

At Victoria, B. C., Reid & Co., produce dealers, have had their premises closed by the landlord.

The Chatham Manufacturing Co. recommenced work on Monday last with a hundred and twenty men employed. It has a good supply of seasoned timber and lumber on hand and expects to have as large an output as usual of their well-known standard waggons.

The sheriff is in possession of the effects of R. J. Orris & Co., grocers, Winnipeg, on a claim for rent. Of late the principal has neglected his business and unless some improvement takes place he will not be allowed to continue.—The effects of W. J. M. Pratt, miller at Portage La Prairie, have been advertised for sale by the sheriff.

Hants County, N. S., exported 142,421 tons of raw plaster during the year 1886, which is double the export of 1885. The value of this export was \$130,657. Hants county is the largest shipowning county in Nova Scotia, having gone ahead of Yarmouth, which formerly held the chief place. Most of the ships now being constructed in Hants county are of a large class.

For some weeks there have been rumors of a threatened strike at the Albion Coal Mines, Pictou County, N. S., and the managers, fearing the worst, have been chary of making contracts. The cause of the trouble has been a reduction in the rate of wages to coal cutters, and it has been agreed between the managers and the miners to submit the case to arbitration, which we think is a sensible proposal on the part of all concerned, for a strike or a lock-out in mid-winter would entail untold suffering on the families of the employees.

It was thought that the late succession of boot and shoe failures in Montreal had weeded out all the houses of weak or doubtful financial standing. The failure, late last week, of Messrs. Pinkerton & Co., manufacturers of fine shoes, was therefore a surprise except to those within the inner circle. The direct liabilities of this firm are \$58,000, indirect about \$45,000. There are no unfavorable features about the failure, unless the rather too liberal drawings of the partners may be so regarded, and an offer of 40 cents in the dollar, cash, is likely to be accepted.

Among the business changes during the week in the Province of Ontario, are the following: T. R. Barton, grocer, etc., at Sarnia, has sold out to David Donaldson.—Derby & Derby have bought the drug and hardware business at Selkirk, of E. E. Phillips, who is going to Meaford to join Mr. Law in the general agency business.—At Aylmer, L. W. Anscomb has sold his boot and shoe business.—John Fraser has purchased the general store stock of J. C. McKeggie at Lefroy.—F. Dowler & Co. have sold out their general store business at Bradford to M. Neilly.

Mr. J. D. Wells, the energetic agent for the Mutual Reserve Life, gives the *Monetary Times* some attention in recent letters to the daily press, and admits the strength of its influence by citing a case in which a man, just deceased, had been prevented by our articles from carrying \$5000 in the Mutual Reserve on his life instead of \$3000, the sum paid his heirs. Accordingly, in his voluble way, he "holds the *Monetary Times* responsible for depriving the widow of the extra \$2000." Why expend all your regret and sympathy upon the widow Mr. Wells? Why not consider the fact—which as a loyal agent you surely should do—that according to your own story this journal has saved your company from a \$2000 loss.

Among the dissolutions that have taken place in the week are the following:—The grocery firm of Miller & Vanderwort, at Belleville, is changed to Vanderwort & Davis, Miller retires.—The business firm of Burling & Davis, furniture dealers, will be continued by Robert Davis.—At Oshawa, the grocery business of Smith & Pearl will be continued by Smith & Adams.—The produce and commission firm of A. Watson & Co., Toronto, is dissolved.—At Teeswater, McLean & Hiscock, general storekeepers, have changed the style of their firm to Hiscock & Farrow.—Mr. Richardson retires from the grocery firm of Robertson & Richardson at Walkerton.

The snow and sleet storm of Saturday and Sunday last in the province of Quebec has impeded road traffic of all kinds, and occasioned unusual trouble and delay to electric communication of all sorts. In Montreal the telephone wires, telegraph wires, and electric light wires were here and there in a confused tangle; they sometimes twisted or snapped under the weight of sleet and the pressure of the wind. Out at Victoria Bridge four telegraph poles in succession, carrying 21 wires, were broken a few feet below the cross arms. The result was, as a correspondent describes it: "the worst experience of the sort the Montreal Company ever had. On Monday, until the New York wire was opened, not a click was heard in the operating room. All the wires were "dead," and the operators sitting around as if in mourning for then. Later, when the quadruplex circuit was got to work, things looked less funereal." The C. P. R. people seemed to have felt the interruptions worse on Tuesday than on Monday. All wires on the Ottawa, whether highway or railway, and on the St. Lawrence east of that river were for a day or two in a bad state, and in spite of repairers, working day and night climbing icy poles, it will take a week if not weeks properly to repair all breaks. The snow storm at Quebec was the heaviest for years, as much as nine feet on road leading into that city. Trains could not for two days approach nearer than two miles to the station.

