

R. THORNE & Co., makers of picture frames, etc., in this city, are in trouble. On Tuesday last an informal meeting of creditors was held and an offer of thirty per cent. was made to creditors.

OTHER assignments are those of R. D. Dalby, blacksmith at Boyne, who has been a long time there; Walter Bryden, general store-keeper, township of Cambridge; O. Corp, butcher, township of Barton.

DURING the season just past the C.P.R. line from Owen Sound to Port Arthur and Fort William is stated to have handled 46,288 tons of general merchandise, 36,517 tons of mill stuff, 1,643 tons of oats, and 38,715 of wheat.

A GENERAL store-keeper of some twenty-five years' standing at St. Janvier, Que., Octave Renaud, has had to put his affairs in the hands of the assignee. He owes \$5,000, and claims a surplus of \$1,800 to \$2,000, but probably that is only "in his mind."

T. SIMPSON, the sole partner of T. Simpson & Son, boot and shoe dealer in Berlin, is in trouble again. About eighteen months ago he found it necessary to obtain an extension. Since then his business has been curtailed and now he finds it difficult to comply with the terms of his agreement, and has assigned.

A CORRESPONDENT at Miramichi, N.B., writes that the soft weather and lack of ice in the river has made the usual winter fishing for smelt a failure. During the first three months of fishing in the same waters last year over \$20,000 was received by the fishermen for smelts; this year not \$10,000 has been received on this account; a death blow to Christmas trade has been the result.

AMONG British Columbia traders, John Mercer, blacksmith, Chilliwack, has been in business several years and had accumulated property for which he had been offered \$5,000, but did not sell, although much in debt. Now he has made an assignment. So has G. E. Hawes, grocer in Victoria, who succeeded Mrs. Luney in October, 1890. Since then he has been disposed to trade beyond his means, hence his trouble.

THE firm of Watson Brothers, whose retirement from the retail grocery business at Guelph to go into the wine and liquor business, we noticed some months ago, have not met with the success they expected. They were sued by a Hamilton firm, to whom they owe some \$2,000, but a chattel mortgage creditor came in, and when he is paid the \$1,200 he requires, there will not be 100 cents in the

dollar for other creditors, whose claims amount to some \$5,000. The firm has made an assignment.

A MEETING of the creditors of McIntyre & Davis, dry goods dealers, Aylmer, was to be held in London yesterday. The former was a clerk and the latter a farmer, who furnished, we are told, nearly \$3,000 capital. Since then his experience as a business man has not been pleasant. Unfortunately a fire occurred in their premises in Feb. last and resulted in a considerable loss. Since then they have found it difficult to make progress and an assignment has been made.

THE tunnel under the St. Clair River is a great thing for the Grand Trunk. The Port Huron Times says: There is a great car blockade in Port Huron at the present time. Every inch of available track room at the tunnel yards and at Griswold street is occupied, and trains are passing through the tunnel as fast as two monster engines can draw them. Port Huron elevators are furnishing to the Grand Trunk Railway 200 car loads of grain daily, and heavily loaded trains from the west are arriving every hour.

THE English mails from Canada by Canadian packet will be despatched from Halifax on Saturday of each week, instead of from Portland, beginning to-morrow. The mails from Montreal and offices west will require to go forward each Friday by the 8 o'clock a.m. train leaving Montreal. The sailing dates of the steamships from Halifax next month are

Labrador	Saturday, January 2
Nunivian	" " 9
Toronto	" " 16
Parisian	" " 23
Sarnia	" " 30

J. B. H. RICKAHY & Co., in the grocery trade for about two years or so in Montreal, have assigned on demand of Messrs. George Childs & Co. They attempted a first-class trade, fitting out nice premises on Beaver Hall Hill, but have not been able to make it work. Liabilities are \$13,762.—A. J. Martin, a Montreal plumber, makes an assignment, owing \$9,014. A country hotel-keeper, named E. Campeau, St. Marthe, Que., who assigned the other day, has had credit to the extent of \$9,408. Possibly he, certainly his creditors, will now wish that he hadn't.

A NUMBER of those ugly but economical craft known as "whalebacks" are to be built at Duluth for the Canadian Pacific Railway. They are described as package freight carriers, built, we presume, of steel, and are to ply between Gladstone, the eastern terminus of the

Soo road, and the lower lake ports. "The arrangement will benefit St. Paul and Minneapolis dealers in giving a new through service from the seaboard," carrying flour, doubtless. They are to be bigger and swifter than any thus far built; dimensions 420 feet in length, 42 feet in width, and 25 feet in depth.

It will be of interest to investors to know that the five per cent. debentures of the Equitable Mortgage Company are offered in denominations of from \$200 up to \$1,000 each by the Imperial Trusts Company of Canada. They are ten-year bonds, and the principal and semi-annual interest are payable in gold. This American company has a good reputation, and its debentures are secured by bonds, notes and liens on real estate, deposited with the Imperial Trusts Company. The business of the former is that of loaning on first-mortgages upon improved farm property in the United States.

THIS very unwinterylike winter—complaints of which, as affecting trade seriously, we have noted in recent reports of the fur market—is making itself seriously felt among the members of the fur trade. This week we note the embarrassment of two Montreal fur and hat dealers. Wm. Robertson & Co., a prominent firm on St. James street, are reported in trouble, and a firm of accountants are taking stock in the interest of creditors. Direct liabilities are said to be about \$18,000.—Risepert & Co., a smaller concern in the same line, on St. Lawrence Main St., have been asked to assign by Messrs. T. May & Co. They owe about \$4,500.

WE have gathered some particulars about Joseph Louchette, of St. Paul d'Abbotsford, Que. He was originally a country butcher, but the fires of ambition burned brightly in his breast. A few years ago he started also a store business, subsequently branching out into a shoe shop, blacksmith shop, and a bakery. Surely Joseph must have had that little nursery rhyme about "The butcher, the baker, and candle stick maker," running in his head pretty continuously, and strove to realize these characters. His efforts to control the business of the place have not proved successful, and now a cruel creditor asks him to assign. Liabilities are about \$10,000.

THE Montreal wholesale firm of Mills & McDougall, dealers in woollens, &c., called its creditors together last week, having made considerable losses by bad debts and become financially embarrassed. On Tuesday last the creditors assembled and a statement of the

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