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AN assignment has been made by Samuel Friend, liquor dealer, who has been in business in Collingwood for seven years. One year ago he claimed a surplus of \$7,800. This is a marked contrast to his statement now, which shows liabilities of nearly \$5,000, and nominal assets of \$2,000, and will probably cause a thorough investigation into his affairs.

ON the 3rd inst. about 1,300 men employed on the C.P.R. between Fort William and Vancouver struck work. They complain that the company's recent dismissal of 275 men was a direct blow aimed at the Union, most of the sufferers being Union men, and threats are being made to tie up the whole railway system. from Montreal to Vancouver.

JOHN PATTERSON, of Guelph, has made a proposition to the Hamilton city council, whereby he and his associates, on the granting of certain conditions, would within two years from the granting of the right of way build a first-class line of railway to Galt, connecting there with the Galt, Preston and Hespeler Railway, and further on, with the Preston and Berlin Railway, thus bringing within an hour's ride of Hamilton fully 70,000 people living in Galt, Preston, Hespeler, Berlin, etc. They would also construct immediately thereafter a line to Guelph, which would reach some 30,000 more.

THE Lachine Rapids Hydraulic and Land Co. have insured their plant for \$200,000, the greater part of this amount being placed with Canadian agencies; \$80,000 is placed with the Cotton and Woolen, Rubber and Industrial Mutual Insurance Company of Boston, and the balance divided amongst the Manchester, the British America, the Northern, the Commercial Union, the Liverpool, London and Globe, the North British and Mercantile, the Guardian, the Imperial, the Royal, the Caledonian, the London Assurance, the Queen's, the London and Lancashire, the Aetna, the Scottish Union and the Norwich Union.

FROM a report which has come to hand from Mr. Thos. Moffatt, Dominion Trade Commissioner in South Africa, we find that in 1899 the imports from Cape Colony were about \$96,000,000; from Natal, over \$33,000,000; Delagoa Bay, over \$10,000,000; total, \$140,000,000. This does not include British war material. The exports (including gold) were: Cape Colony, \$114,591,000; Natal, \$15,925,000; Delagoa Bay, \$7,000,000; total, \$137,739,000. There was only a slight reduction in the imports of Cape Colony itself, though quite a large reduction in the amount of goods entered there for transit to the Transvaal. The decrease of exports from 1898 is to be accounted for by the decreased diamond output and the export of other products of the Colony actually increased. Mr. Moffatt says that at present merchants have very small quantities of goods on hand, especially in Cape Colony, scarcely enough for present requirements. A very brisk demand, accordingly, is expected at the expiration of the present "unpleasantness."

## Debentures.

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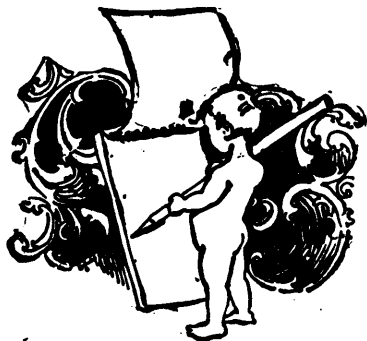
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