

pends.

• The fuilure of W. K. Atkinson & Co., general merchants, of Ailsa Craig, Ont., is announced. Liabilities are estimated at about  $\$^0,000$ , and assets, consisting of stock and book debts, \$\$,000. The firm has occupied a prominent position in the town, and now attracts the sympathy of the surrounding people. Should the business be wound up, it would be felt as a severe loss to the community. The insolvents it is expected will be able to offer a composition of 50 cents on the dollar, but what are the probabilities of acceptance we are not a lyised. The causes of the failure are stated to be large expenses, inferior stock and an undue proportion of bad debts.

... The Commission appointed to investigate into the discremancies in the accounts of the treasurer of Lennox and Addington, Mr. Edward Hooper, M.P., has closed its labors, and though no official report has been made public according to an exchange, one of the Commissioners informed Mr. Hooper that, if the interest was compounded upon the amounts unaccounted for, it would go a long way towards liquidating the whole debt of the county, which amounts to \$160,000. Common report places the deficiency at \$25,000. The annual audit has been proven to have been conducted very loosely, every reliance having been placed in Mr. Hooper's integrity. The Commissioners will forward their report to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council within ten days, and it will be laid before the Ontario Government for consideration in due course.

•.• At a late meeting of the Kincardine Board of Trade a committee was appointed to corresp and with the Credit Valley Railway Comp up and other railways, with a view of procuting increased railroad facilities between

THE REAL

Leading Wholesale Trade of Montreal JOHN MCARTHUR & SON. Importers of and Dealers in White Lead & Colors. DRY AND GROUND IN OIL. Varnishes, Oils, Wisdow Glass, Stur, Diamond Star and Double Diamond Star Brands English 16, 21 and 26 oz Sheet. Rolled, Rough and Polished Plate Glass. Colored, Plain and stained Enamelled Sheet Painters and Artis's Materials. Chemicals, Dye Stuffs. Naval Stores, &c., &c. &c. OFFICES AND WAREHOUSES: 310, 312, 314 and 316 St. Paul Street AND 253, 255 and 257 Commissioners Street MONTREAL.



Kincardine and Toronto. A committee wan also appointed to enquire into the advisability of having a dry-dock at Kincardine, and to ascertain the cost and other information in connection with the matter. Also a committee to correspond with the North American Company, and bring before their notice the suitability of Kincardine for the purpose of salt retining, &c. Also to petition the Postmaster-General to so arrange the mail service between Wingham and Kincardine so that mails from the West, London, and intermediate stations arriving at Wingham at 6 o'clock p.m. may be delivered in Kincardine to same evening.

. It is incontestible that Edison is a remarkable inventor, and perhaps equally beyond dispute that his inventions receive an extraordinary amount of what may be termed premature advertising. His electric light, for instance, has been announced times without number as on the eve of complete success or as already perfected, and still the proof that comes of demonstration is wanting. The day of triumph now, however, seems close at hand for the New York Herald says, according to an associated press telegram, that "Edison has finally elaborated a lamp for use by electricity simpler than any lamp in common use, as simple as a gas burner itself, and more manageable. He has also contrived a battery for household use, which can be adapted to any different number of lamps, and to other uses. It also can light a house at night, and run a sewing machine or rock a cradle all day. After many experiments with platinum, Edison has produced a fairly satisfactory lamp, but



strong current of electricity. Experiments with many other substances have disclosed that paper, thick, like cardboard, gave the best result. The entire cost of constructing the new lamp is not more than 25 cents.<sup>9</sup> If only these promises for electricity as an illuminator are fulfilled we have no doubt the public will be content to await for a time its utility as a power to run sewing machines or rock cradles.

\*.\* A very interesting case, hinging upon, the illegal stamp tax on policies of insurance, was argued on Friday, the 19th inst., before Judge Papineau, in Chambers, in this city. Suit was entered against the Stadacona Fire Insurance Co., in liquidation, by a policy holder to recover the amount paid the Company for stamps in accordance with the act of the Quebee Legislature imposing the tax, such tax having been declared unconstitutional. The, real point at issue was where the true cause of action lay, whether against the Stadacona Company or the Quebec Legislature. It was urged on behalf of the plaintiff that there was no privity of contract between him and the Legislature; that he bought his stamps of necessity of the Company, and his contract was with it alone; that the Legislature neither contemplated nor at any time entered into contracts with third parties in this matter of selling stamps, since such mode of taxation would have been indirect and unconstitutional; that the Legislature is bound to restore to the companies direct any moneys received from them irregularly, and were it also liable to holders of stamps the absurdity would result of double restoration of a single wrongful tax, and were the Legislature responsible to holders of stamps direct, an indefinite number of policy holders would have right of action for sums ranging from 10 cents upwards, and the remedy would prove worse than the disease. The defense argued that as the tax had been declared. unconstitutional because indirect, the third