

MR. JOHN B. OSTELL, late accountant of the Royal Canadian Insurance company, leaves Montreal for Toronto to take the position of manager of the Union Mutual Insurance company of Maine, for Toronto and York county.

ONE of the largest sales made in this market for some time of coarse Liverpool salt, was effected during the past week by Messrs. Stanway and Bayley, brokers, of this city. The brand was that of Dean Bros., of Liverpool, and the quantity sold, in the neighborhood of 75 car-loads.

A. COWIE & SONS, tanners, Liverpool, N.S., compromised at 50 per cent., liabilities of \$23,000, their assets are \$16,000. This leaves them an apparent surplus.—At Sheet Harbor, in the same province, Mrs. Mary McKinnon, general storekeeper, has made an assignment.

WE learn that the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, of New York, has again extended its business to the Dominion, under the superintendence of Mr. W. Fairbanks, with headquarters at Toronto. The Metropolitan is the representative of industrial insurance on this continent, says the *New York Bulletin*.

IN accordance with the promise made by Sir Hector Langevin to the Winnipeg deputation, the improvement of Red River navigation is to be made a matter of investigation by Mr. Gouin of Winnipeg, and Mr. Sullivan of Ottawa. The *Manitoba Sun* hopes that their report will be of such a character as to justify the early prosecution of the work.

D. S. McDONALD, a young shoe dealer at Ailsa Craig, has assigned.—At Essex Centre, W. Powell, another shoe dealer who had more energy than capital, has made an assignment.—Johnston & Geach, general storekeepers at Fenelon Falls, were supposed to be doing pretty well but their assignment is just announced.

THE municipal authorities of Melbourne have decided to lay down a number of lines of cable tramways in that city, the probable cost of which will be a million and a half sterling. An English firm is now making for those lines two cables, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference, with a breaking strain of 150 tons per square inch of sectional area, one being about five miles, and the other nearly three miles in length.

THE Grand Trunk Railway has done much to make Stratford the city it is to-day, and its citizens to-days hows their appreciation in a marked manner, in addition to what they have already done. It is now proposed to grant the railway company \$100,000 as an inducement to remove all its repair and car shops to that city. A delegation has been sent to Montreal to interview Mr. Hickson on that subject.

THE property of M. J. O'Brien, carriage maker, Halifax, has been covered by bill of sale which was foreclosed at the instance of P. Walsh. The unmanufactured stock, tools etc. were sold by auction a few days ago. It would appear that O'Brien is practically out of business.—The Halifax Sugar Refining Co. has placed its property into the hands of Trustees to secure bondholders.

ONLY very weak attempts at boycotting have been made in this country. The practice, an infamous one, has been most vigorously condemned by the Master Workman of the Knights of Labor and has been summarily dealt with by the authorities in the United States. At the criminal court in New York, five boycotters were sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor in the State prison for periods of from three years to six months. In

pronouncing sentence the judge said: "The distribution of circulars before places of business with intent to injure the business of another is conspiracy, and punishable as such. Such conduct, if unpunished, would lead to savagery." The boycott is the coward's weapon and its use can, in most instances, be traced to the socialist and the communist.

C. MOODY, doing a small business in jewelry in Hamilton, compromised in March last at 60 cents in the dollar but failing to carry out his arrangement as to payments, he has assigned.—In the same city, Olmstead Bros., founders, finding themselves overloaded with stock tried to get an extension, but failing in this they have assigned.—At Killarney, Ont., Octave La Have, who kept a small store, is in trouble and has assigned.—R. W. Keeler, a long time in the general store business in Mitchell, has compromised at 50 per cent. He has been in ill health for some time.

THE business changes in Ontario this week are but few: D. Davidson, general storekeeper at Mount Forest, has sold out to Scott & Son.—H. P. Sanders, tailor, Barrie, has disposed of his business to one Whittaker.—John T. Mutchmore retires from the wholesale millinery firm of John D. Ivey & Co., London. The latter continues alone under the old style.—The general stock of Wm. Campbell, who was reported some time ago to have left Crosshill will be sold next week. Its value amounts to \$5,000.—Mrs. Gankell is winding up her millinery business at Berlin.

MR. T. WHITEHEAD has sold out his interest in the general store business of Whitehead & Whitelaw, at Brandon, to J. R. Strome. In future the business will be conducted by Messrs. Strome & Whitelaw. Before leaving the town Mr. Whitehead was made the recipient of an address and a number of valuable presents. We are told that it is his intention, after taking some rest and visiting European markets, to open an extensive store at his old stand in Walkerton.

