

Among the more important bills passed by Illinois Legislature, is the law which hereafter in Illinois makes "boycotting" and "black-listing" penal offences.

LAST Monday's Winnipeg *Commercial* reviles this journal, calls it a "C. P. R. Monopoly Organ," and angrily declares that "The road to the Boundary is going to be built, veto or no veto."

A NUMBER of the British insurance companies have resolved to make memorable the Jubilee year of their sovereign's reign by presenting their clerks with a bonus upon salaries of ten per cent.

THIS from the Chicago *Tribune* isn't so bad: "Shakespeare, Smith & Co. is the name of a firm engaged in the manufacture of sash and blinds in New Orleans. It is seldom that two such immortal names are found linked together in a business partnership."

SINCE our last, a new bank has been founded in New York. The certificate of incorporation of the "Bank of New Amsterdam" was filed in the County Clerk's Office. Its capital stock is \$250,000, with authority to increase it to \$1,000,000. Among the stockholders are William Dowd, Jacob D. Vermilye, Jesse Seligman, George Jones, Benjamin Brewster, S. D. Babcock, J. A. Roosevelt, W. H. Tillinghast, and many others.

WHAT is termed by the New England *Grocer*, the largest shipment of roasted coffee ever made by any one house in New England was forwarded last week by Chase & Sanborn. It consisted of over 100,000 pounds, and was sent to fill direct orders received from western trade during that week. The persistent offering of honest goods of superior quality, is proved by this house to be the keystone, as well as the foundation of success.

FOR a good quarter's worth, buy the Jubilee number of the *Canadian-American*, published by Jaffray Brothers, Chicago. Perhaps, after reading its pages (which, by the way, are profusely illustrated with portraits of Canadian-Americans) those who insist upon it that United States residents are "blawsted foreigners," and we do not want their acquaintance, much less their trade, may see reason to change their view. We have hitherto heard the number of Canadians in the United States placed at 600,000, and sometimes as high as 750,000, but the editor of the journal named says there are 1,200,000.

A CONVENIENT addition to the comforts of travel is to be found in an ingenious but simple device invented by a Canadian and adopted by the Grand Trunk railway, which with its customary enterprise has fitted up some cars with it. The new invention consists of a head-rest, which when not in use, remains fastened to the side of the car, but which the weary traveller can, when he feels so disposed, take down and fit, with the very least trouble, to the back of his seat and get a comfortable sleep without incommoding his fellow-traveller. The upholstery of this neat attachment is in harmony with that of the cars in which it is used.

THIS is told by the *Shoe and Leather Reporter*: A lady went into a shoe store recently, and while waiting to be fitted, glanced about at the boxes, on one of which was printed "Mohair Shoes." "What are mohair shoes?" she said, "I never heard of them before." "Oh," said the clerk, taking down a pair and showing them, "they are called mohair because of these big buckles." "Don't you mean Moliere?" asked the lady, after looking at them. "No, I don't; it's something French." The lady smiled and told the young man that that style of shoe was named after the French dramatist Moliere, not mohair.

At a meeting of the Canadian policy-holders in the Briton Medical Life Association held recently, the secretary read recent correspondence from England announcing that the decision of the English court had sustained the liquidators in England. It was resolved that in view of the inability of the committee to act definitely without further instructions from the policy-holders and without further information from England, the secretary be instructed to cable for a copy of the order made, and to give notice of appeal in the meantime. Another meeting is called for 29th June, at 11.00 a.m., in the Rossin House, Toronto, when matters of importance to all interested will be discussed.

OVERSTOCKING and dull trade are given as the reasons for the failure of J. R. Williamson, a dry goods dealer of Stratford. He started in 1879 with very little capital but with the assistance of a Toronto house, of which he was understood to be a supply account, he built up a large business. His surplus last summer was claimed to be large. Now he has failed with liabilities of \$30,000 and nominal assets of \$35,000—Ralph Mathers, in the general store line, at Comber, has failed. His assets are placed at \$1,000 and liabilities at \$2,000.—G. W. Plastow, a London Plumber, has failed. The indebtedness is placed at about \$5,000. It is thought that the estate will not pay more than 50 cents on the dollar.

