

A PUBLIC meeting of the taxpayers of Quebec was held a few days since for the purpose of electing eight delegates to confer with a Committee of the City Council relative to the amendments required by the City Charter. The Mayor explained that there was no intention of increasing the taxation, and showed that upwards of \$180,000 of interest and old notes had been paid off since May last. He combatted the idea that the city credit was worse than it had been, stating that 7 per cent. debentures only brought 88 ten years ago, and now could not be purchased for less than 117, while 6 per cent. debentures of this year's loan sold for 94 in London.

THE factories in connection with the Montreal Reformatory, under the management of the Roman Catholic Brothers of Charity, from which large quantities of boots, shoes, harness, and cigars have been annually turned out during the last five years, have been finally closed for want of support. Its managers have found themselves in arrears each year, a recent balancing of the books showing a total loss during the five years' operations of \$16,000. The brethren have agreed to look after the same number of boys for eight years, the Quebec government to let them off the teaching of trades.

JAMES H. SPEERS, a carriage builder of Barrie, is charged with forgery, and is supposed to have gone to the States. He has forged names of farmers and others to notes amounting to some \$1,200 or \$1,500.

THE hardware firm of Horsman, Skelley & Co., of Uxbridge, have sold out their business to W. B. Stewart, late with Messrs. Thomson & Burns, of this city. The first named firm are removing elsewhere.

THE Selkirk (Manitoba) *Inter-Ocean* says that Mr. E. Jackson, of Toronto, is on his way to Selkirk with a stock of drugs, chemicals, stationery, etc., intending to open a store in Manitoba avenue.

THE views of Prof. Morton, of the Stevens Institute, concerning the alleged sugar adulterations are published in the *New York Tribune*. He declares glucose, which is so lavishly used in sugar, to be harmless, and muriatic acid and chloride of tin not injurious if properly used. This last statement seems, which comes to us through the telegrams, to us to require considerable qualification or explanation.

A MILWAUKEE gentleman has been making enquiries about the inducements possible to be obtained for the establishment of a flax manufactory in Ottawa.

A SPECIAL meeting of shareholders in the Ottawa Iron and Steel Manufacturing Company was called on the 18th, and adjourned to the 20th inst. It is desired to have the charter amended to admit of making railway plant.

A BOAT has been launched at Moorhead, the point where the Northern Pacific Railway crosses the Red River, which is ahead of anything which has ever appeared on those waters. She is 125 feet long, 30 feet beam, has engines with 12 inch cylinders and 50 inch stroke, and is fitted throughout with taste and complete-

ness. Although originally intended to be placed on the Assiniboine she has been judged too good a boat for that route just yet, and therefore will ply on the Red River. Capt. McArthur, of Winnipeg, is her owner.

Two men left Hamilton a week ago on the eastward-bound train, one dressed, says a city paper, like a high-toned "gent," and the other arrayed like a tramp. This pair were confederates, who came to Hamilton last summer, under the style of Roberts & Mitchell, "and after an interval of needed recreation," settled down to a flour and feed business on King St. east, near Ferguson Avenue. They had no money, but by-and-by they got credit and laid in a supply of flour. This they sold and levanted with the proceeds, owing one of the banks \$200, and some small bills to other people, perhaps \$1,000 in all.

THE Amherst Warehousing Company, doing a general business in Amherst, N.S., a succession of the old firm of B. Douglas & Co., has been served with a writ of attachment. At its formation five years ago, it was composed of five shareholders, but since then has undergone several transformations, and the five have been reduced to three. They have been doing a large trade; but through injudicious purchasing, and carrying heavy stock together with dull collections, have been in straitened circumstances. A good portion of the liabilities is due in Europe.

THE frequency and despatch with which some men fail, settle up and start again, getting all the goods they require, has been a subject of common remark. Wm. Hill, of the thriving town of Cornwall, who some ten or twelve years ago started grocery business in a modest way, failed within three years with about \$15,000 liabilities, which he compromised at about twenty-five cents in the dollar. He got on his feet again but failed a second time in the spring of last year. The settlement made then he has been unable to carry and through has now made another assignment with reduced liabilities.

THE sudden departure from this city of Mr. Joseph Gearing, contractor and builder, with \$5,000 or 6,000 in his pocket, and liabilities estimated at \$40,000 to 60,000, was unpleasant news to a large number of workmen and creditors. Among the more honorable builders of the city, however, no regret was occasioned by his flight. Probably no other contractor contributed so much to the ruin of builders, and of those who furnished building material as did Gearing. He was constantly undertaking work at rates which could not but result in loss to some one, and as he has had for some years past but little to lose, he, at least always felt safe. Is it not just possible that our architects are in some degree responsible for this demoralized state of the building trade? Do they not too frequently mislead parties contemplating building as to the ultimate cost? And in order to complete the work at anything like the original figures put it into the hands of incompetent men who either had to slight their work or defraud their creditors.

DURING the fortnight ending 20th inst., we remark 39 attachments issued against traders, of which 26 issued in Ontario, 7 in Quebec and 7 in the Maritime Provinces. There were 16 assignments, 10 of them in Ontario; 4 compromises and 2 extensions were granted; 7 dealers met their creditors, 2 absconded, and 7 firms dissolved. It is noteworthy that within that time, no less than 27 people sold out their stocks or went out of business; among these were 7 general dealers, 7 grocers and 5 hotel-keepers.

It is stated by cable telegram that the Halifax Fisheries Award of five and a half million dollars, was yesterday paid by the United States, accompanied, however, by a protest.

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