

THE Annual report of the Dominion Cattle Company, shows it has over 37,000 head of cattle on the North-West range, valued at \$933,000. The company divided \$400,000 in profits in the first three years; this year's dividend is \$80,000, or 10 per cent. on the capital. The sales during the year amounted to \$154,473. The company has 500,000 acres under lease.

A firm of woollen manufacturers at Rockwood, Messrs. Harris & Co., who, by the way, enclose their subscription for this journal up to 1886, have nothing remarkable to say about their local business, which is about as usual, but "have found great dulness with orders from wholesale houses this fall. We are, however, running full time till March."

REFERRING to the item respecting phosphate in our last issue, part of which was taken from the *Aylmer Times*, a correspondent writes us: "As there is no phosphate business done in Aylmer, I take the liberty of making a correction. Nine-tenths of the phosphate shipped from the Ottawa Valley this year, passes through Buckingham village and is mined in the townships of Buckingham, Portland, East and West Bowman, McGill, Lochaber and Derry."

THERE are some changes to note among New Brunswick traders. A. J. Venner, of Campbellton, has assigned with liabilities of \$9,000 and nominal assets of \$6,000.—Joseph Graves, Port Lorne, N.S., has assigned; position of his estate not known.—Hannah Ritchey, a trader at Kempt, N.S., has also assigned.—George M. Power, of Annapolis, N.S., has assigned.—J. R. McDonald & Co., jewellers in Halifax, have made an assignment; liabilities about \$5,000; nominal assets about the same.

AN exchange of the *Railroad Gazette* has the following on crazy quilt advertising: The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Co., has adopted a delicate method of rendering its line popular with the ladies. Upon bits of white silk, about 4 in. square, is stamped the picture of a wild scene to be witnessed upon the road of this company. A small card-like space in the upper left-hand corner bears the name of the company. Every lady who is so fortunate as to secure one of these bits of silk for her "crazy quilt" will always thereafter think and speak of the St. Paul with favor.

THE Allan Line continues to add to its fleet of ocean steamers. The latest addition is the *Carthaginian*, lately built at Govan, which went down the river on December 3rd, to make a trial trip. The test of her speed, made by the usual runs between the Cloch and Cumbræ Light-house, was highly satisfactory. The *Carthaginian*, in many respects a similar steamer to the *Siberian*, quite lately added to the Allan line, measures over 4,000 tons; has her saloon amidships, and is fitted with all the latest improvements that conduce to comfort and safety. She will probably ply from Glasgow to Boston and Glasgow to Quebec.

THE works of the Toronto Electric Light Company are well worthy a visit. They are situated on Sherbourne st., near King, in a large brick block which, though a quiet and orderly enough premises by day, is at night transformed into a humming, whizzing workshop, sparkling with electric energy. It is best seen, of course, at night, when five steam engines are busy driving dynamo-machines, producing currents of electricity for the lighting of some 240 lamps in all parts of the city. There are various circuits, and the dynamos used are those of the Thomson-Houston, the Vandepool and the Excelsior systems. The Toronto Electric Light Company results from the amalgamation of two concerns, that formerly shared the contract for city lighting which this company now has. We believe

that it is now on an economical and business-like footing which gives promise of success, whether in furnishing illumination or manufacturing electric light plant. The directorate of the company consists of Messrs. A. H. Campbell, president; E. Strachan Cox, vice-president; John Leys, of Rice Lewis & Son; Samuel Trees, of Samuel Trees & Co.; David Blain, president Central Bank; D. Mitchell McDonald, barrister; L. Bolster, assistant local manager Canadian Bank of Commerce; H. P. Dwight, general manager Great North-Western Telegraph Co.; H. M. Pellatt, of Pellatt & Pellatt. The manager is Mr. J. J. Wright, who has a thorough knowledge of the business, gained in American cities.

THE SQUARE MAN.—The following is Josh Billings' description of a "square" man in lumber parlance:—"The square man mezzures the same each way, and has no wainy edges or shaky lumber in him. He is free from knots and wont warp. He is clear stuff, and I don't care what you work him up into, he won't shrink. He is among men what good kiln-dried boards are among carpenters—he won't crack. It makes no difference which side you approach him, he is the same bigness each way, and the only way to get at him is to face him. He knows he is square, and spends no time in trying to prove it."

IN Quebec Province we note the following business difficulties, &c.: F. X. Bertrand, a general dealer of St. Croix, has assigned, owing \$4,100; assets, \$2,972.—J. R. Michaud, general store, Carleton, has called a meeting of creditors.—Noel & Ferland, cabinet-makers of Montreal, have compromised at 30 cents.—At Quebec, F. V. Lacroix, shoes, has settled at 50 cents.—The estate of W. W. Beckett, hardware dealer, Sherbrooke, one of the oldest and best known traders of the place, is being wound up, and the stock has been sold to Lucke & Mitchell at 54½ cents on the dollar.—At Buckingham, J. A. Dent, a general dealer, has assigned.