MAYBE the burglar finds industry necessary, too, in order to make his living these days. There were three burglaries committed in Palmerston the other night. Mrs. Elliott, Mr. Lynch and Messrs. Wooldridge & Co.'s stores were broken into. Among the property stolen from Mrs. Elliott were seven watches which had been left for repairs, two new silver watches, her own gold watch, and her daughter's. E. Wooldridge & Co. lost a gold watch, \$6 from the till, and a number of rings. The rings were afterwards found near Mrs. Elliott's store. At Lynch's store the thieves got only a few cents.

SOME days ago, Inspector O'Leary, of the Dominion Detective force, returned from Trenton, Ont., with an alleged counterfeiter, I. B. Isaacs. When the detective tried to arrest the coiner, Isaacs drew a revolver and attempted to shoot the officer, but O'Leary jumped on him, threw him to the ground, and put the handcuffs on him. At his residence was found an immense quantity of Mohawk, Montreal, Dominion and other bank bills. A book showing the names and addresses of over fifty dealers in counterfeit money was also secured. Isaacs is said to be chief of a gang operating in various parts of the Dominion.

A MEETING of the creditors of Alfred Charland, general storekeeper at Yamaska, Que., was held in Montreal last week, when an offer of 30 cents on the dollar was decidedly refused, and the estate ordered to be sold. He owes \$12,400 to fifty-four creditors, and shows nominal assets of \$8,557. Mr. Charland has not taken stock for two years, and has never kept

a cash book, so that it is not difficult to understand why his affairs should be in bad shape. The refusal of creditors to compromise in this case is to be commended. The dealer had evidently bought too much, from too many people, bad policy, surely. But his neglect to keep a cash book and to take stock was far worse. Let all such incompetent merchants be relegated to positions for which they are more fit.

MERCANTILE failures in the Province of Quebec continue comparatively few in number; aside from that of A. Charland, noted elsewhere, we have to report:—Alexander Pare, dry goods, Longueuil, assigned owing \$5,500; he failed a couple of years ago in Montreal and compromised at 50 cents. A demand of assignment has been made upon P. Marcotte, St. Zephirin, N. Landry, of Joliette, is reported as embarrassed. John Sexton, general store, St. Nicholas, has assigned. H. L. Shoener, of St. Thomas de Pierreville, has assigned; liabilities about \$1200.

A JEWELLER in Seaforth, named C. L. Papst, whose effects were covered by chattel mortgage, has failed the second time.—L. B. Davidson ceased teaching school about five years ago and began storekeeping at Camilla. He had made some progress since but was not content to get along slowly. A new store was built at Mono Centre and a branch business started. This was too much for his small capital and he has assigned.—J. W. Sutherland, general storekeeper at Katrine, Parry Sound district, has failed. His assets exceed \$3,000. They will be sold by auction next week.

JOSEPH WILLIAMS, grist mills, etc., Glen Williams, claimed less than a year ago a surplus of \$35,000 and his statements were generally believed; but recent developments have had the effect of disturbing the confidence reposed in him. He did the most of his banking in Georgetown and it is stated that he owed a bank \$16,000, for which he put up as security warehouse receipts. The bank officials never suspected that the receipts were not "as good as wheat" until quite recently, when the grain was looked for and found wanting. About the same time Williams was also looked for, but in vain. He had skipped across the border. Last week the bank officials were informed that he was in Rochester where they had him arrested.

A GLOVE manufacturer in a small way at Orono, Jno. McComb, tried to effect a compromise at 30 per cent. This offer was declined by his creditors and he has assigned, with liabilities of \$2,500. The estate is a very poor one.—Chas. Trick, of Port Perry, left the farm and began the store business, at which he failed in 1882. After this he changed his occupation several times. His latest essay was as a general storekeeper and he has again failed.—After doing business for more than a dozen years as general storekeeper at Sault Ste. Marie, T. G. Vivian has assigned. He owned considerable property and was apparently successful.

FIVE months ago there was a gathering of eight men, representing \$500,000,000 of capital, in the parlor of Mr. Pierpont Morgan, in New York, and it was decided at that meeting to advance New York harbor prices for anthracite coal 25 cents per ton. But in spite of this combination of coal and rail capital the price would not go up. "By some righteous perversity of trade," says the *Philadelphia Record*, "prices continued to fall, and they now rule at \$3 for stove and \$2.75 for broken and egg coals in New York harbor." The cause of this decline, the *Record* says, is that