

day of April. It is considered doubtful whether much, if anything, will be realized out of them for the general body of creditors. Outside of these lands there are a few lots and houses in Guelph not covered by the Higginbotham mortgage, but most of them otherwise encumbered, which will probably yield to the estate less than two thousand dollars in all. The other assets are a few chattels of little value and about \$5,000 of book debts, many of which are said to be bad. Altogether the prospect is not a cheerful one for the unsecured creditors, whose claims will probably aggregate about \$35,000. Mr. McLagan has always been an indefatigable worker, but appears to have had too many irons in the fire, and not to have been sufficiently cautious. The present condition of the estate shows that the stoppage should have occurred some months earlier than it did.

THE want of some sort of legal machinery in the Province of Ontario, to protect creditors from the machinations of fraudulent insolvents, is illustrated in the case of W. B. Jones & Co., of Oxford Mills, whose embarrassment we noticed in our issue of the 11th ult. Since then, Jones is reported to have absconded; and though his insolvency has been notorious for nearly two months past, the creditors have been powerless to act. They have endeavored to get him to meet them and make some offer, but he hoodwinked them with specious promises, and has utilized the delay thus gained by having suits entered against himself by relatives. His father, whom he succeeded, and who apparently has some claim on the business is now understood to hold a judgment for \$5,000 or \$6,000, which will more than cover the available assets. Strenuous efforts have been made within the last few weeks to realize upon the goods and outstanding debts, and the stock, which was roughly valued at about fifteen hundred dollars five or six weeks ago by an accountant who went up in the interest of Montreal creditors, is now stated to be reduced to \$300 or \$400. Local rumor has it that Jones has left for the Pacific coast, and creditors have very little prospect of getting one cent. In the Province of Quebec the law is such that a seizure before judgment can be taken in any case similar to this, but in Ontario there is no provision offering protection to creditors.

—We have a letter from Mr. Edward Martin, objecting to our report of the Dominion Insurance Company's meeting, as not having described all that took place. He refers to the differences of opinion which arose on the board, and to an offered amendment to the report, (having for its aim changes in the staff, etc.), for which 877 out of 3,490 votes were cast. We can only say that the report was printed as we received it from the head office, and it does not appear to us in the best interests of the company to publicly discuss differences which it is now the object of the directorate to harmonize.

FRENCH WINES.

THE YIELD DURING 1880 AND 1879.

The yield of wines for 1880 shows a total of 29,677,472 hectolitres. It exceeds by nearly 4 millions of hectolitres that of 1879, but still re-

mains inferior by 22 millions of hectolitres to the average yield of the last ten years. The exceptionally severe winter of 1879-1880, the abundant rains during spring, the damages caused in many departments by hailstorms had caused apprehensions to be entertained during a time that the result would be even still less favorable. If these apprehensions have not been realized, it is owing to the fact that in the departments where the phylloxera has made but small inroads the production has been comparatively satisfactory. Thus in the department of Aude, Haute-Garonne, Pyrenees-Orientales, Haute-Savoie, Tarn and Tarn-et-Garonne, not only has the yield been superior to that of 1879 but it is equally above the average of the last ten years, amongst which, however, are years of unexceptional abundance.

The departments of the Charente, Herault, and Lot-et-Garonne continue to be severely damaged by the phylloxera. The same is the case in the departments of Ardeche, Dordogne, Saone et-Loire, Rhone and Var. In these different districts, the present production is considerably below the average of the last ten years. On the totality of the vines attacked the phylloxera has again, during the course of the year, caused the destruction of a great number, (about 7,000 hectares). The oidium continues to be felt in several regions.

It is chiefly from Spain that we have received the greater part of our imports; the quantities forwarded to France by that country which in 1878 had amounted to 1,348,000 hectolitres, and 2,230,000 hectolitres in 1879, exceeded 4 millions of hectolitres for the eleven first months of 1880. Italy's shipments have increased from 195,000 hectolitres in 1878 to 540,000 hectolitres in 1879 and 1,500,000 hectolitres during the eleven first months of 1880.

The manufacture of raisin wines continues to spread; the quantities of imported raisins have successively increased from 29,658,000 kilogrammes in 1878 to 51 millions of kilogrammes in 1879 and to more than 62 millions of kilogrammes during the first eleven months of 1880.

On the other hand, the production of cider, mainly concentrated in the provinces of Normandy and Brittany, shews a decrease of 2,272,000 hectolitres as compared with 1879 and of 5,652,000 hectolitres compared with the average of the last ten years. This unfavorable situation is principally due to the fact that, in several localities, hailstorms had knocked the fruit off before it was completely ripe. Moreover, the extreme severity of last winter has exercised a prejudicial influence on our apple trees, as well as on the vines.—*Revue des Vins.*

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GGG	BBB	SSS	M	M	II	T	H	HH



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