

THE Strait Shore rolling mill has been running night and day for the last four weeks to fill an order for 2,000 car axles for the I. C. R. and 500 for the New Brunswick car works.

DANGEROUS counterfeit ten dollar notes of the Canadian Bank of Commerce are in circulation in the Ottawa district. The paper on which the counterfeits are printed is of a slightly darker color than that used in the genuine notes.

R. G. BROWN, dry goods, Montreal, has assigned upon demand, with liabilities of about \$10,000. Mr. Brown was long connected with the wholesale trade, and had been previously in the retail business some years ago as Brown & Claggett.

THE Burrell-Johnson Iron Co., of Yarmouth, is building a 100 ton tug boat for Messrs. Batt Brothers, of Charlottetown. She is intended for a first-class sea-going tug. She will be fitted with compound engines, and large pumps for wrecking purposes.

THE directors of the Montreal General Hospital appeal to the charitable public for assistance. The hospital is overfilled, owing in a great measure to the prevalence of typhoid fever, the officials are overworked and the funds are very low.

A MEETING of the creditors of W. & A. Nauffs, Halifax, was held in that city last week. The principal indebtedness is about \$19,000 to a bank, indirect, other creditors between \$5,000 and \$6,000. They thought if time was granted they would be able to pay in full; but the meeting advised them to assign.

THE proprietors of the Boston *Herald* announce a proposition to give to their employees for the current year a portion of the net profit of the business, after reserving interest on the value of the property. The employees are to share in proportion to the wages received during the year. The proprietors "hope this experiment may be so successful that profit sharing may be adopted by us as a permanent policy."

FAILURES in the Province of Quebec have not been numerous since last report. They are as follows, so far: E. Senecal & Co., dry goods, Montreal, have assigned. McGibbon, McCalman & Co., of the same city, manufacturers of ginger ale, &c., have been served with a demand of assignment. J. B. L. Rolland, boots and shoes, Montreal, is insolvent. At Sherbrooke, Champoux & Son, grocers, have failed and closed.

AN excellent work of reference, not only for parliamentary matters but for facts relating to public men, their positions, careers, necrology, &c., is Mr. Henry J. Morgan's Dominion Annual Register, published by Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co. Each succeeding year seems to add to its usefulness. The information is obtained from the best sources. The synopsis of parliamentary history is written in a fair, unbiased spirit, and Canada is to be congratulated on having such a handbook year after year.

VESSELS in port at St. John on 1st January, uncleared, numbered five barques, of 4,064 tons; three brigantines, of 842 tons, and 78 schooners. The week had been a quiet one in shipping circles of that city. Nearly all the coasters which have arrived have gone into winter quarters. The barque "Howard A. Turner," 505, chartered for Bristol Channel, direct port, at 45s. Seamen's wages show a decrease, being U. K. or continent, run, \$20; monthly, \$13; coast-wise, \$15; West Indies and South America, \$13.

ONE of the benefits of manual training is the making of manual labor honorable, says George Howland. In all the past, even to the present, manual labor has been regarded as servile, and therefore degrading; and many a youth who might have been a useful citizen in some skilled employment, has led a relatively useless life on the outskirts of some profession, or mercantile occupation for which he had neither taste nor fitness.

A TORONTO firm has placed the Sheriff in charge of the premises of J. H. Halliwell, a bookseller in Bracebridge.—Before taking on himself the responsibilities of a country grocery store, Jno. Lawton at Forest was a commercial traveller. At the end of a six months' trial he finds it necessary to make an assignment. Perhaps he is now of opinion that his forte is selling goods for other people and not for Jno. Lawton.—A small grocery in Peterboro kept by J. O'Shea, has run foul of the landlord and will be sold out to meet the claims for rent and taxes.—Few persons thought that J. C. Howie and his sister were making a wise move in opening a millinery store in Sarnia. Neither had the requisite experience, to say nothing of capital, and when we add that there was already quite a sufficiency of milliners in Sarnia, it is not surprising to hear that the venture has ended in disaster. J. C. Howie & Co. have assigned.

