if a line of steamers were put on from Vancouver, it would give every facility for receiving from Canada the same class of goods as New Zealanders purchased from the United States.

—The sentence pronounced by Mr. Justice Armour yesterday, upon William Kyle, wholesale grocer of this city, for uttering forged paper, was, we consider, a just one. There is no room to doubt that Kyle knowingly profited by the wrongful acts of his clerk; and his punishment, five years in the penitentiary, is needed to deter others from similar misdeeds. The sentimental sympathy which prompted several hundreds of citizens to sign a petition for executive clemency does not, in our view, take adequate grasp of the effect, upon commercial affairs, of permitting such offenses to go unpunished. We are not among those who regard Kyle as either so innocent or so soft as is sought to be conveyed in the memorial.

—A memorable season, this, for snowstorms. The latest one, which was in this part of Ontario a wind-storm only, beginning on Sunday last, swept eastward, and was accompanied on Monday by a heavy snowfall, the drifts of which, in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, have disorganized railway

traffic and proved a serious block to farmers and others. Trains have been twenty hours getting from Montreal to Quebec, but made rather better time between Montreal and Toronto. The Intercolonial train of Friday last, from Halifax, as well as those of Saturday and Monday, were detained by snow at St. Fabien and St. Flavie up to Wednesday noon. The English mails was then near St. Flavie, and the emigrant special is not far behind. The Central Vermont, the C.P.R. and the Grand Trunk have all been seriously troubled by the unusual depth of drift.

—According to a despatch from Ottawa, the lumbermen of that neighborhood have met to discuss the bill introduced by Mr. Murray, M.P.P., before the Ontario Legislature. They almost all pronounce against the clause providing that in case of a jam of timber or logs on any stream where a number of lumbermen's logs are congregated, the firm or individual who breaks the jam may take a lien on the logs so liberated until paid for the expense of freeing them. The lumbermen object that this provision, if adopted, would result in endless litigation.

—Free lectures on forestry are given from time to time at the University of Pennsylvania. The *Philadelphia Record* thinks that they are, perhaps, the readiest and surest means of making known to intelligent people the importance of the subject. Our wealth of oak and pine, says that journal, is gone, and where these forest aristocrats once reigned, plowed fields now lie bare to the sun, or gnarled and scrubby hemlocks toss their bare branches in air. The learned lecturers at the University may still teach the people how to care for what is left of them.

—The next meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science is to be held in Manchester, beginning on Wednesday, 31st of August, this year. The Executive Committee of the meeting in that city "is very desirous of making the presence of foreign visitors a prominent feature of the forthcoming meeting, and has reason to hope that its endeavors will be successful."

—We learn from *Le Quotidien* that a conference was held, a few days ago, between the store-keepers of Quebec and the early-closing society, composed of clerks and other employees upon the subject of early closing. It was agreed that, from the 1st April to 31st December, shops shall be closed at 8 p.m., and from 1st January to end of March at 6 p.m.

#### Correspondence.

##### A REGINA LETTER.

To the Editor of the *Monetary Times*.

SIR,—It is not every western town that can boast of freedom from debt and that shows an honest desire to square expenditure with income. I know of some interior towns, the people whereof were not happy until they got heavily into debt—until every man had a side-walk to his door and a crossing to boot. Their happiness was then complete. But they presented a contrast to the troubled look worn by one of Regina's fathers this morning, who, upon being asked the cause of his depression, explained that instead of the North-West capital being clear of debt it was just \$500 behind. "Why," I remarked, "did not the council publish a financial statement at the beginning of the year and show that income and expenditure were even?"