

good catches were made. At Liverpool, also, the fish are plentiful, fifty barrels being landed to-day from a drag seine. The fishery at Pubnico and John's Island is still doing fairly. Bait is scarce again at Perce, Que.

Lobsters are still scarce in the northern districts, excepting at Point Escuminac, N. B., where fair hauls are reported; good at Cheticamp and St. Ann's, C. B., but poor at all other points along the coast. The catch is reported fair at Isaac's Harbor, N. S., good at Liverpool, and very good at Pubnico and John's Island. Excellent hauls are also reported from Briar Island to Black Rock, but the fish are falling off at Digby.

Herring continues scarce at nearly all the fishing stations. They are fine at Paspebiac, Que., and at Westport, N. S.

GOLD IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The value of the gold mined in Nova Scotia last year approached half a million dollars. According to Mr. Browne, the accountant of Public Works and Mines for the province, the returns so far as received by the department for 1890 show a yield of 24,358 ounces of gold, valued at about \$487,000. A statement, showing under different headings the amounts paid into the department of mines in 1890 from the undermentioned counties in connection with the gold mines of Nova Scotia, is as follows:

County.	Prospecting Licenses.	Rents and Rentals.	Gold Royalty.
Yarmouth	\$ 269	\$ 119	\$ 175
Guysborough	593	410	567
Lunenburg	2,169	433	39
Hants	2,578	534	1,964
Halifax	2,739	788	4,263
Queens	3,470	625	2,513
Colchester	4,674	1,223	
Other counties....	915	23	4
Totals	\$17,411	\$4,156	\$9,477

The total receipts by the Nova Scotia Government from this source are thus shown to be \$31,044.

DECISIONS IN COMMERCIAL LAW.

BARKER v. FURLONG.—In this case it has been decided that if a broker or auctioneer only settles the price as between vendor and purchaser of goods, and takes his commission, he is not liable as for conversion if the vendor is not entitled to sell. But where an auctioneer receives goods into his custody, and on selling them hands them over to the purchaser with a view to passing the property in them, he is to be treated as having converted the goods and is liable to an action accordingly, his case differing from that of a packing agent or carrier in that they merely purport to change the position of the goods and not the property in them.

COXON v. GORST.—After a company had been wound up under a compulsory order and dissolved, a creditor commenced an action against the late directors and official liquidator, seeking to make the directors liable for the alleged payment of dividends out of capital while the company was a going concern, or at any rate for the dividends received by themselves, but not alleging fraud. Held that the dissolution was, in the absence of any fraud being alleged, an absolute bar to the action.

COSSETTE v. DUN.—Persons carrying on a mercantile agency are responsible for the damages caused to a person in business when by culpable negligence, imprudence or want of skill, false information is supplied concerning

his standing, though the information be communicated confidentially to a subscriber to the agency on his application therefor. The amount of damages awarded by the judge who tries the case in his discretion in the court of first instance, should not be interfered with by a Court of Appeal unless clearly unreasonable and unsupported by the evidence, or there be some error in law or fact or partiality on the part of the judge. Such is the decision of the Supreme Court.

THE PEOPLE'S LOAN AND DEPOSIT CO. v. GRANT.—A mortgage of real estate provided for payment of the principal money secured on or before a fixed date "with interest thereon at the rate of ten per centum per annum until such principal money and interest shall be fully paid and satisfied." Held by the Supreme Court of Canada affirming the judgment of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, that the mortgage carried interest at the rate of ten per cent. to the time fixed for payment of the principal only, and after that date the mortgagees could recover no more than the statutory rate of six per cent. on the unpaid principal.

THE MONETARY TIMES.

The present issue marks the expiry of the twenty-fourth year of *THE MONETARY TIMES*. Begun in the year of Confederation, and growing steadily in public appreciation and patronage, this journal begins its 25th year with the desire and hope of further usefulness to the mercantile community. The 1,600 pages of the present volume contain a comprehensive resume of business events, financial progress, legislation and underwriters' proceedings.