THE New Year brings the usual list of firm changes, and among the more important in Canada we note the following among Montreal and Quebec houses. Messrs. John MacLean & Co., wholesale millinery goods, Montreal, are dissolved by the retirement of Messrs. D. J. Craig and John Heath, who are replaced by Messrs. Alex. Stuart and James H. Smith, and the firm style is unaltered. Messrs. Thos. May & Co., of the same city and in the same line of business, have also dissolved; Mr. R. Wolf retires, and is replaced by Mr. F. W. May. Mr. E. A. Small retires from the wholesale clothing firm of H. Shorey & Co., and the remaining partners continue under the usual style. Messrs. Turner, Rose & Co., wholesale grocers of Montreal, have dissolved; Mr. W. R. Turner going out and being replaced by Mr. A. D. Turner. In Quebec, the lumber firm of Hall Bros. & Co., has been dissolved, Mr. Lewis F. Peters going out; the business is continued by the remaining partners. The Montreal firm of Messrs. J. L. Cassidy & Co., wholesale crockery, dissolved by retirement of L. A. Senecal as a limited partner. Business will be continued under old style by Messrs. J. L. Cassidy, C. Melancon, P. M. D. Laviolette, L. A. Garipey and A. Aumond.

INSURANCE NOTES.

From a list of fires taking place in St. John during the year 1886, published by the *Globe* of that city, we learn that the losses were as under: On buildings covered by insurance, \$2,549; do., not covered, \$589; do. on stocks covered, \$5,684; do. not covered, \$1290; do. on furniture, \$333. Insurances on furniture amounted to \$3,300; on buildings to \$61,275, and on stocks to \$122,750. The damage from fires in Portland, N.B., amounted in 1886 to something over \$30,000. There were thirty-eight alarms, a good many of them false.

On New Year's Eve, the Board Room of the Mutual Life Insurance Company was enlivened by the presence not only of its accustomed occupants, but also of about 200 employees of the home office. A year ago, President McCurdy determined to meet his men face to face and have a friendly word with each at

the close of the year. The meeting proved thoroughly enjoyable, and might well be imitated by other companies.

A list of theatres burned in 1886 has been published by the Vienna *Neue Freie Presse*. It was a "very favorable year" in this respect, we are told:

Date.	Name of Theatre.	Place.
Dec. 7, 1886.	German.	Moscow.
Jan. 2, 1886.	White's.	Detroit, Mich.
March 12, 1886.	City.	Lemberg Galicia.
May 5, 1886.	Local.	Derby, England.
May 15, 1886.	Local.	Bochum, Germany.
July 29, 1886.	Hindu.	Tinnervelly, B. In's
Oct. 15, 1886.	Del Filo-Dramatici.	Ravenna, Italy
—	Local.	Madrid.
—	Local.	Orleansville, Alg'rs.
Dec. 27, 1886.	Temple.	Philadelphia.

At Tinnervelly 100 natives were burned to death. Otherwise the loss of life during the year in theatres was very small.

A cheque for \$17,130 has been handed to the heirs of the late Mr. J. S. McLachlan, of Montreal, the amount of the Sun Life Co's. policies on that gentleman's life. There was an accident policy of \$10,000, which, with \$7,000 on his life and a bonus of \$130.70, made up the amount.

Speech, song, story; story, song, speech, and then more songs, and a good time generally. Such, we are told, was the programme and result of the dinner which the directors and managers of the Glasgow and London Insurance company gave last week to their employees in the Windsor Hotel. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Stewart Browne, the general manager, the chair was occupied by Mr. Hugh Browne, the accountant. The entertainment will probably be an annual affair.

The danger of leaving a light burning near an open window was exemplified in a decidedly costly manner in a Brooklyn apartment house a few days ago. The wind blew a curtain against a lighted gas jet, a blaze followed, and, as at the time the tenants of the several flats were all away from home, the fire burned undisturbed until it had damaged the building and furniture to the extent of about \$9,000. A little thought shown in shutting the window or turning off the gas would have prevented a great misfortune to three families.

Such progress is being made with the enlarged and handsome premises of the Equitable Life Assurance Society in New York, that tenants will probably be able to move into it before the 1st May next.

Mr. C. T. Rothermel, manager of the Detroit, Mich., insurance compact since its organization, has resigned his position as from 1st January.

Week by week the need of a local association of life underwriters in this city becomes more apparent, says the *Review*, of Philadelphia. The business is badly demoralized and needs a union of the brightest and best managers to bring it up to the proper standard. The apathy which has been manifested here, in view of the results at other parts, is amazing. Let half a dozen men throw aside their prejudices and animosities, and make an earnest effort to better the situation.

A report has been sent to the Fire Committee of the Montreal City Council by Mr. Badger, superintendent of the Fire Alarm Telegraph in that city. He discusses the reduction of risk to the firemen arising from the large number of telephone, telegraph and electric light wires in the principal streets, which have been found to interfere with the firemen in their duties, and moreover to endanger their lives. The suggestion is made in the report to have the telegraph and telephone companies unite and use the same poles, and group the wires in cables. The idea appears to us a good one; and Mr. Badger states