

has proved so unprofitable that the Board has determined to close it, and are now accepting no renewals or new business in it. There will be bitterness, doubtless, in the minds of some members, over the heavy assessment now made in this branch to cover obligations incurred five or six years ago, and which the undertakings of that time and of the intermediate years properly looked after, should have been adequate to cover.

**PROFITABLE FARMING.**—Harriet Martineau published a book entitled, "Four acres Enough," intended to show that that quantity of land was sufficient for any one to make a good living off. The experience of Mr. W. B. Vanleit, of Lacolle, Que., tends to show that Miss Martineau was not so visionary as some people thought her. Off eight acres of land he harvested, this fall, 86 bush of barley, 96 of oats, 30 bushels of potatoes, and about 70 of corn, several bushels beans, and a quantity of peas, pumpkins, etc. The value of the produce thus obtained is placed at \$500, or say \$62 per acre. The *St. John Sun* gives a list of products raised by Mr. Clark, of Fredericton, on his ten acre lot last year.

**PRODUCTS OF TEN ACRES LAND IN FREDERICTON, N.B.**

3,750 doz. green corn, sold for.....	\$ 450
90 baskets shelled corn, sold for..	72
30 tons squash " ..	750
1,000 heads cabbage " ..	40
14 tons tomatoes " ..	1,800
228 bbls cucumbers for slicing....	337
98,000 pickling cucumbers, sold for ..	450
20 bbls. potatoes " ..	25
20 " onions " ..	45
28 " green beans " ..	45
5 " shelled " ..	20
500 heads cauliflowers " ..	30
Beets and lettuce " ..	8

Total ..... \$4,072

The cost of management, the freight, etc., of the portion sold outside of Fredericton have to be deducted, but these expenses were comparatively light. Outside of Mr. Clark's family, the labor bill will not exceed a few hundreds of dollars.

**YOUNG MERCHANTS.**—The Cincinnati *Trade List* offers some sensible advice to young business men. Many, it says, have taken advantage of the present return of prosperity, and, embarking in business, are now either on the high road to prosperity, or they will in a few years add to the never-ending procession of those who go down to ruin. The future is in the hands of each one, to be rich or poor, whether he may begin business with a few hundred or many thousands, and those who sell the goods will be guided to a considerable extent by the manner in which he may conduct his trade. Economy in the individual is essential not only in business expenses of all kinds, but in that of time, and he who wishes those in his employ to work on a good system, must set the example himself. There is an old adage—a place for everything and everything in its place—which is truth itself, and needs no explanation. Each employee should have certain duties, and be held responsible for them; and if neglect of any kind is reported, the trouble can be instantly traced to the proper quarter, and the remedy be applied. Economy should not go so far as to interfere

with the proper and necessary expenditures which all business demands, and without which customers will fail to be attracted or retained. The small, cramped shops of fifty years since would not be suitable now, in these days of necessary display, and therefore the money laid out in a tasteful arrangement of the interior of an office or store is well invested. The great desideratum is to catch the eye of the customer, and his curiosity being aroused, his list of purchases will probably be added, and if the article be really good and all that it pretends to be, it will be asked for regularly afterwards. The habit of saving grows on a man, and the pleasure of seeing his bank account increase will often induce the depositing in a bank of many a dollar which otherwise would have been spent foolishly. A decent bank account enables a young merchant to buy where he may be best served as a cash customer is his own master.

—The efficient surveyor of Customs at this port, Mr John Douglas, has received from the Department, we are informed, a handsome sum in recognition of his services as acting collector since removal of the late collector, Mr James E. Smith. This is well, as far as it goes, and we doubt not, is well-deserved; but it is much to be wished that the Government should display the boldness to break through custom and tradition whereby such appointments are given to influential politicians, and to give the berth to an officer in the service who is qualified by character, experience and ability to fill it. The *douceur* which Mr. Douglas has received is equivalent to saying to that gentleman "You have done very well for the past nine or ten months, and we take this method of acknowledging it. But although we cannot dispute your strong claim to the post, we cannot afford to appoint you collector. That berth must be reserved for some good party man."

—Testimony in favor of the progress made in selling for cash is found in a description of the condition of business in Albert county, N.B. The mercantile interests of Albert, (says a local journal,) were never in a more prosperous condition than at present. In the parish of Hopewell, at the Corner, in the year 1869, there was but one store, representing a trade of some \$4,000 or \$5,000 per annum. In 1880, there are ten stores, doing not less than \$60,000. Within the past five or six years, eight stores have been opened between Upper and Lower Corner; Hopewell Hill has two stores. Hopewell Cape one, and Riverside two stores. What appears to us to be the most encouraging feature of the whole, says the *Maple Leaf*, is, that while the trade is increasing rapidly, the credit system is rapidly dying out.

—The City and District Savings Bank of Montreal has reduced the rate of interest on all deposits to three per cent. This step is rendered necessary by the fact that the Bank cannot find advantageous investments at rates that would warrant a higher interest to depositors. It is stated that the Bank has had \$1,000,000 on deposit with the Bank of Montreal at 3 per cent. for some time, while allowing depositors four per cent for the same money. The total deposits in the institution are estimated at about \$4,000,000 credited to twenty thousand depositors.

—The *Engineering and Mining Journal* of the 4th, states that arrangements have been made with an American company of capitalists for the purchase of the Dominion of Canada Plumbago Works in Ottawa County. Also that one of the owners of the Hull Iron Mines has gone to New York to organize a company to establish smelting works at Ironsides.—Mr McMasters, of Arichat, N. S., claims to have found on his property a lode, six inches wide, of silver ore. Having had it assayed, in New York, it contains, he says, silver, galena, copper, and a trace of gold, to the value of \$100 per ton.—Messrs. Hall, of 15 mile stream, N. S., say that their last crushing gave 300 oz. gold from 50 tons of quartz.

—A case of more than passing interest to property owners and tenants, is now being argued before the Courts in Montreal. The case may be stated as follows.—A. leased a house from the Kirkwood estate, which house was subsequently sold at Sheriff's sale to B. who notified A. to remove. This A. refused to do, upon which B. applied for a writ of eviction to which A. made opposition and pleaded that the Sheriff's sale has not the power to break his lease, which was regularly made before a notary. Some of the most prominent legal talent is engaged on either side, and the case is exciting much attention, as a great difference of opinion has always existed on the point in dispute.

—A very marked advance has taken place in the price of cotton. In the last week of November a rise of 13 to 16 per cent, or one cent a pound was declared. Speculation in New York at that date was active; 1,515,300 bales were purchased that week for future delivery, as compared with 625,800 bales the previous week. Sales from Sept 1st to December 1st amounted to 7,640,000 bales, although the crop for the entire cotton year to end September 1881 is estimated at only 6,000,000 bales, and this is the largest yield ever known in the United States.

—At a meeting of the Montreal Corn Association, held last week, the report of the Committee upon the proposed amalgamation of the commercial corporations of Montreal, which had previously been considered and adopted by the Council of the Board of Trade, was submitted, and unanimously adopted. The name under which the amalgamated bodies will be incorporated, is the "Montreal Board of Trade and Exchange." A new and suitable building is likely to be built. Such a step would worthily indicate the importance and extent of the trade of Montreal, as well as the enterprise and public spirit of her merchants.

—An index of returning business activity and prosperity may be seen in the increased receipts from the sale of postage stamps. The sales at Montreal Post Office to Nov. 1st were some \$800 in excess of those for the corresponding two months for last year. The exact figures were \$120,954.50, as against \$112,927.50.