

On Saturday evening, March 19, a postcard was sent from London, Eng., via Vancouver, to Hong Kong, and reached there by the steamer "Empress of India" on April 28. Three hours after its receipt an answer on a return card was posted by the P. & O. mail, and this was delivered in London on the evening of May 30; the time occupied in transmission round the world being seventy days, the quickest time on record.

The first direct shipment of West Indian fruit from the islands to Montreal has been made per steamship "America," the pioneer boat of Messrs. Vipond's new line between Montreal and the West Indies, which has just arrived from Jamaica with a cargo of 10,000 bunches bananas, 100 bags cocoanuts and 1,000 barrels of sugar. A full return cargo of amber, flour, butter, and fish has already been booked for the "America."

The versatility of the country storekeeper is exemplified by the Maine man who advertises that he deals in dry and fancy goods, boots and shoes, groceries, grain, feed, crockery and hardware; he keeps the postoffice, is justice of the peace, is a conveyancer, agent of an insurance company and runs a set of hay scales. He has "ice cool soda and other cool drinks," sells famous 10 and 5 cent cigars; is agent for a very loud fertilizer and furnishes dainty eggs for putting under aristocratic hens.

A MANUFACTURER of clothing in a small way, in Montreal, Harris Kellert by name, is in embarrassed circumstances, and an accountant is now preparing a statement of his affairs. A composition will be necessary to his continuance in business, as it is understood his affairs will show some deficiency; liabilities are somewhere about \$10,000.—I. Boileau, a hatter and furrier in the same city, who has been in business barely two years, is also reported to be rather behind, and wrote his creditors that he was taking stock.

NOTICE is given in the Vancouver papers of the retirement of Mr. James Cooper Keith, as manager of the bank of British Columbia in that city. "Mr. Keith," says the *News-Advertiser*, "during his incumbency of the position (since 1866), has built up a large business for the bank, and the services to Vancouver which Mr. Keith has rendered will long be held in remembrance by her citizens, who will hope that Mr. Keith may still reside among them. Mr. Geo. Gillespie will act as manager *pro tem.* of the bank.

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Wholesale Grocers

Front and Scott Sts.,

Toronto, Ont.

MESSRS. GEO. HEES, SON & Co., manufacturers of window shades, in this city, have acquired the plant of the Oriental Window Shade Co., and will remove it to their factory on Davenport road. This, with a similar purchase from the Canadian Window Shade Co., made a short time ago, will make an important addition to the large establishment of Hees, Son & Co., in which improvements are now being made. They are also extending the limits of the King St. premises.

The authorities of the Merchants' Bank of Halifax discovered that a number of its one dollar bills have been raised to tens, by cutting out the 0 from one corner of the other bills and carefully pasting it to the right of the 1 on the one dollar bill. The forgery is very ingeniously done, except that the 10 appears on the lower left hand corner instead of on the upper right hand corner, as in the genuine. Detectives have located one of the forgers, and are awaiting further developments. The forgery is easily detected by holding the bill up to the light.

The lobster fishing is reported slack all around the coast of Prince Edward Island, and also the New Brunswick shores. Some factories have closed down, says the *Guardian*, as the fishermen cannot make wages. "On the whole, if the season turns out more favorable, it is computed that not more than sixty per cent. of the quantity of cases packed last year will be reached. The large number of new factories erected this season help to bring the percentage up, otherwise the falling off would be much greater."

The Montreal firm of Day & Deblois, foundrymen, have assigned upon demand of Messrs. Drummond, McCall & Co. They owe \$28,000, and \$10,000 of this is a mortgage liability. Of the balance, some \$10,000 is secured by a second mortgage. The firm has been in much tightened shape for some time past, having gotten an extension of time last December, and it is on the first instalment of this that they have defaulted. They show a considerable nominal surplus, but a lack of harmony between the partners seems to make liquidation a necessity.

A PATENT has been granted in the United States to Chas. G. Hutchinson, on a machine that looks like a Fairbank's scale with a little railing around it and an upright upon which a customer may rest his hands. But it is not for weighing—it is for blacking shoes. The

machine, as the patent claim reads, is "a machine for cleaning, daubing, and polishing goes, a support for the person, in combination with a series of rotatable brushes provided with rigid backs, adapted and arranged to be brought in contact with all parts of the shoes."

A few weeks ago W. J. Morrow, grocer, Petrolia, made an assignment. Since then all the creditors except one have agreed to accept 35 per cent. The other will not be satisfied with less than 50 per cent. — Eight years ago Edward Dunn gave up carriage making at Thorndale and opened a general store. In his line of trade he has had no better success, she assigns, and a meeting of creditors was held at London on Wednesday.

We observe that, quite recently, J. W. Shields, who has been a long time in the grocery trade at Mono Road, sold his stock to Thomas Hill.—A. Hay has bought out S. McFarlane, grocer, at Wallaceburg.—In the town of Rat Portage, J. H. Hennessy sells his liquor business to J. Courtney.—The liquor business of R. Jackson & Co., in Toronto, has been bought by D. Kirkpatrick.—The retirement of his silent partner, Mr. Squires, leaves Mr. G. W. Ames sole proprietor of the private banking business which he has so long and successfully conducted at Warton.

McMULLEN BROS. & MILLICHAMP, brick-makers at Toronto Junction, have assigned.—An arrangement has been made by Andrew Crawford, who is a tailor at Aurora. He agrees to pay creditors 60 per cent. of liabilities.—F. J. Brown, baker at Barrie, has met with several losses and now assigns.—About two years ago Richard Lyness tired of his trade as plasterer, and although entirely unfitted for business he borrowed money and started a grocery at Delhi. Under these circumstances, it will be no surprise to hear of his assignment.—C. K. Welliver, harness maker, has been many years in business at Elmira, Ont., but of late he has found it difficult to meet his bills, and now an assignment is in order.—A chattel mortgage of \$1,500 covered the millinery stock of Mrs. G. Campion at Stirling. Now she too has assigned.—John Perry was not satisfied with his salary as deputy sheriff at Woodstock, and he resigned. After that he borrowed money from his father's estate and in October last opened a grocery, but has learned that he cannot make money at that business. He has assigned.

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