

Mrs PELOQUIN, a Montreal milliner, has become involved and her effects have been seized by the landlord. She owes some \$1,200 and has assets nominally of \$600.

F. MAILHOT, general storekeeper of St. Cecile de Levard, has made an assignment. He owes \$5,800, with apparent assets to about the same figures. An offer of 70 cents on the dollar will likely be accepted.

A suit against the Grand Trunk Railway, claiming \$3,000 damages, has been brought by a Mr. J. S. Fagan. The plaintiff alleges that he was illegally put off the train between Hamilton and Toronto. At the Civil Assizes the plaintiff was non-suited.

E. L. HUNTING, who carried on, for a short time, a small knitting factory at Huntingville, Que., writes from Manitoba that he has handed over his assets to W. H. Hunting for the general benefit of his creditors.

LIVINGSTONE, MALONE & Co., a Sherbrooke grocery firm, dating from some time last year, is reported to be in deep water and about to assign. One Sorel, who was the monied partner went out last January, and they seem to have had considerable trouble since then to work along. They never commanded a large amount of confidence, and the failure is not favourably spoken of. Liabilities stated at \$3,000 to \$4,000, assets about \$1,800.

SAMUEL PRABODY, at one time a moderately prosperous store keeper of Mansonville Que., who had retired a few years ago, but resumed business last spring with much diminished resources, has already succumbed. A meeting of his creditors was held in Montreal last week, at which he offered to pay his indebtedness of \$5,700 at the rate of 25 cents on the dollar. He shows assets of only \$1,800, and it is hard to account for such a deficiency in so short a business experience. There is a disposition on the part of some larger creditors to look closely into his affairs.

It is claimed that the charges for the transmission of messages, made by the Anglo American Cable Co. in Prince Edward Island are excessive and that the promoters of the Canadian Rapid Telegraph Company are endeavoring to secure a half a million dollars of capital to start an opposition line. Cheap telegraphy is the basis of the new concern. The promoters are the Hon. Peter Mitchell, P. J. Brown, Ingersoll; John S. McLean, Halifax; Josiah Wood, M.P. Sackville, N.B.; John C. Harris, Moncton, N.B. and John Tugs, Senator J. S. Carvell, Samuel Prouse, M. P., P. E. Island.

D. B. CHISHOLM, of Hamilton, a lawyer, insurance-president and contractor, is said to be missing. He owed a considerable sum to the Exchange Bank, and when that institution came to grief, he was placed in an embarrassed position. It is also alleged that he made an improper use of funds entrusted to him. He hurriedly left the city, under the pretence of attending to the affairs of Geo. Bible & Co., contractors, of which firm he was a member. The different companies in which he was interested, with the exception of Bible & Co., will not suffer to any great extent. His whereabouts is at present unknown.

THE culture of the grape continues to increase in the province of Ontario. It would be safe to say that, at the present time, nearly one thousand acres are under cultivation; of this quantity about one-fifth is located on Pelee Island in Lake Erie. Mr. J. S. Hamilton, of Brantford, who has just returned from the island, reports the grape crop a very small one, the Catawba being only about one-fourth, and the harder varieties one-half the usual yield. The reason given for this short vintage is the prevalence of rot and mildew caused by the continuous rains in the early part

of the summer. The Pelee Island vineyards have, however, not been touched by the frost, but those on the mainland are much damaged. A very different state of things exists in the Hudson Valley, where the crop of Concord grapes is said to be nearly one half more than ever before known. The wholesale price of the fruit has ranged as low as 2 cents per pound. Tons of the fruit are being stored in barns and cellars.

FRANK E. DEWEY, — of dubious antecedents and as it would now appear of several *aliases* in other cities that he has favored with his presence—who for a year or two back has been operating in cheese &c. in Montreal, has left the city under a cloud. Various rumors are rife as to forged bills of lading, representing alleged shipments of cheese to Liverpool, and there is no question that one city bank will likely suffer to the extent of about \$30,000, while his total local liabilities will probably reach to somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50,000. It now transpires that Dewey is an Israelite of German birth, and unfavorably known in Liverpool, New York and Chicago. The Montreal trade was aware to some extent of his record, and was very guarded in its dealings with him, and thus avoided loss. He has also been shipping from Boston, and it is very probable has made victims there as well.

