

AN experimental importation of steel rails has been made by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. It is declared that the price of American steel rails has advanced so rapidly that the English article can be brought into the American market almost as cheaply, and that a greater durability in the foreign-made rails might make them the cheaper in the end.

If our wealthy citizens will but take their cue from Mrs. Alexander Cameron, whose liberality in charitable and other enterprises, is proverbial to Torontonians, this city will possess an Art Gallery which will do it credit. This lady has, through Mr. L. R. O'Brien, president of the Royal Canadian Art Association, offered to give five thousand dollars if the remainder, \$20,000, can be raised, and the gallery left free of debt.

THE Woolen Manufacturing firm of Dufton & Myers, at Stratford and St. Marys, is dissolved. In future the business will be conducted by Myers & Sons.—In Bowmanville, Mason Bros. have sold their dry goods business to J. J. Mason.—T. J. Mason, in the same town, has also disposed of his stock of dry goods, George Lang being the purchaser.—In Forest, R. McDonald has purchased the shoe business of Chas. F. Smith.

ACCORDING to the *Commercial Bulletin* there was a remarkable decline in the price of eggs in New York last week. Shrinkage from 32c. to 18c. per dozen in so short a time and thus early in the season is, in fact, almost if not quite unprecedented, and has created a demoralized business. The open weather suddenly increased production all over the country, supplies were hurried forward freely upon an unprepared market and receivers could do nothing except force the stock for the best price it would bring.

GREAT as is the weight of snow often borne by houses in the latitude of Montreal and Quebec, it is but rarely that we hear of a collapse from this cause. On Monday morning last, however, the roof of one of the old houses on McGill st., near St. James, in Montreal, after the last heavy snow-storm fell with a crash into the cellar. No one was in the building at the time. The tenants were a dry goods dealer and a barber. Stock insured for \$15,000 against fire-loss, which will not avail Mr. Dolan as against snow-loss.

THERE are many families, says the *American Grocer*, where the wife is the financial manager, and to her is owing all the success the family may have achieved. The husband, immersed in business, with neither time nor inclination for money matters, may turn all his income over to his wife, even to the buying of his own clothes. As one clergyman expressed it, "My wife is Chairman of the Family Committee on Ways and Means." Unless under very unusual circumstances, the making of the wife a mere recipient at the husband's money, which she helps earn as well as he, is a mistake which may cost the prosperity and happiness of the family very dear.

SINCE our last Mr. W. B. Hamilton, the well-known boot and shoe manufacturer of this city, announces that he has admitted as partners his son Mr. Chester B. Hamilton, Mr. James Buik and Mr. Arthur W. Blachford. The first-named has charge of the manufacturing department, Mr. Buik is long familiar to the firm's numerous as head of the sales branch, while Mr. Blachford looks after financial matters. They are all known to be capable young men. Hereafter the style will be Wm. B. Hamilton, Son & Co. The senior

partner, though by no means an old man, is one of the oldest merchants in this market. The concern, while under his management has always been distinguished for a sound, business-like, honest policy. Such will continue to be the case without doubt.

THE Sheriff is in possession of the grocery stock of Francis Maguire, St. Catharines, on a landlord's warrant for \$1,500. It is doubtful if the stock will pay much more than the rent. Of late the habits of Francis, it is said, were not of a character to lead to success.—Walter Wigg & Son, furniture dealers in Oshawa, have gradually gone behind financially, and now assign, after being in business a long time.—In Hamilton, Wilson & Gates, manufacturers of wooden ware, have closed their premises in order to ascertain their position and have called a meeting of creditors for the 21st. The ultimate success of this firm has been questioned for some time.

WE observe an addition to the industries of Toronto in the establishment on Jarvis street of the Mathews Vinegar Manufacturing Co. This company uses a new process of manufacture, which is claimed to be very effectual. It declares its goods pure, wholesome and free from all foreign acids. The company also makes methylated spirit, an article largely used in the arts and in certain manufactures. The proprietors of this new company, Messrs. J. T. & H. A. Mathews, are of the Messrs. Mathews so well and so favorably known to the trade of the lakes for years as vessel-owners and shippers. But the businesses are entirely distinct, the shipping firm continuing, as before, to be J. & J. T. Mathews.