SAMUEL STERN, wholesale fancy goods dealer in this city, has assigned. Nearly two years ago he claimed a surplus of more than \$20,000. Since that time there must have been a great shrinkage in his assets, for it is now stated that the estate will be a poor one.—In Woodstock, Dickinson & Cranston, stationers on a considerable scale, are offering creditors 62½ per cent. in settlement. About a month ago a fire occurred on the premises of the firm and they claim to have lost more than \$4,000. Their assets and liabilities are each about \$11,000.—Philips & Lean, builders in this city, who have been gradually getting behind, have assigned, with assets of \$25,000 and liabilities of more than double this sum. Creditors are likely to receive a very small dividend.—W. H. Bullen, manufacturer of overalls in Toronto, finds his stock seized and removed by a bailiff.

THE report of special master F. W. Hurd in the Shaw Brothers litigation was made to Judge Field, in Boston, on the 23rd ult. The assignee, F. A. Wyman, had petitioned to sell under a deed of trust the entire estate and assets of Shaw Bros. to the debtors, or their appointee, for \$800,000, in order to carry out an offer of composition of 30 per cent. and interest from Jan. 1, 1884, made by the insolvent firm to their creditors on October 9 last under a voluntary petition of insolvency. The total indebtedness of the firm is \$4,552,637.37. The number of creditors of the firm is 644, and of these 523, representing an indebtedness of \$3,862,324, have assented to the proposition of composition. But there are three creditors for \$71,663 who dissent to the composition offer. The New York creditors have been settled with on a basis of 50 per

cent. and their claims paid. The Maine creditors accepted 40 per cent., and been paid all but \$125,000 of claims, for which liens by attachment are held. The master finds that there is about \$300,000 worth of hides in the tanneries, and that the property is in fair condition, but liable to deteriorate in value as work is suspended. In furnishing the proceeds for carrying out the trust, Joseph N. Fiske, a large creditor, agrees to furnish \$400,000 to the debtors, and to have a lien on the estate for payment. Mr. Duncan McIntyre, of Montreal, also offers to contribute for this purpose. The report finds that the composition will be for the benefit of creditors as a whole.

IN Chatham, James Whan, auctioneer, has become involved and makes an assignment in trust.—L. W. Johnson, dry goods dealer in Dresden, assigned two weeks ago and is now offering creditors a compromise of fifty per cent.—In Mitchell, D. H. Dorman, woollen manufacturer, who assigned in October last, is now proposing to pay creditors thirty per cent. unsecured, and this will likely be accepted.—J. McRoberts, hotel keeper, Nilestown, has left the country. He owes about \$1,000 and his assets are insufficient to pay the sheriff's fees.

IN Dresden, Ohas. Livingstone, banker, has assigned.—Wm. Harris, after being in business as a miller at Dungannon for about twenty years, has failed, with liabilities of more than \$25,000. His assets are only about \$10,000. A few years ago he was considered to be in a good position. Creditors outside of the bank will get but a small dividend if any.—John Patterson, tailor, who has been doing a small business for many years in Hamilton, has assigned.—Mark Adams, who has been a tanner at Norwich since about 1866, and had the reputation of paying his way, has assigned.

BELOW are some items concerning Manitoba traders: In Winnipeg, H. Curran, grocer, and Dery & Co., flour and feed, have assigned. A bailiff is in possession of the latter firm's effects for rent. After this is paid there will not be much left for creditors. The senior partner had not the best business reputation, and he is reported as having left the country.—In the same city the drug firm of W. Whitehead & Co. are asking an extension of time, showing assets of about \$18,000, and liabilities \$5,000 less. As this apparent surplus consists of stock and book debts it remains to be seen if the creditors of the firm will be paid in full.—The liquor stock of M. B. Wood was sold at 70 cents on the dollar.—Denmark & Brown, general storekeepers at Shell River, Man., have assigned. They show assets of \$9,000 and liabilities of \$8,000, and are endeavoring to compromise. They attribute their difficulties to an investment in a gristing mill, which has thus far not proved as profitable as expected.

THE number of deaths from typhoid fever in this city of late ought to be sufficient to attract attention to the origin of the disease amongst us and to lead to prevention of the spread of its germs. On Sunday evening last, Mr. Herbert D. Mason, of the wholesale grocery firm Sloan & Mason, died of this fell disease. Few young business men were more active and promising than the deceased or had reached a more creditable position in the trade at so early an age—twenty-nine years. Having been for a number of years in the employ of Messrs. Smith & Keighley, wholesale grocers here, Mr. Mason became, four years ago, partner in the firm of Sloan, Jardine & Mason, from which Mr. Jardine quite recently retired. Deceased was the eldest son of Mr. J. Herbert Mason, of the Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Co., and leaves a widow and one child.