WM. JAMES a farmer, near Brampton, is the principal in the organ building firm of T. James & Co., at Guelph. The latter failed in September, 1884. The concern was then bought by the father, William James, at 25 per cent. and he has since conducted the business under the old style. He has assigned, but as yet the liabilities are not known. Another Guelph firm, M. Neagle & Co., grocers, have been sold out under power of chattel mortgage and the business will be wound up.—Mr. John Alexander, a leather dealer in Hamilton for many years, is in trouble, and is now offering a compromise of 40 per cent. on liabilities of \$19,000. His nominal assets some \$3,000 less.—At Harriston, Miss Sanderson, who was doing a small millinery business, has failed.—Another milliner, Mrs. Lee, at Lindsay, after doing business two years, is in trouble and has assigned with about \$800 liabilities.—In Peterboro, J. McAleer, dealer in shoes, is troubled because he did not succeed in getting an expected compromise. Failing in this writs have been issued against his effects.—Another shoe dealer, W. J. Cluff, of this city, is in difficulty, and has assigned to Mr. Clarkson. He owes \$3,000 and has assets of same amount.—Charles Deitrich, a Toronto jeweller, found his premises in possession of the sheriff, and has since assigned with liabilities of \$5,700, and nominal assets \$4,500.—A Yonge street grocer and provision dealer, named C. D. Newton, finds that

after eighteen months' experience in this line here, he had not succeeded. A statement is being prepared and meanwhile he has assigned to Mr. Clarkson.—Mrs. M. Ball, grocer at Dresden, has carried on business since the failure of her husband in 1884, but she has just assigned.—P. E. Ritter, a shoe dealer in Harriston, who has been in business about nine years, has failed and assigned to Daniel McLean. The estate will pay a small dividend.—At Napanee, Sexsmith & Co., shoe dealers, are again in trouble. In the spring of 1884 they failed and the business was sold to one Alliston, who handed it over to Sexsmith & Co. They have assigned with liabilities of \$5,000 and nominal assets exceeding this amount.—Fred. Uttech, a cigar manufacturer in Preston, is in trouble, largely through neglect of business. At one time he was believed to be in comfortable circumstances, as but now the reverse is true.—At Ridgetown, Howard Dell, a coal dealer and handle manufacturer, is in difficulties. He claims that he has lost money in the latter branch of his business.—The name of Wm. Coyne has been well known for many years in the dry goods trade in St. Thomas. About ten years ago two of his sons were admitted his partners and they did a large trade. Lately they have been pushed by eastern creditors and have since called them together for the purpose of considering the firm's position. It is thought that the estate will be a pretty good one.—A. E. Sinclair, a brewer in Sarnia, is in trouble and has assigned. Possibly the working of the Scott Act has disturbed his business.

NORTH AMERICAN LIFE ASSURANCE Co.—In its sixth annual report, this company shows a considerable increase of business, the new insurances amounting to \$2,520,000 as compared with \$1,979,000 in the preceding year, and we are told that the number of policyholders is increased by a third. The total premium and interest receipts were \$194,000; the death losses paid only \$26,400 and other disbursements \$81,000 rendering possible a handsome addition to assets. We observe that the company now boasts of assets amounting to \$427,000 (of which \$22,000 is in cash, \$245,000 in first mortgages on real estate, \$58,000 in debentures) and an uncalled guarantee fund of more than half as much more. The surplus is increased from \$37,500 at close of 1885 to \$46,891. The growth of life insurance in Canada of late years and the increased proportion of the aggregate now done by Canadian Companies, are points dwelt upon in the report as well as in the various speeches made at the meeting. The North American is a progressive company, its directors and guarantors are among the best of our business men and its management is fully up to the times.

—In the course of his customary weekly addresses before the Society of Ethical Culture at New York last Sunday, Prof. Felix Adler said: "In the United States the evil of child labor is growing to an alarming extent. In one New Jersey district there were 476 children under 10 years of age in 178 factories employed from 10 to 12 hours per day. In one establishment there were 56 children between the ages of 10 and 15 years. Their condition at maturity could be imagined. If there was an immediate effect on society what would it be on generations to come? As bad as the mother country has been and is in the abuses referred to, it might be well for the United States to emulate the child laws of monarchical England."