nothing to start on and has lost steadily. Liabilities about \$1,500.

MR. JERE. ROBINSON left this province some years ago and went to the North-West. In 1878 he opened a store in Enerson. In 1881 he disposed of his stock to Keller & Aikins. In November 1882 Robinson bought the business of Ashdown & Co., and Messrs. Keller & Aikins we admitted as partners. About a month ago Aikins withdrew and an inventory was begun, whereupon he left the town. The result of this stock-taking showed a shortage of \$16,000. Robinson called a meeting of his local creditors. His liabilities are estimated at \$60,000, of this sum \$33,000 belongs to the Emerson and the balance to the Winnipeg store. Among the creditors is a London firm which claims \$35,000. It is understood that an offer of 50 per cent. will be made and probably accepted.

THE American Lumber Company, of which the headquarters are in Toronto, and its operations chiefly carried on in Michigan, has assigned. This company was formed about two years ago, with a subscribed capital of \$1,111,000, the principal shareholders residing in Scotland. Mr. H. H. Cook was the principal promoter, and the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie was induced to take a place on the Board. Mr. Lockie was manager. There are various rumors as to the causes of the assignment, one of which is that a dispute about the kind of timber it was entitled to cut had much to do with it. The company claims a surmuch to do with it. The company claims a surplus, consisting 'chiefly of timber limits, difficult to realize upon. All the facts connected with the assignment will doubtless be revealed in time.—The British Canadian Lumber and Timber Company, which started into being under the same promotion and found starbholders. der the same promotion, and found stockholders in Scotland, has been placed in the hands of trustees. The Bank of Commerce is said to bave obtained a mortgage on the company's timberlimits and timber; the Quebec and Toronto banks are also interested. Mr. Lockie was also manager of this company. Last year, the Scottish stockholders sent out an agent to Canada to look after their interests; and it is understood that he did not find things altogether to his liking One difficulty seems to be that too much was paid for the timber berths, mills, etc It is understood that operations will be suspended till the Scottish stockholders can be satisfied that it is best to resume.

A CORRESPONDENT in Halifax, who is evidently well-informed, sends us the following under date 23rd inst.: "Commercial matters are looking rather blue, judging from the failures that have taken place recently. As is usual at this time of year, business being dull and a few failures occurring, people incline to brood and indulge in anticipations of bad times, Every failure which has occurred, however, had its origin in some special cause, not general. That of Burchill, at Sydney, arose principally from the failure of Beard and the Exchange Bank, which disarranged their coal operations. King Bros. is a concern which has been unsound for years W. H. Moore & Co. would have been in an easy position now but that they built an extravagant shop and a vessel, when they should have kept

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their capital for their business. The business of F. W. Chipman, dry goods dealer, who shows assets of \$68,000 against debts of \$53,000, has been weakened by imprudent competition with other merchants in Kentville. J. R. & G. M. Blanchard failed there six months ago, and now the last dry goods firm suspends. The firstnamed firm said openly that prices of goods were so low that they could not pay expenses. The Kings County farmers have a large crop of potatoes this year, a crop which has for several years brought them good prices. This year there is no demand in the States, and thousands of bushels are lying in the cellars awaiting a market. The apple crop of the district, too, was a partial failure. Meantime merchants are suffering, for accounts are not paid and sales are reduced. Davis & Sheehan, fish dealers, Halifax, who had work d hard and got into good credit, assigned with about \$13,000 to pay \$16,000. They speculated in Labrador—for that trade is almost pure speculation—and for several years lost money. This year, a loss of \$6,000 upon their ventures upset them. Th. ir local trade had kept them up."

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