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Chief Engineer of the road, has let the contract for the grading to Pontiac, Michigan. The track is to be laid with steel rail weighing sixty pounds to the yard, and it is to be completed by the 15th of November.

- C. R. Thompson, dealer in boots and shoes, Halifux, has been endeavoring to compromise with his creditors for 50 cents on the dollar.
- Healy, Whitman & Co., grocers and flour merchants, Halifax, have called a meeting of their creditors. The direct liabilities are stated to be \$40,000.
- The failure of T. H. Cox, wholesale grocer of this city, is the mercantile sensation of the week. His total liabilities are said to be about \$70,000, of which only some \$20,000 are direct. An offer of 50c, on the dollar, made by Mr. Cox, has not been accepted by the creditors.
- A meeting of the creditors of Wier Bros. & Co., hardware merchants, of Halifax, N.S., was held last week, when a statement was presented showing the liabilities to be \$72,612; assets, including stock and book debts, \$61,712. The firm offer 60 cents on the dollar, in three, six, nine, twelve and lifteen months. A committee was appointed to look into the affairs, and the meeting was adjourned for a week.
- Counterfeit bills are multiplying at an alarming rate. The latest is a counterfeit \$5 of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The paper is not so good, and the engraving less perfect a the counterfeit than in the genuine note, and in the former there is no ring on the finger of Her Majesty's portrait. The counterfeits detected so far all pertain to the "O" series.
- Now that Maine is getting so exhausted of lumber, much of the capital hitherto employed

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AGENTS,

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in lumbering operations there will be left free for investment elsewhere. American capital has gone to form, to a considerable extent, a new lumbering company, with a subscribed capital of \$200,000, to carry on operations in Petitco-diac, Nova Scotia.

—We have received a circular from a merchant in Embro, Ontario, in which he announces his intention, on and after the first of October, of doing a cash business only. "After many years experience as a merchant," he says, "I am forced to the conclusion that the Credit System is in every respect unsatisfactory, not only to customers, but to myself; and therefore I am determined to give it up, and adopt the principle of Cash payments and Cash sales." If he sticks to his resolution, we certainly do not expect ever to see his name in the insolvent list.

— The Barrow-in-Furness correspondent of the London, (Eng.) Standard informs that journal that the Barrow Ship-building Company have completed the fitting up of the 4,000-ton steamer Brazilian, to trade with cattle from Galveston to Barrow. The arrangements for the conveyance of cattle are of an improved type, and such as to enable the greatest number to be carried with safety and care. The Brazilian is the first of a line of steamers to trade between Barrow and North America in cattle, and so soon as the new docks at Barrow are ready for the admission of shipping she will commence trading on this station, but in the meantime she will convey cattle to Liverpool.

— The rust or blight which has done so much damage to the California grain fields this season is a mysterious disorder. In many cases attacking the grain just as it went into bloom

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and arresting at once its development as completely as if with a tongue of flame, it has left the fields with the superficial appearance of vigor and health. The stalks were fully formed and the heads apparently so, and the fields now look as finely as in seasons of the richest harves's. There are no grains in the heads, however, and the wheat will be left to rot where it falls. It is noteworthy that while wheat has thus been destroyed, barley growing near by has not been touched.

-According to a Port Hope contemporary Mr. Hugel's resignation of the presidency of the Midland Railway was prompted by a desire on his part to have a little rest, after the arduous toils of years past. However that may be, he retires at a very critical period in the Midland's history. Mr. Percy, the new general manager, has issued a circular letter announcing the policy he means to pursue, under what he terms " most critical circumstances." Referring to the arrears of pay due to the employees of the railway, Mr Percy says: "They will of necessity be called upon to bear yet longer the disadvantages they have for years been subject to, inasmuch as the whole receipts would not suffice to dispose of the accumulated arrears in less than six weeks, and it is obvious that such a disposition of the earnings would be impossible."

— The ninety-first section of the Insolvent Act, defining what arrears of salary or wages due to employees shall be privileged, is at present under judicial consideration, Judge Mackay having a case en delibère which turns upon the interpretation of that section. The claimant in the case was employed as book-keeper from the 11th of May to the 15th of July,