

the midst of a tedious commercial crisis, and the commercial treaties between Great Britain and France were threatened with termination. The state of affairs at home supplemented these foreign complications with other anxieties. After three years of very bad crops, a crop slightly above the average encountered exceedingly low prices, being sold 20 per cent. lower than the year before. The consequent depression in the agricultural interest made itself widely felt. Then in October came the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank, entailing a net loss of over \$30,000,000 upon its creditors, and carrying with it a number of important houses. A wide-spread distrust resulted, which was intensified in December by the failure of the West of England and South Wales Banking Company, with its nearly fifty branches, inflicting a loss of about \$10,000,000 and creating much distress. Smaller banks followed, and the aggregate of failures reached a large sum. All through the year there was an almost unbroken succession of labor conflicts. The outlook for the new year is not encouraging. Foreign politics are more settled, but the demoralization of trade relations growing out of the embarrassed affairs of Germany and Russia is increasing; the agricultural prospect is uncertain; the financial community is depressed; the manufacturing interests are still beset by difficulties; and the experience of another year of dullness and inaction, accompanied by heavy loss on invested capital, is certain. Ultimately these disadvantages must be overcome, but the immediate prospect is far enough from being a bright one.

— Herr Krupp, the famous German gun-maker, has just eclipsed all his former efforts by constructing a new steel cannon, which is the largest piece of steel ordnance yet made. It weighs 72 tons, is 32 feet long, and has a calibre of 21½ inches, while that of the English 80-ton gun is only 18 inches. The charge for this monster gun is to be 385 lbs. of prismatic powder, the projectile being a chilled iron shell weighing 1600 pounds and having a bursting charge of 22 pounds of powder. The force of the shot on leaving the gun is estimated at 31,000 foot tons, and it is calculated that when pointed at an angle of 43 degrees with the horizon the gun will throw its projectile a distance of 15 miles. The forthcoming trials will take place on a range 11 miles long, and the targets will have to be placed at such a distance that the gun will have to be directed by other means than the visibility of the object to be hit.

SOMETHING LIKE A FRAUD.—Some time ago two men by the name of Steinhart were looking in this section for a bonus of \$10,000 or so to start a silk factory. They tried Brockville, and nearly succeeded, but the bubble got burst; they tried Gananoque, with like result; and a large number of other places received attention. Simcoe was the first place to "bite," the others refusing to do anything but "nibble." And now, alas! the Simcoettes feel that if it is not a fraud, there is at least a pretty big "sell" for the merchants and others who expected to reap the benefits of the increased population, for no sooner did the Messrs. Steinhart see the by-law safely passed than they stocked a general store, and notified their employees that all the factory hands would be obliged to buy at their store. So much for giving bonuses.—*Ottawa Free Press.*

— The following advice to drinkers is taken from a Kentucky Temperance Lecture: Bar-keepers in this city pay on an average \$2 per gallon for whisky. One gallon contains an average of 65 drinks, and at 10 cents a drink the poor man pays \$6.50 per gallon for his whisky. In other words, he pays \$2 for the whisky and \$4.50 for handing it over the bar. Make your wife your barkeeper. Lend her \$2 to buy a gallon of whisky for a beginning, and every time you want a drink go to her and pay 10 cents for it. By the time you have drank a gallon she will have \$6.50, or enough money to refund the \$2 borrowed of you, to pay for another gallon of liquor, and have a balance of \$2.50. She will be able to conduct future operations on her own capital, and when you become an inebriate, unable to support yourself, shunned and despised by all respectable persons, your wife will have enough money to keep you until you get ready to fill a drunkard's grave.

INSURANCE.—FIRE RECORD.

Point du Chene, N.B., Feb. 12.—A house occupied by Dimock Brown, also two houses adjoining this—one occupied by Harney and one vacant—totally destroyed. No insurance.

Musquodoboit, N.S., Feb. 13.—R. Taylor & Sons' tannery, Musquodoboit, destroyed. Loss about \$2,000; no insurance.

Moncton, N.B., Feb. 13.—The houses of John Matthews and John Keenan considerably damaged.

Winnipeg, February 21.—A fire occurred in the Hudson Bay Co.'s unfinished building from the furnace; loss \$500.

London, Ont., February 24.—Appleton's furniture factory, destroying a frame work shop in rear and a considerable stock of manufactured stuff. The firemen, using the water-works hydrants, did magnificent service, quenching what once promised to be a great fire in a few minutes. The loss is fully covered by insurance.

Port Elgin, Ont., Feb. 20.—The barn and contents, of Arch. McAllister, destroyed. Loss \$600; insurance, \$100.

Hanover, Feb. 20.—John Flood's tin shop. Totally destroyed, some of the goods were saved. Beaver River, N. S.

Yarmouth, N.S., Feb. 20.—The Baptist church with contents, including a valuable organ, destroyed.

