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taken. The promoters are much disappointed, as this result foreshadows the failure of the scheme, so far as it may depend upon American aid. The authorities at Washington are reported to have taken no action, believing that the enterprise will prove abortive for want of financial support and for other reasons.

—The Colonial Secretary found occasion to state in the British House of Commons on the 12th inst. that no application has been made by the Canadian Government for a guarantee of the Pacific Railway loan.

—A meeting of National Currency advocates was held at St. Catharines on the 12th inst., and a resolution adopted urging upon the Government "to at once take some steps towards issuing a national currency, unredeemable in gold." "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad."

—The extension of the Montreal, Portland and Boston Railroad into Longueuil is completed, and trains are expected to be running on this branch on Monday. A ferry boat will run in connection with the railway to and from this city.

—At a meeting of the Directors of the Mechanics Bank held in this city on Wednesday, the 13th inst., a report was submitted to the effect that indebtedness to Molsons Bank had been reduced from \$105,000 to about \$60,000, or at the rate of nearly \$10,000 per week since the last meeting of shareholders. Upon full payment of the Molsons claim the securities held by that Bank will be released, and the efforts of the management will then be directed to the prompt liquidation of the claims of depositors and bill holders.

—A contract has just been let by the Government for widening the well-known and dangerously narrow channel in the Gallops Rapids on the St. Lawrence. Owing to the presence of submarine rocks the slightest swerving on the part of a vessel would cause her destruc-

tion. It is proposed to remove 30,000 cubic yards of this rock by blasting, as such removal will enable powerful vessels not only to pass down the rapids in safety but also to force their way up.

—Canadian fishermen have been engaged in "shingling the river" near St. Clair, in order to drive fish over within the borders of the "Land of Lorae." The process of shingling, which may not be generally understood, is to anchor shingles near the bottom of the river by attaching them to a weight with but a few feet of line. The shingles thus buoyed dart about in the current and scare the fish. As an experiment it was tried by enterprising Yankees a few years ago with great success.

—The establishment of a sugar refinery in Halifax, N.S., is now considered assured. For a time it was thought that the late action of the Government with regard to duties might hinder the formation of a joint stock company, but the revision of that action and abandonment of the position taken has removed every apparent obstacle, and the required subscriptions will probably be secured readily. Promoters of the enterprise look forward to having the necessary buildings well under way before the advent of winter.

—Crofts & Co., dry goods, of Chatham, Ont., who some four months ago removed from Goderich to their present quarters, failed on the 2nd inst. The insolvents owe \$6,376, and claim at least an equal amount of assets, consisting of stock, and book debts mostly due from Goderich people. The general character of the firm has been excellent, and their misfortune is attributed in part to giving credit too liberally, a course to which they seemed to be driven by the pressure of competition. It is thought that a compromise will be speedily effected and the business resumed.

—It is estimated by Alexander Delmar, a statistician well known throughout the United

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States and in other countries, that the wheat crop of the world for the harvest year 1879-80 will be about 1,540,000,000 bushels; that this will create a deficiency of some 225,000,000 bushels in certain countries, chiefly the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Germany, and that such deficiency must be made good by importations from other lands. Canada and Australia together, it is computed, will be called upon to supply about 5,000,000 bushels, but in what proportion is not stated.

—Martin & English, general store, Keene, Ont., failed some weeks ago with liabilities of about \$10,000 and assets nominally of equal amount. An offer on the part of English of 60 cents, secured, was refused by the creditors, and the estate is now offered for sale by tender. The firm had been doing a large business, and were thought to be making money, but the business has suffered of late years, it is said, through neglect. The business character of the firm was good, and English is especially regarded as a capable and straightforward man of affairs, who would have done well under favorable circumstances.

—A meeting of the creditors of Thomson & Co., of the International Park on the line of the Grand Trunk Railway, at Point Edward, was held at Sarnia on the 7th inst. The insolvents submitted a list of preferential claims amounting to \$1,054, and ordinary claims \$4,870, and asked that the business be placed in the hands of a receiver and themselves allowed to run the Park until their debts were paid. The creditors refused these terms, voted the official assignee to be assignee of the estate, and directed him to offer for sale at once by tender the insolvents' interest in the Park, inclusive of a four years' lease from the Grand Trunk Railway Company.