FAILURES in the province of Quebec for the past fortnight are as follows: M. Bouchard, trader, Les Eboulements, has assigned.—In Montreal, Spenard & Bedard, grocers, have gone into insolvency, as also have R. G. Sweet, crockery; Saunders & Peltier, grocers, and A. Toupin, boots and shoes; Mrs. D. Leonard, dry goods, of the same city, is offering a compromise of 75c. on the dollar.—J. Boucher, dry goods, Drummondville, has assigned in trust. C. S. Millette, general store, Richmond, is offering 60c. on the dollar.—J. A. Vezina, dry goods, Quebec, has failed and assigned.—Antoine Martin, general store, Rimouski, has been closed up.—R. Bouthillier, tailor, St. Henri, wants his creditors to accept 20c. on their claims.—C. Levin, general store, Richmond, has called a meeting of creditors.—Ephrem Dugal, dry goods, Québec, has assigned.

J. R. REID has been in the clothing business in Chatham for many years. In 1878 he fancied that he was in trouble and went to Detroit; his estate was then wound up paying in full. Shortly after this he returned and began business with his brother. In 1881 he received his discharge. Some years after he took a prominent part in building the street railway, of which he was president. The clothing firm was changed to Reid Bros. & Co., but J. R. was believed to be the real owner. He has assigned. His losses are supposed to be due to the railway venture. The stock, amounting to \$5,000, is advertised to be sold on the 23rd inst.—About a year ago Bramley & Rounding, builders, of Brampton, got into trouble and compromised at 50 per cent. The latter then retired, and Bramley admitted his son. They have assigned.—John Millar, general storekeeper, at Allenford, failed in 1884, and settled with creditors at 90 per cent. He is again in trouble and has assigned to Mr. J. W. Gale, of this city.

WINNIPEG BOARD OF TRADE.—The annual meeting of the Winnipeg Board of Trade was held on the 1st inst. in the new board room in the civic building, Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie, president, in the chair. Some fifty or sixty members were present. The annual reports were presented, after which came the nomination of officers. Mr. R. J. Whitla nominated Mr. J. H. Ashdown for president, and Col. Mackeand seconded the nomination, which was put to the meeting and unanimously carried. Mr. L. M. Jones, the mayor, was chosen *nem. con.* as vice-president, Messrs. Whitla and Mackeand declining nomination. Mr. F. W. Stobart was re-elected treasurer. Mr. Steen stated that he would not longer discharge the duties of secretary and nominated Mr. C. N. Bell as his successor. Mr. R. J. Whitla seconded the nomination. Thirty seven gentlemen were nominated for the council; out of these, the following were elected: Messrs. Kenneth Mackenzie, R. J. Whitla, G. F. Galt, W. F. Luxton, J. Redmond, Geo. J. Maulson, W. A. Hastings, A. Mackeand, S. Nairn, Jas. E. Steen and R. T. Riley. The question of holding a trade congress was discussed, and it was decided to appoint a committee to see how many would attend. Mr. Stephen Nairn called attention to the inconvenience to business men of the city for want of a mail going west on Wednesdays, and arriving from the west on Tuesdays, and moved that the council be instructed to take steps to have the drawbacks removed. Several gentlemen spoke in favor of Mr. Nairn's motion, which was seconded by Mr. Strang, and unanimously carried.

THE ÆTNA LIFE.—This company's thirty-seventh annual statement appears to-day, and contains a most creditable exhibit. During the past year its new business has exceeded that of the previous year by upwards of two millions of dollars, and a gain in its premium receipts is shewn of \$185,160. At the same time its claims by death and maturing endowments have been less by \$196,203, and nearly a million of dollars has been added to the pyramid of assets. President Bulkeley, who has just been re-elected Mayor of Hartford for the fourth annual term, says in his letter accompanying the report:—"To safely and surely provide for the payment of the large and increasing sum outstanding, as it matures, it has been the constant and earnest study of the directors and officers, to build up a company so strong in its financial department as to defy the criticism of the most critical of insurance and financial critics, and it is our belief that the thirty-seventh annual report presents to you the condition of the Ænta, in this respect, as unsurpassed if equalled by any like institution."

—The paid up capital of the Dominion Telegraph Company is a million dollars, and it has mortgage bonds outstanding to the extent of £60,000 stg. Against this it shows capital expenditure \$1,281,000 and other assets sufficient to make a surplus of \$3,022 to credit of profit and loss. The report just issued is very complimentary to the lessees, the Western Union Telegraph Company, and has a good word, too, for the G. N. W. Telegraph Co., which sub-leases its wires west of New Brunswick and maintains them in good order. The company continues to get its rental, equal to six per cent. dividend upon its shares and interest upon its bonds, paid in advance every quarter and appears to have no apprehension that this satisfactory state of things will not continue.