Quebec, Feb. 21.—The dwelling house of Mr. Joseph Rouillard, farmer, of St. Victor de Tring, Beauce, has been destroyed by fire. Mr. Rouillard lost, besides the building, a large quantity of grain, and over 200 bushels of potatoes.

Annapolis, N.S., Feb. 25.—An unoccupied house owned by Captain Daniel Lynch, destroyed.

Yarmouth, N.S., Feb. 25.—A building on Lovitt's Wharf, owned by Lovitt & Co., and occupied by Law & Co. and J. Weddleton, was totally destroyed. The goods are principally saved. No insurance.

St. Thomas, Ont., February 19.—The steam flouring mills of Weldon, Linn & Liven, entirely destroyed. Total loss about \$8,000; insured in the Royal of England for \$2,000.

ASSIGNMENTS.—ONTARIO.

Alex. Bowie, wood, Ottawa.

Wm. W. Stirling, Burnstown.

Speck & Lett, Ottawa.

James Jeffers, Alliston.

W. J. Shaw & Co., wholesale groceries, Toronto

Francis Irwin, Orangeville.

Samuel Beattie, Stratford.

Ed. Bannister, drugs, Brampton.

Jno. Thompson, Toronto.

Arthur Garden, Thorold.

E. McCoy, gunsmith, Prescott.

Dunham, Wilson & Co., Stratford.
W. F. McCollam, Georgetown.
S. Starham, Milton.
J. & M. Beattie, St. Thomas.
Geo. McLeish & Co., Toronto.
A. Washington, Lindsay.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Pierre Drolet, St. Charles.
Chas. Boucher, shoes, St. Johns.
Jos. Fielding, groceries, Quebec.
Chas. McAdam, stationer, Montreal.
E. Lyman Mills, Montreal.
Jno. D. Grange, Coteau Landing.
A. F. Adams, Conticook.
T. Pierce, boots and shoes, Stanstead.
L. D. Vézina, contractor, Quebec.
Jos. Charette, Montreal.
A. S. Barston, Montreal.
J. A. Cushing, wood, Montreal.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

D. P. Woodworth, general store, Bewick.
Hy. Achilles, Parker's Cove.
A. McNeil, saw mill, Berwick.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

George Buck, Moncton.

WRITS OF ATTACHMENT.—ONTARIO.

Wm. McElroy, general store, Richmond.
Thos. H. Fitzsimmons, jeweller, St. Catharines.
Alex. Todd, London.
S. P. Groat, London.
Malcolm Mackinnon, Tiverton.
Geo. Pearce, Windsor.
J. & A. McKee & Co., Balsover.
C. H. Robinson & Wm. H. Dunham, Stratford.
Thos. Cain, London.
S. Burley, Rockwood.
W. C. Brown, Simcoe.
J. G. Woodland, Toronto.
F. & C. Trude, Lindsay.
J. H. Johnston, Dresden.
S. C. Colling, boots and shoes, Toronto.
Robinson & Dunham, Stratford.
C. Goddin, Renfrew.
A. W. Lellar, Brantford.
Jos. Pullan, Barrie.
J. Silver, Goderich.
B. & J. Wintermute, Sarnia.
Jos. McGavran, Plantagenet.
Law & Weston, Chatham.
R. D. Davison & Co., Carleton Place.
R. C. Armstrong, Owen Sound.
A. Sinclair, Southampton.
Squier, Whittier & Jeffs, grain, Belleville.
A. McMillan, hardware, Kingston.
Michael Kirkpatrick, toys and fancy goods, Kingston.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Hy. L. Loucks, Hull.
E. Charest, Montreal.
Oliver, Gibbs & Co., flour and commission, Montreal.
J. E. Townsend, Montreal.
P. A. Murphy & Co., wholesale leather, Montreal.
B. P. Fleming, St. Cuneogonde.
A. Dauphinais, Sorel.
M. Paquette, wine, Montreal.
H. Bourque, butcher, Point St. Charles.
Isaac Rozand, tailor, Montreal.
J. & D. Ripstein, River Beaudette.
P. H. Rowland, Montreal.
Jno. Wilson, miller, Ascot.
J. Kennedy, contractor, St. Cuneogonde.
T. E. Lacerte & Co., Three Rivers.
J. B. O. St. Amour, St. Océle.
R. Gardner & Son, Montreal.
Louis A. Lesieur, groceries, Montreal.
John B. Lane, stationer, Montreal.
Thos. W. Odell, groceries, Sherbrooke.
Canadian Meat and Produce Co., Sherbrooke.
N. Hosking, boots and shoes, Sherbrooke.
John Wilson, miller, Ascot.
A. Armstrong, general store, Windsor Mills.
Geo. Sherman, Robinson.
John Price, butcher, Montreal.