

CONSIDERABLE quantities of "shad" in Lake Ontario have died and are piled along the beach shore. The warm weather is causing them to fill the air with a clamorous stench that is not appreciated by the residents. It is suggested that some enterprising market gardener collect them for manure.

PLANS and elevations for the Bank of Montreal's new branch in Vancouver have been prepared. The design shows a handsome front of three full stories, with basement and lofty attic. A tower on the corner and gables on either side break the outline, while a porch and other details are richly ornamental. The material to be used will be stone.

RECENT heavy rains, says the *Battleford Herald*, have already made a marked change in the appearance of the country, and raised the hopes of agriculturists. One who keeps a careful diary of his farming operations and of the weather, says the spring opened this year just as it did in 1882, except that the rainy season set in two days earlier, and that the crops of 1882 were the best ever raised in the country.

We learn that the National Improvement Co., of New York, which owns the Albert Railway, are developing a manganese mine in Dawson Settlement, Albert County, New Brunswick. Some men are getting out ore, samples of which have been sent to Chicago and Philadelphia, and been pronounced first-class. During the past week seven car-loads of the ore have been forwarded to the places named.

ORIGINALLY a cabman, C. Landreville, began a hat business in Ottawa several years ago in a small way, and has had hard work to get along ever since. He has now made an assignment.—Adelard Gravel, who has been doing a fair trade in furniture and stoves, at St. Louis de Mile-end, a suburb of Montreal, for the last 8 or 10 years, has been obliged to assign, and shows an indebtedness of \$4,336.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway will run the usual weekly refrigerator cars between Winnipeg and the Pacific for the conveyance of butter, eggs, cheese, poultry, fruit and vegetables (except onions) again this year, leaving Winnipeg on Thursdays. Freight from points between Winnipeg and Moose Jaw inclusive, consigned to either Vancouver, Victoria, Westminster and Nanaimo, costs 20 cents per 100 pounds, in addition to freight for cost of icing.

SOME rare metals, possessing special qualities, are required for certain work. Thus palladium is used for making certain parts of

timepieces, and iridium for the points of gold pens. Lithium is the lightest of metals. Rhodium is an extremely hard and brittle metal, and is only fusible at a very high temperature, while iridium is the heaviest substance hitherto discovered. Most of these scarce products are more precious than gold and silver in market value, and still more of relative value for the arts.

J. M. CARROL, who left a place near London some four years ago to keep a store at Rogers' Pass, B.C., has assigned.—Robert Cox, a general dealer at Kingsport, N.S., is offering creditors 50 cents on the dollar.—J. J. Corbett, dealer in teas, St. John, N.B., has assigned.—Jas. Brown, general dealer at Welford, in the same province, writes his creditors that his assets bear that unpleasant proportion to liabilities which makes it necessary to restore the equilibrium by an offer of a 50 per cent. compromise.

AN assignment follows the efforts for a compromise which were being made by A. A. Alexander, of this city, and the stock is advertised for sale.—The opening of a branch store in Yonge St. here was not a happy thought of H. Arnold, a Church St. dealer in boots and shoes. It was a losing venture, and, together with his indifferent health, may account for his assignment.—David Minns, harness, Omeme; Jno. Lee, miller, St. Thomas, and D. G. Robins, gents' furnishings, Toronto, are minor failures of the week.

PHILIP RICHARD, of Shediac, N. B., was fleeced of \$99 by a sharper in Bangor the other day. The sharper borrowed a hundred dollar bill from Philip "for a moment" to buy his ticket. He pretended to have got on without it, however, and gave a bill back in a minute or so. He then disappeared. Richard looked at his bill while on his way home and found that the stranger had given him a one dollar note, and he was therefore "out" \$99. Philip had better take some relative along next time he visits Yankee land. He is too soft to go alone.

THE retail shoe houses in Montreal are finding the times hard, if we are to judge by the difficulties occurring among them. Oswald Chamberland, formerly a foreman in a Montreal shoe factory, started in a retail business in the city just four years ago with some little capital. He has not been able to command success, and has assigned on demand, with liabilities of \$9,297, which certainly seem very large in proportion to the business he has done.—F. X. Guinat, another Montreal shoe

dealer, beginning in 1888, has also assigned, owing \$2,500.—N. Leroux, whose failure we noted a week or so ago, has arranged to pay 33½ cents on the dollar, 25 cents cash, balance his own note.—Another retail shoe failure in Montreal is that of Lucien Jourdanais, who has just assigned and owes \$2,384.

A MEETING of creditors of the wholesale haberdashery firm of Radford Bros. & Co., Montreal, was held on the 11th inst., consequent upon a demand of assignment having been made upon the firm by a Glasgow house. At a meeting it was decided to give Messrs. Radford until the 30th of June to prepare a full statement, the demand of assignment being meanwhile withdrawn. The firm was on some \$25,000 of McLachlan Bros.' paper when the latter concern failed; the bank exacted another name which they furnished, but this party now desires to withdraw, and his action has mainly led to the present state of affairs.

THE wholesale millinery house of John MacLean & Co., Montreal, suspended payment on Wednesday morning. The liabilities are all in Europe, and amount to \$160,000 direct. The firm is making up a statement of affairs, and from what can be learned the present intention is to liquidate. The house is an old one, and a succession of Russell, MacLean & Co. in 1874, the partners being MacLean, Heath & Craig. The two last withdrew in the fall of 1886, and were replaced by Alexander Stewart, a protegee of Sir George Stephen, and James M. Smith, a son of Hon. Donald A. Smith, investing \$70,000 between them. The house has always enjoyed a good credit, and their stoppage is a great surprise here.

We note some important changes among Montreal concerns. There has been a dissolution of the shoe manufacturing firm of Jas. Linton & Co. The business is continued under the same style by James Linton and E. S. Sharpe.—The business of M. Laing & Sons, wholesale hams, bacon, etc., dissolved by the recent death of the senior partner, is continued under the same style by Messrs. Peter, John D. and James N. Laing.—Mr. F. G. Payne has been admitted a partner in the banking and exchange firm of J. B. Picken & Co.—Mr. J. C. Watson, manufacturer of wall papers, has admitted as partners Hugh Watson and F. S. Foster, under the style of J. C. Watson & Co.—Morison & Earle, dry goods commission merchants, have dissolved partnership.

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