

—The signatures of many of Winnipeg's prominent firms and individuals were appended to an address intended to mark the departure from that city of Mr. D. Miller, who has been manager of the Merchants' Bank of Canada there for the past seven years. Accompanying the address were a beautiful silver tea set and a valuable gold watch. At the conclusion of his reply Mr. Miller said: "There is a natural feeling of satisfaction also in my mind at your kind references to the bank at large. It was the pioneer bank of the province, and its very able and sagacious general manager has always shown the greatest possible faith in the future of Manitoba and interest in its welfare and progress." Mr. Miller comes to Toronto to succeed Mr. Cooke, whose retirement was noted in these columns a few weeks ago.

—According to a circular, signed by Mr. H. C. Hammond, president of the Federal Bank, which in spite of its being marked confidential has been made public, a suit is to be brought against Mr. Samuel Nordheimer to recover the amount of losses made by the bank through the Commercial Loan and Stock Company. Mr. Edward Blake, Mr. Osler, and Mr. Lash have all been consulted, and they advise that Mr. Nordheimer is responsible for the losses. The other directors have instituted a suit to recover the amount, which is not stated, but which is understood to be large.

—After discussions of a purely local interest the members assembled at the annual meeting of the Guelph Board of Trade on Tuesday last proceeded to elect members for the year. After Mr. J. B. Armstrong, and Mr. J. Hallett were chosen president and vice-president, respectively, the selection of further officers was deferred until an adjourned meeting on May 28th. By that time, it is hoped, some steps will have been taken to infuse new life into the board, an element which Col. Higginbotham and others thought was lacking heretofore.

—The Hamilton Board of Fire Underwriters held its annual meeting on the 13th inst., and elected Mr. J. T. Routh, president; Mr. Seneca Jones, vice-president; and Mr. G. A. Young, secretary-treasurer. The retiring president, Mr. Geo. McKeand, was cordially thanked for the admirable manner in which the deliberations of the board had been presided over by him during the past year.

—No successor to the late president of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Mr. John S. Maclean of Halifax, has been appointed, but Mr. John T. Paysant has been tendered a seat at the board, which he has accepted.

—At least one clause of the platform of the Winnipeg Grocers' Association has met with vigorous opposition, i.e., that relating to peddling. A largely attended meeting of citizens was held on Friday evening last, when the following resolutions were unanimously carried:

"That this meeting pledge itself to use every effort to preserve to every citizen the right to buy or sell without unjust restriction any or all the necessities of life. . . . Further resolved, that should the City Council grant the request of the Grocers' Association that another meeting be held for the purpose of considering some plan of co-operation for the purchase and distribution of groceries, provisions, etc., etc."

"That the high license asked for as against hawkers and peddlers is a gross injustice to a number of our citizens who have no other means of gaining a livelihood and are even now barely able to gain one, and that the removal of existing burdens would be more likely to conduce to the welfare of the public than the imposition of new ones."

—New Brunswick has 1,070 post-offices in operation, and Nova Scotia 1,372. The Nova Scotia mileage is 2,913,485, and the New Brunswick mileage 2,123,726. Nova Scotia postal revenue is \$216,979; New Brunswick revenue is \$152,261. Halifax city gives a postal revenue of \$50,310.75, and St. John a revenue of \$37,383.

—A final dividend of 20 per cent. on the notes of the defunct Maritime Bank, St. John, is now being paid. The estate of McLellan & Co. also paid a recent dividend of ten per cent., making 70 per cent. paid so far.

—The thirty-sixth dividend of the Hamilton Provident Loan Society is announced at the annual rate of seven per cent.

—The Merchants' Bank of Halifax is closing its agency in Hamilton, Bermuda.

#### THE IRON MARKET.

Writing of the pig iron market in Great Britain the *Iron and Steel Trades Journal* of the 4th says: Prices have been drooping, the markets have worn a dull face, and business is not active. Shippers have been buying only what they require for the time being. At Glasgow the tone is dull, buyers are scarcer even at the easier quotations. The cause of the inactivity is to some extent due to the lifeless condition of the stock markets in the North, and not to any direct depressing influences connected with the trade. At Middlesbrough, the market has also shown symptoms of weakness, and buying has been restricted to absolute wants. Glasgow still maintains her position of being the pulse of the iron trade, and the other districts move in sympathy with the prices of Scotch iron. Some time ago we hoped the other leading centres would be able to shake themselves entirely clear of the baneful influences of the Glasgow manipulators; but the time has not come for that just yet. A considerable part of the "transactions" in Scotch warrants are a mean form of gambling—a kind of hope-to-catch-a-penny sort of exertion indulged in by nearly all the natives of Scotland. It would be almost as rare to meet a Scotsman who had not read the poems of Burns as to forego that with one who had not tried a little spec in G.M.B.'s. We should almost describe this phase of Scotch life as one of the "ruling passions" north of Tweed. We hope the "brither Scots" wu'll tak' a' thoct an' men'.