Before another volume reaches our readers, we shall in all likelihood be installed in our new premises, corner of Church and Court streets. We propose to rebuild, enlarge, and fit up the present premises of the Freehold Loan Company to accommodate the growing business of *THE MONETARY TIMES PRINTING COMPANY, LIMITED*, its present quarters being entirely inadequate.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Congratulations are offered by the *Portage la Prairie Liberal* to Mr R. G. McDonald, who has been appointed western cashier of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Co., with headquarters at Winnipeg. The *Liberal* says: "We can recommend him to Winnipeg in the highest manner, although very sorry to lose such a useful young citizen."

Peter Dupont, of Montreal, has been appointed Inspector for the Province of Quebec of the Western Assurance Company of Toronto. He was one of the valued employees of the Citizens, having been with that company many years, and upon his departure he was presented with a handsome testimonial of esteem by his associates, Manager Heaton making the speech of the occasion.

At the firemen's demonstration at Seaforth on the 16th instant, the successful competitors in the hose reel race were: Blyth, time 1.13½, \$100; Stratford, G.T.R., time 1.16½, \$75. East Toronto, time 1.16, \$50. Hook and ladder race: Niagara Falls team, time 44½; Sarnia, time 46.

The life of the late Sir John A. Macdonald was insured in the Standard Life Assurance Company of Edinburgh for \$30,000.

The importance of life assurance to society

everywhere; its strengthening influence upon the sinews of social life; the solidity it imparts to all domestic institutions; the protection it affords to the laborers and the recreations of existence; the comfort it brings to the sacred fireside of home; the relief it pours out so abundantly upon the bereaved and suffering; the countless benefits it scatters along the pathway of life; the blessings it reserves for future sorrow—all these are now more truly perceived and more warmly appreciated than ever they were before.—*N. P. Willis.*

Mr. George Gooderham has been elected president of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company, to succeed the late president, Sir John Macdonald.

We learn from the *St. John Telegraph* of the death, in his 67th year, of Mr. John T. Allen, in past years a steamboat captain on the River St. John, then collector of Customs at Richmond, and more lately engaged in a large insurance business. He was a man of integrity and of excellent business ability.

HOW TO ORDER GOODS.

Perhaps the first thing to fix in the mind when about to order goods, is: Don't order too much; and the second: Don't be persuaded by a sanguine customer or by a traveller to order what you have reason to believe you cannot sell. When you are writing orders to a city house, take note of the following suggestions from *The Iron Age*. They will often smooth the way for you if attended to:

1. Write only on one side of the paper. The other side is apt to be neglected, and is inconvenient for reference after the order is filed away.

2. Do not mention a remittance and order goods on the same sheet of paper. The remittance goes to the cashier, and the statement that you sent it should accompany it to insure your getting credit for the amount. The order will go to the order clerk.

3. Do not send an order and a complaint about a former bill of goods, or a claim, on the same paper. The complaint must go to the claim clerk for adjustment, while the other goes to the order clerk. Write them on separate sheets of paper.

4. It is better not to write part of your order and then introduce some other subject foreign to the order, on the same sheet. The stock clerk who is getting out your order has no interest in any remarks which do not refer directly to the order before him.

5. Not signing orders is more common than one would suppose. It leads to much annoyance and delay. Even if you have a printed letter-head with your name and business on it, you should never forget to sign the order.

6. Stamp the envelope; the neglect of this often sends the letter to the Dead Letter office instead of its proper destination.

7. Write plainly. Do not crowd into the bottom of the sheet what you have to say, but take another sheet of paper if necessary to finish.

8. Give full particulars concerning the articles, so that no mistake need be by the salesman made.

9. Use common sense, and don't expect clerks to fully understand what you only half express.

—The rumor that the Canadian cordage factories had all been purchased by the Cordage Trust, known as the National Cordage Company, is denied most distinctly by the Montreal cordage manufacturers. It appeared last week in the *New York Times*.