THE community of Belleville is not a little agitated over the disclosure, recently made in connection with the firm of Gordon, Morey & Co., general merchants, of that place. They began business in January last, operating a line of large wagons which were driven through the country, stocked with merchandise to be exchanged for farm produce or sold for cash. They bought heavily and mostly on time and sold at low prices. As claims became due and creditors impatient, Gordon, who was the resident partner, and a native of Boston, became uneasy and eventually decamped, leaving the sheriff in possession of the premises. Mr. Morey lives in Montreal and is said to be a person of integrity. The capital was furnished by him and the business managed by Gordon. The liabilities are roughly estimated at \$20,000 and the stock about \$5,000. Gordon took considerable money with him.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Linwood describes the methods of sharpers who have lately been infesting Waterloo and Wellington counties and working on the easy-going and unsuspecting storekeeper. He says that two sharpers have been working in that district in the following manner: "Sharper No. 1 goes into a store, purchases some trifle, and lays down a \$20 bill. When the clerk has made up the change the sharper objects to its bulk and substitutes, we will say, a \$10 bill. He then gets the attention of the clerk by talking and sharper No. 2 comes in from the buggy and pays for the article, sharper No. 1 now gets back his big bill by picking it out from the pile of money on the counter, and the pair are out of sight before the clerk discovers that the sharper has not only taken his own money but also some of the merchant's." Clerks should be on their guard against any such dodge.

FOR some time back, the foundry business of D. Darvill, at London, has not seemed to prosper. His liabilities at the present are very large and as a bank is said to hold security on nearly all his assets, outside creditors will not get much. It is thought very probable that an assignment or compromise will

shortly take place.—J. J. Douglas, a jeweller in Owen Sound, has the reputation of being a smart, energetic young man, but even these qualifications have not been proof against the risks of a business career. His capital, at starting, was inadequate and he is now endeavoring to effect an arrangement with his creditors at 60 cents on the dollar, cash.—Having little or no means at starting and without previous experience, having been a farmer, W. T. Bougher, of Bowmanville, has found the life of a general storekeeper anything but satisfactory. This, anyway, is but the natural conclusion to be drawn from his assignment, just announced.

A RECENT DISAPPEARANCE.

A quiet, pretty, idyllic sort of place Paris, Ont., used to be, with very little, to all appearance, that is loud or wicked in the ways of its dwellers. Of late, whether from the increased activity brought by rising manufactures or from the breaking-out which occasionally comes to the best communities of the original "cussedness" of the race, a development of deviltry has come which troubles the townspeople.

The recent disappearance from Paris of a young grocer named Birley, has created no small amount of stir locally, and is of interest to a few wholesale dealers likewise. Birley was a graduate from the farm; being somewhat aesthetic in his tastes, he became associated with one Munn in the grocery business, and the partnership came to an abrupt end in consequence of the disappearance of several hundred dollars, which caused mutual recriminations. Birley appears to have enlisted the sympathies of another farmer's son named Graham, whose money he succeeded in diverting from the road it was rapidly travelling, and in a short time the latter took an interest in the business with a view to protecting himself. Whether he succeeded as fully as he could wish, does not appear probable, for a dissolution shortly afterwards took place, and Birley bloomed forth in the local prints (at so many cents a line) as "the most enterprising merchant" in town, who "was introducing the cash principle," "doing an immense trade," &c. G. B. then became a Knight of Labor and took an enthusiastic interest in all matters pertaining to the rights of the working man.

The Knights soon recognized that they had a number of budding statesmen in their midst and forthwith proceeded in January last to launch a labor ticket, which they succeeded in carrying in triumphantly—G. B. being the admired of all admirers, and especially of the lady voters. He had added a lively business to his other acquisitions and was doing a rushing trade all around, according to this local press, when, one morning, a fire occurred in what seemed a mysterious way, and the grocery business was summarily put an end to. The blaze became popularly known around town as "Birley's bon fire," but the authorities and the insurance companies put themselves to no unnecessary trouble to discover its origin, and Birley and Graham made the most they could out of the remains and the insurance money. Birley then began a commission and auction business, which with the livery stable and his duties as a town councillor, afforded an ample field to show abilities as an administrator.

The other day the enterprising merchant suddenly disappeared, and to the dismay of his brother Knights, some of whom have substantial reasons for mourning his loss, it was discovered that the liabilities incurred by this