It is just within the bounds of possibility that certain portions of the Province of Quebec may become as noted oil producing regions as Petrolia in the sister province, or even Bradford and Oil City in Pennsylvania. It would appear that certain parties have been struck with the general similarity of the country in the township of Roxton, Que., with that of the oil producing regions of Pennsylvania, and an American oil expert who has carefully prospected the district for oil indications, has been very favorably impressed with the result of his investigations. Indeed his report is so favorable that a company of American capitalists has decided to test the matter thoroughly. They have bonded some 9,000 acres of land at \$25 an acre, and a royalty on the oil production, should their operations result successfully. Machinery for drilling and all other necessary apparatus are to be brought from Philadelphia, and during the fall and winter shafts will be sunk at various points to a depth of 2,500 feet if necessary in a section measuring some twelve miles long by four miles wide. We need hardly say that these operations will be followed with the closest interest, and will direct attention to a district which has been hitherto regarded as poor in agricultural or other natural advantages.

SOME time ago a lady purchased a bill of goods at a leading retail store on King street in this city, promising, it is said, to pay cash on delivery. The order was completed but the customer being unable to fulfill her promise the matter was allowed to remain in suspense. Subsequently a series of payments were made, on account, which reduced the indebtedness to \$70. As some tardiness was displayed in making the final payment the merchant became impatient and instructed his collector to call at the lady's house and upon gaining an entrance remain there until the money was paid or a satisfactory explanation given. The zealous employee, on being admitted to the house, waited, it is alleged, twelve hours, and only left when the lady's champion threatened to do him grievous bodily injury. Now the ire of the fair customer is aroused. She institutes proceedings at the current assizes for the sum of \$1,000 which she claims as a recompense for trespassing on her property. The jury awarded her a verdict of \$180. We cannot sympathize much with the storekeeper. No doubt his patience was

severely tried, but he took very unwise and unbusiness-like measures to obtain the desired end. He should have had recourse to the court and allowed the strong arm of the law to enforce payment.

THE style of the following letter speaks for itself. It needs no comment. Our readers can each determine for himself the kind of treatment it deserves, which can be no other than that of silent contempt:

BERLIN, Ont., Sept. 26 1883.

T. G. FOSTER & Co., Toronto,—Sirs your uncalled for piece of Impertinence to hand and contents noted we did not ask you *puppys* to Send us Circular nor quotation of Hair Cloth. Nor did we ask for Circular recommending us to purchase from you neither did we wish I. I. S. Consulted who to sell To as you know yourself without you hurling Dirty insinuations to that effect I would not Expect nothing Else of Either yourselves or J. J. S. *Small fry potatoes*. generally find Each Other without our Direction. & now let me Tell you for yourselves only why should we buy from *pups* who pay more for goods themselves than we can buy or do buy at. you T. G. F. can bet the few Coppers you have that you wont get suddenly rich out of what we will buy from you for reasons as above stated. You may suit for the scum of the trade but that is all as far as I. I. S. H. C. production is concerned I believe it to be like yourself *Small*. & suited particularly to your trade capital &c &c It is a big undertaking I. I. S. & yourselves are undertaking with the capital both yours possess to bulldoze this Canada of ours. Trusting you will learn common decency enough after you are in Canada a few years longer & learn to know that we have more in Canada than the Scum of England only Or shoddy men Either

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LIQUIDATION in the matter of the manufacture of barbed wire, is apparently not yet at an end. The Washburn & Moen Company of Chicago was, a few days ago, granted a temporary injunction restraining the Lyman Manufacturing Company from making any more of the wire until 1st Jan. 1884. It appears that the licensee of the latter company stipulates that only 2,500 tons per year of wire could be manufactured but it has already turned out 3,100 tons. This violation of the contract will render necessary the closing of the works for three months. This suit is a retort to the numerous bills filed by licensees to get out of paying royalty on account of the secret agreement made by the Washburn & Moen Company with Jacob Haish, and it is probable a number of other suits of the same kind will be begun. There is a prospect, also, of a large amount of other litigations, as it has been decided that the licensees need not pay more than Haish pays, notwithstanding their contract.

THE business community was greatly surprised the other day when it was announced that the estate of the late Noah Barnhart was insolvent. He was generally reputed to be wealthy and always enjoyed excellent credit. Now it is learned that his liabilities are about \$100,000. Much sympathy is expressed for Mr. Hugh Chisholm, who managed the general store business at Meaford, carried on in the name of H. Chisholm & Co., the late Mr. Barnhart being a partner. That concern had always been profitable, and taken by itself, is in a splendid position with a good surplus. But instead of a surplus, Mr. C. finds to his surprise a large deficiency, as the name of H. Chisholm & Co., appears on the back of notes amounting to about \$70,000. The general creditors in this matter are at a disadvantage, as the banks' rank on both estates. The grain business in Collingwood, carried on by Mr. McDonnell, of which Mr. Barnhart was also a partner, is in a more fortunate position. It was not mixed up with other business, and it is believed to have a surplus. The Meaford store will be continued as formerly by Mr. Chisholm, Jr. It is expected that the creditors will accept from him 60 per cent. for the stock, and 75 cents on the dollar for the book debts.