

A meeting of the creditors of Ferguson & Thibadeau, dry goods merchants, Chatham, Ont., was held at Toronto, Jan. 10th. Assets are placed at \$14,000, with liabilities about the same. In addition to a number of Montreal firms the chief creditors are Gordon, Mackay & Co., and Wyld, Grasett & Darling, of Toronto.

Alex. Troup, formerly in the employ of Murdock's Nephews, who are retiring from business in Halifax, has accepted a position with Manchester, Robinson & Allison, St. John, N.B. Mr. Troup will have charge of the new sample rooms in the Roy Building at Halifax, which Manchester, Robinson & Allison intend establishing at once.

The second failure of Lahey & McKenty, dry goods, Napanee, Ont., is reported. The first took place in August, 1896; then they settled liabilities of \$31,000 at a discount of 40 per cent. Since this time the firm has carried a heavy stock of goods with keen competition, and has not made any substantial progress, and the result is as above stated.

A. A. Fournier & Co., dry goods, Ottawa, are reported asking a settlement at 50 cents cash, or 60 cents spread over eighteen months. The present firm, in which Mrs. Fournier figures as the sole partner, dates from 1893. Previous to that Mr. Fournier was of the firm of Fournier & Forest, which failed, and were wound up. The liabilities are stated at \$48,000 with apparent assets of \$49,000.

The firm of John Macdonald & Co., wholesale dry goods merchants, Toronto, is celebrating this year its jubilee. It was during 1849 that the founder of the firm, John Macdonald, afterwards senator, began on his own account as a young man, in a modest retail way, at 103 Yonge street, west side, second door from Richmond street. Four years afterward the business was removed to Wellington street, north side, near Leader Lane, where it was wholesale only, and in 1862, to accommodate the growing trade, part of the present handsome premises was built.

The large wholesale dry goods firm of W. C. Pitfield & Co., of St. John, N.B., is in embarrassed circumstances and a statement is being prepared for their creditors. The financial difficulties of the firm have caused surprise, as it was generally believed that they were on a sound basis. The Merchants' and Dominion Cotton Companies are among the creditors, as also are many of the woolen mills throughout the country. The liabilities are expected to reach to somewhere between \$125,000 to \$150,000. The partnership was a limited one, Samuel Hayward being a special partner for \$30,000, and the term of partnership expired on the 1st of January.

The death recently of James Baylis, Montreal, removes one of the commercial landmarks of that city, in which he had lived for nearly seventy years, being aged 80 at the time of his death. While yet quite a young man he was a member of the old dry goods firm of Robert Campbell & Co. In 1859 he went into the carpet business himself, under the name of James Baylis & Co., and in 1866 the business of the firm was wound up. Mr. Baylis was a prominent member of the Board of Trade, and was a strong advocate of teetotalism, prominent in the Y.M.C.A., and a hard worker in religious and philanthropic circles.

—A carload of sheep was sent recently from Toronto, where it was collected, to Newfoundland. The Newfoundland Government is the purchaser, and the sheep, which are all registered, are made up as follows. Ten South Downs, 10 Shropshires, and 20 cotswolds. The men selling are some of the best breeders in Ontario for each class. This is a trial shipment, and is likely, if the sheep do well, to be followed by more. The experiments of the oldest colony in wool growing will be watched with interest.

—At the wool auction sales held in Antwerp, Jan. 11th, 4,200 bales were offered. The attendance was good and the bidding very spirited. Better cross-breeds advanced 5 and fine haired merinos 10 to 15 per cent. Owing to the limited supplies holders fixed high limits on their goods, and consequently only about half of the offerings were sold. Following are the sales in detail: Buenos Ayres—934 bales; 70 to 190 francs. Montevideo—614 bales; 80 to 220 francs.

### CHEMICALS AND DYESTUFFS.

The demand for chemicals is good for the season. The same remark applies to dyestuffs. Caustic soda is firmer; soda ash has advanced 10 cents per 100 lbs.; bluestone in sympathy with copper has had a sharp rise and is now quoted at 5½c. per lb; sumac according to cables receiver is up \$5 per ton; gambier owing to the manipulation of speculators is fully ¼c. per lb higher. The following are current quotations in Montreal:—

Bleaching powder .....	\$ 1 95	to \$ 2 00
Bicarb. soda .....	2 00	" 2 05
Sal soda .....	0 70	" 0 75
Carbolic acid, 1 lb. bottles .....	0 35	" 0 37
Caustic soda, 60° .....	1 75	" 1 80
Caustic soda, 70° .....	2 00	" 2 10
Chlorate of potash .....	0 13	" 0 15
Alum .....	1 35	" 1 50
Copperas .....	0 70	" 0 75
Sulphur flour .....	2 00	" 2 50
Sulphur roll .....	3 00	" 3 50
Sulphate of copper .....	4 50	" 5 00
White sugar of lead .....	0 07	" 0 08
Bich. potash .....	0 09	" 0 10
Sumac, Sicily, per ton .....	55 00	" 60 00
Soda ash, 48° to 58° .....	1 15	" 1 25
Chip logwood .....	1 90	" 2 00
Castor oil .....	0 09	" 0 09½
Cocoonut oil .....	0 06½	" 0 07

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Azo Colors—Naphthol Yellow, Orange, Scarlets, Fast Red.

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Phosphate of Soda	Refined Cutch A.K.C.

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