

that Mr. Drake, to whom an assignment had been made, should transfer the estate to the above named gentlemen, which was subsequently done, and Messrs. Riddell & Stevenson, accountants, will liquidate the estate under the instruction of the trustees. Losses on sugar are alleged as one cause of the stoppage, but this is a bagatelle compared to the "bleeding" of the business for personal extravagances. We do not wonder that creditors are angry.

With respect to the state of things in Prince Edward Island under the Scott Act, we find in an exchange the Government returns, showing the quantities of liquor that entered one way and another into home consumption in that Province in 1878, the year before the Act appeared there, and in 1882 and 1883, the two years that have elapsed since it came into full force: In 1878, beer, ale and porter, 66,445 gallons; 1882, 29,711 gallons; 1883, 19,505 gallons. This looks as though the Act were working well—a decrease of 65 per cent., in the consumption of malt liquors. But the whiskey figures tell a startling story, thus: 1878, 10,924 gallons; 1882, 19,366; 1883, 22,606 gallons. If the Act is to foster the drinking of whiskey rather than ale, it is rather an evil than a good.

A HOTELKEEPER, in Dresden, R. Tiffin by name, is reported as in financial trouble, and his furniture has been seized.—The business of the Canada Clock Co., at Hamilton, has been unsatisfactory for some time. At a meeting of shareholders a few days ago, it was decided to wind up the concern. It is believed that the available assets will pay about 60 per cent., and with some unpaid shares it is thought that creditors will not lose much.—The London drug firm of Mitthell and Platt was dissolved some time ago, Platt being now the sole partner. He has been in trouble and his creditors have agreed to write off one half their claim of \$4,000.—Cicero McConkey, general storekeeper, Straffordville, who was reported some time ago as having sold out, has, instead, compromised with creditors at 60 per cent.—A Toronto building firm, Phillips & Lean, are in difficulty, and a meeting of creditors has been called.

THE COAL TRADE.

During the week ended 12th, there has been a very fair trade in anthracite, but it closes rather quieter, as the temperature has not been so low as to make the demand active. We look for a reduced trade during the balance of this month, as the close season is upon us, and the future conduct of this important industry is not sufficiently defined to induce buying beyond immediate requirements. It will be noticed as a re-

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sult of the activity in trade in the past fortnight that the aggregate tonnage for this calendar year will be very nearly thirty-one millions of tons—really a very good showing. It may be remarked that 'lower prices' formulate the opinions of buyers at this period, and the coal trade must take warning; this means a changing of opinion as to possible cost of mining and delivery to the consumer. Pea, Buckwheat, and Culm make good steam, and those sizes are offered at much less figures than any bituminous coals which can be had. Broken is dull and slow of sale, egg is in fair demand, stove still holds up, and chestnut is moving off. Quotations discount the circulars, as usual. The amount of the domestic sizes placed this year has been greater than ever before.

There is nothing of great importance in the soft coal trade; there is the usual discussion of prices for another season, and the Clearfield folks say they are going to give anthracite a hard push. All is quiet in the Cumberland region, and the reduction is a matter of fact. The canal shipping season is over. The new treaty with Spain takes off a duty of fifty cents a ton on coal going to the West Indies, if it be agreed to. The B. & O. R. R. is lengthening its lines in the Connellsville and contiguous coal districts; it made a large profit on its P. & C. branch in the last fiscal year. The talk of reciprocity with certain Canadian provinces, will hardly amount to much; the U. S. would be the gainer so far as the coal trade is concerned, were reciprocity to govern the trade of the Canadian Provinces, in their entirety, with the States. The Pittsburg convention has agreed upon three cents per bushel as the rate for digging at the railroad pits.—*Coal Trade Journal.*

The pool between the New York Bankers and Merchants and Postal Telegraph Company has been dissolved.

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