

THE Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers held, we are told, a secret meeting at Moncton a few days ago. Chief Arthur, of Cleveland, said that while opposed on principle to strikes the Brotherhood would strike against tyranny and attempted oppression.

A JOINT stock company called the "Forbes Manufacture Company" has been formed at Halifax for the manufacture of patented articles of iron and steel, especially fine tools and skates. Mr. John Forbes, the well-known inventor of the Acme skate, is the projector and intended manager of the new company.

As a specimen of Southern thrift, Captain Evan Howell, of the Atlanta Constitution, illustrated the persistent industry of the Chattanoogans by an anecdote of a man in Georgia who kept bees, and, not satisfied with their proverbial industry, actually attempted to cross them with lightning bugs in order to secure a continuation of honey-making through the night.

A FINANCIAL curiosity came to light at the Southern Loan Company's office in St. Thomas recently, in the shape of three four-dollar notes of the Bank of Montreal, of the London issue of 1859, as fresh and crisp as the day they were first paid out. They bear the portrait of the Duke of Wellington on the face, and on the reverse the seal of the bank.

A WESTERN exchange has just made an important discovery, which should have an interest for commercial travellers. It has just found out where the term "drummer" originated: "It is from the Arabic word 'dromedary.' The dromedary is the ship of the desert; makes long trips that nothing else on earth could stand, and in fact, gets over more space in a shorter time than any other animal that Noah had in his menagerie."

A CORRESPONDENT of much intelligence, to whom we looked for a commercial and statistical account of certain parts of Muskoka, has become so enamored of Lake Joseph, and especially of the Stanley House Temperance Hotel there, as to fill a letter with descriptions of the beauties of the neighborhood. We shall not reproach our correspondent, considering the distracting nature of the surroundings; but it looks as if we should have ourselves to go to Muskoka, if we are to get any notion of its material—as distinguished from its ethereal—charms.

A BIG grocery and confectionery firm in Detroit, Hull Brothers, have just failed for \$100,000. They have been in business since

1865 and employed 100 men and women in the several departments. Their sales frequently run as high as \$10,000 a day. The embarrassment is attributed to the fact that they sold goods at too close a margin, on which the Chicago Bulletin makes the comment: "Probably large expense had something to do with it. The fate which threatens Hull Bros. is the usual one which overtakes those who try to do all the business in a town."

A POINT which is well worth the consideration of every wool grower in the land, says the Boston Wool Reporter, is that of storing his clip where the buyer will have no trouble in examining it. Oftentimes we have seen growers slovenly dump their wools into the dark corners of their outbuildings, where it is almost inaccessible to the wool buyer. The grower should recognize that he, as well as the merchant, by the proper classification and arrangement of his wares, will be more sure to realize lucrative returns than by keeping them hidden away in some secluded corner. If you have anything choice to offer, bring it out to the light of day; if not, do not exercise deception in concealing its defects.

WE have a letter of five pages foolscap, couched in very strong terms, from Mr. J. T. Carson, one of the town councillors of Simcoe, in reply to that of Mr. Ronald in THE MONETARY TIMES of the 7th inst. We cannot make room for it, but we can summarise its main points. And beyond this we cannot allow controversy in these columns upon the matter of the experience of Simcoe in the matter of steam fire engines. Mr. Carson sharply contradicts Mr. Ronald in various particulars. First, as to the time taken by the Waterous engine to get up steam; second, the mayor was not, he says, served with an injunction; third, the firemen have not resigned, and the people did not rise *en masse*. It is much to be hoped that the bitterness of feeling which these local differences have occasioned, may soon subside, and the main object, which after all is the effectual protection of the town from fire, may be achieved. Mr. C. thinks such statements as Mr. Ronald's about respectable citizens and the town council cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged, and he therefore challenges them. As to J. D. Ronald's accusation of the editor of the Reformer, as a partisan, this is simply Mr. Ronald's opinion. We have seen evidence in various editorials in that journal that its editor wanted water-works for the town, and long opposed steam fire engines. When Simcoe decided, however, to have a Canadian engine Mr. Donly preferred the

Waterous engine, which he had an undoubted right to do without therefore deserving to be accused of partisanship, much less of having been bought.

A SMALL shoemaker at Hamilton, A. S. Mackenzie, has been sold out by the bailiff for non-payment of rent and taxes. His stock did not realize these claims, to say nothing of a chattel mortgage.

JOHN WHEELER, of Redickville, storekeeper and manufacturer of shingles, has made an assignment to F. M. Lamb, of Hamilton, with assets of \$1,100, and liabilities \$2,100. The manufacture of shingles has not proved a profitable venture in his case.

PHILIPPE RICHARD, a veteran farmer of St. Pierre les Becquets, Que., thought to find ease in his old days by store keeping. So about three years ago he sold his farm and put the proceeds into a general stock of merchandise. To-day he owes \$3,700, and is in the hands of an assignee.

DESILETS & DEGRANDPRE, of St. Eulalie, Que., have assigned to the Prothonotary at Three Rivers. They only owe \$815, an amount which seems hardly in accord with the almost aristocratic patronymics of the members of the firm.

J. H. METHOT, a general merchant of Dalhousie Mills, Ont., who was in a fairly prosperous way of business, was burned out a week ago. He is asking his creditors to release their claim on a 75c. to the dollar basis.

THE Featherbone factory at St. Thomas was offered for sale this week under mortgage, but the reserve bid of \$8,000 was not reached, J. Holden, of Three Oaks, Mich., making the highest bid of \$7,500. The factory will now be sold by private sale.

IN Winnipeg the affairs of Geo. Frankfurter, dry goods, are such that he has been advised by two of his largest local creditors to take stock and submit a statement.—In the same city, the Winnipeg Co-operative Trading Association has failed, the result, it is claimed, of a recent fire which proved a total loss. It was incorporated in 1886.

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