

It was a painful surprise to many who had quite lately seen that gentleman in his usual activity, to learn of the death in this city a week ago of Mr. Benjamin Lyman, of the firms of Lyman Brothers & Co, Toronto, and Lyman Clare & Co., Montreal, drug merchants and paint manufacturers. Mr. Lyman was born in Maine sixty eight years ago, and came to Montreal while yet a boy. About 1830 the three brothers William, Benjamin, and Henry, entered into partnership as druggists in that city to continue a business which was then almost as old as the present century. The branch business in this city was established as Lyman Elliot & Co., in 1858, and became Lyman Bros. & Co. in 1870. The deceased gentleman was instrumental in establishing the Pharmaceutical Society, was a director of the Federal Bank, and in church affairs, in the temperance movement, and in various charitable directions was as prominent as he was energetic. His friendly and benevolent disposition had gained him many friends, not only in Montreal, his home, but wherever in Canada the requirements of a wide spread business or an extended acquaintance claimed his presence.

THE Atlantic port of the Alton Line of clipper ships to Glasgow, is now, for the winter season, Boston. The first one leaves that city, we understand, on the 15th instant.

THE receipts from the sale of cattle and sheep exported from Toronto to the markets of Great Britain during the present year, as stated by reliable authority, will approximate \$3,000,000. A very hopeful feature connected with the Canadian live stock trade is the order just passed in Council, exempting Canadian and American cattle from the objectionable clause in the Duke of Richmond's bill respecting contagious diseases of animals. This clause required the cattle to be slaughtered at the port of landing.

THE firm of J. G. Lynn & Co., boot and shoe manufacturers of Montreal, have again been placed in insolvency, with an indebtedness of \$25,000 or \$30,000, due almost entirely to local houses. If we remember well, their last failure was not more than three years ago, when a settlement at 62½ cents in the dollar was obtained.

As nearly as can be ascertained, the quantity of lumber handled by Toronto dealers during the past season was: in the local market, 25,000,000 feet; shipped to American markets, 15,000,000 feet; and to Western Canada markets, 12,000,000 feet, total, 52,000,000 feet. Prices during the season have been firm, but the margins were generally small.

THE Quebec firm of Dinning & Webster, whose failure we already have reported, has been forced into insolvency at the instance of Wm. Withall. Matters between the partners are not harmonious, and it is feared the estate will turn out poorly. Messrs. Rousseau & Tremblay have been attached, with liabilities of about \$35,000, of which \$20,000 is held by a Montreal and Quebec house. Wm. Tait, a prominent ship broker, is also insolvent, owing liabilities of about \$35,000, with assets of

\$25,000. Among smaller men may be mentioned Archd. Nichol, ship broker, A. Poulin, saloon keeper, and Adolphe Gagnon, grocer.

As additions to the list of cash storekeepers, we acknowledge circulars from Messrs. Conger Bros., of Belleville, who after fourteen years in business will close their credit accounts on the 1st January next. D. O. Bricker & Co. of Port Elgin, acknowledge that although they adopted the cash plan in 1875, they relaxed their rules so much as to give a "little credit now and then," and find they have been drifting back into the old foggy way again, which they see does not consort with cash professions and will be stopped, and dealing for cash or produce adhered to. Another retail dealer writes us, that he is convinced of the need for the change to a cash basis, and hopes to find it succeed with him in 1879. Messrs. Smith & West, of Seaford, also advertise to sell for cash strictly, and the merchants of Woodville declare their purpose to do business only for cash after 1st January next.

It is complained that cutting of freight rates on through freights from the West to Liverpool is being resumed. When the recent advance of 5 per cent. was made the through rate, from Chicago to Liverpool, for provisions, was from 75 to 85 cents per 100 lbs., according to route; last week contracts were made at 60½ to 65 cents. There are also reasons for believing, says the *Bulletin*, that through shippers at the West are getting some advantages which are not conceded to those of New York. If this sort of discrimination goes on, the arrangement between the trunk line will not long hold out.

In about ten weeks, beginning with September, Prince Edward Island exported 759,419 bushels of potatoes. Of this large product 576,188 bushels were sent to the United States; 147,721 bushels to Nova Scotia; 11,374 bushels to New Brunswick; 23,050 bushels to Newfoundland; and 1,080 bushels to Bermuda. The price of oats being lower than for many years, 27 to 28 cents, not many were shipped.

The third American Commercial Convention of the year has begun its sittings at New Orleans. Its object is to promote commercial intercourse between the Mississippi Valley and South America. The probable outcome of the Convention, if properly conducted, will be the establishment of a steamship line between New Orleans and Brazil, and it is stated upon good authority that a prominent Eastern shipbuilder is prepared to put \$250,000 cash into the projected line.

THE catch of fish in Newfoundland appears to be short, and it is certain that trade there is dull. The exports of fish from St. John's from 1st August to Nov. 9 were 294,463 qtls., against 193,099 for the corresponding period of last year. The export to Foreign Europe was 25,626 qtls. in excess of that of last year; to Brazil, 18,448 qtls. deficient, and to the British West Indies 7,757 qtls. also deficient. The imports are reported about the same as last year.

BRUCE county is moving in the matter of

creameries. A meeting of merchants and farmers was held on the 29th ult. at Ripley town hall to discuss the propriety of building creameries in that township, in view of the unsatisfactory results from butter-making during the past season. It was concluded to be desirable to establish one or two butter factories in the vicinity, and a committee of six influential farmers was appointed to discover the most favorable sites and the quantity of milk that would be furnished by neighboring residents. A further meeting is to be held on December 20th.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made, we understand, by Messrs. H. & A. Allan, with the Intercolonial Railway, for the carriage of butter and cheese over this line, which enables them to take freight of that character, *via* Halifax to Liverpool, at 60s. about the same rate as *via* Portland. This route saves the trouble and expense of bonding. Besides, it gives our winter port a chance of showing its capabilities.

THE works of the Oshawa Malleable Iron Company have had large additions made to them of late, the plant having been increased to double its original capacity. It is stated by a local paper, that the concern is now able to supply the whole of Canada with malleable iron in the forms in which it is most in demand from the company both here and in England, viz., castings for all descriptions of agricultural implements, patent screw wrenches, hinges, etc. The premises cover over four acres of ground, and give employment to 100 persons.

SINCE our last we note twenty six attachments issued against Canadian traders; 15 in Ontario, 6 in Quebec, and 5 in Nova Scotia. Fourteen assignments were made, 9 in Ontario, and five in Quebec. Six deaths of merchants are noted within a week, an unusual number. Very few traders have sold out or gone out of business, only four, two of them grocers, one foundry firm, and one lumber firm sold out retail business. George Horne, stationer, Montreal, has assigned, with \$12,000 business obligations, and as much more speculative transactions and endorsements. N. Mercer & Co., met their creditors; S. G. Haskett & Co., produce dealers are attached. In this city, J. C. Gibson, builder and Isaac Cockburn, lumber dealer have assigned. Adam Gordon, for 22 years a grocer in Woodstock, has sold out to Watson & Ross; M. M. Nesbitt, of the same place, grocer, sells out to W. Millman, from Hamilton, where he was with Messrs. Stuart & McPherson.

THE rumours afloat in Montreal last week about a bank director being in embarrassed circumstances had reference to C. J. Coursol, Esq., the member for Montreal East, and a director of La Banque du Peuple. His troubles are believed to have been brought about by operations in bank stocks and real estate. His indebtedness to the bank is said to amount to about \$50,000, and about as much more outside. It is said that negotiations are pending and that some settlement will be speedily arrived at.

It has been a matter of constant wonder to strangers, that such important stands as those