#### SHODDY GOODS.

Do shoddy goods pay in the long run? The question, as it affects boot and shoe merchants and consumers, is thus debated by the *Reporter*:—Competition in the States is so keen that the dealers say "the only way we can meet it is by selling at low figures; never mind if the shoes are not first-rate, if they are only all right in appearance we can work them off." An Eastern manufacturer of experience and prominence remarked the other day: "It's price rather than quality which sells shoes nowadays; if they are low enough it isn't of much consequence what intrinsic value they possess." The leather dealers find this view of the case corroborated by the fact that they receive a great many more inquiries for stock of the second and third grades than for the first. It is easy to sell the damaged, easier still to sell the poor damaged, but the good stamp drags. That is the tenor of the market reports East and West. The jobbers use their utmost endeavors to depress the prices of shoes, the shoe manufacturers, in so far as

they feel compelled to succumb to the pressure, try to indemnify themselves by purchasing leather at low rates; anything will do if it is also cheap enough; if it has all sorts of imperfections they can be ingeniously concealed from view by a skilled workman. But they are there all the same, and the time must come when they will be found out. That's the worst thing about "shoddy." There is always a painful uncertainty whether it may not be heard from again after it has been gotten rid of.

#### OUT OF EMPLOYMENT.

When a young man gets out of employment—which often occurs with clerks and mechanics—he, as a rule, wastes a good lot of time waiting for something to turn up. A better way to do under such circumstances is to turn up something himself. This is not an age when a young man—no matter how much skill or merit he possesses—can rest upon his dignity or an independent spirit until some clever friend invites him to take a big salaried position or gives him a half interest in a store. No, the young man who is really worthy a position will get out and hustle for a place; he will let every business man know that he wants work, and he will be particular to state that he doesn't want a dollar more than his services are worth.

If something is not found soon, don't get discouraged; keep up cheerful spirits, put in more time at hustling, and, finally, if you are convinced that no opening can be had for a reasonable salary, go to work at anything you can get to do, and at the best wages you can get, even if they no more than pay your board. Don't exhibit any fear of hard or rough work, but do the best you can and keep your eyes open for something better. Above all things, don't leave the country town to come to the city. All cities are swarming with unemployed clerks, and, unless you have some positive opening promised, the chances are ninety-nine out of a hundred that you will not get a place.—*Dallas Mercantile Journal*.

#### HOW HE WAS CAUGHT.

One of the leading dry goods houses in New York had long been disbursing money to one of its customers, who was constantly sending in a long list of alleged shortages and claims for damaged goods, until the principals could stand it no longer. It was determined, upon the first opportunity, to use stratagem, and cheat the devil with "his own cards," if possible. Shortly after the decision was arrived at, an order was received from the customer in question for a large shipment of collars, cuffs, and general drapery. The cases were duly packed and the invoices despatched the same night, but the goods were retained. About three days afterwards a letter came to hand from the retailer acknowledging receipt of the shipment, and concluding with the usual stereotyped phrase: "I noticed that the following articles have been damaged in transit, etc." This cool piece of impudence brought forth the following letter from the wholesale house:

"Mr. ————  
"DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 4th is received. We note your claim for damaged goods and short lengths. Perhaps you will take the trouble to examine your purchase in future before troubling us with these claims. Your goods have been purposely retained by our packers, and have not left our warehouse.  
"Yours, A. B. & Co."

The above incident actually occurred in the early part of last year, and it is needless to say that no more claims were made from the customer referred to.—*London Hosier and Glovers' Gazette*.

—There are at present 904 paper machines at work in Germany, 271 in Austria, and 42 in Switzerland. Each machine will turn out on an average 1,000 kilos daily, or 310,000 kilos per annum. This shows how great is the consumption of paper in the lands where the German language is spoken. The principal articles used for the manufacture of paper are wood pulp, straw, natron, and sulphite cellulose. The error that there is better paper in England is not borne out by experience.—*Kuhlow's Journal*.