

THE dry goods and boot stock of Detweiler & Co., Sault Ste. Marie, amounting to \$17,000, was sold at Suckling's warehouses to Bemrose & Co., Bradford, for 63½ cents on the dollar. On Wednesday next the dry goods stock of R. H. Kells & Co., Peterboro, \$14,000, is to be sold en bloc.

FORTUNAT GAGNON, of Ste. Flavie, Que., has not lived up to his name. He is a farmer's son, and becoming fired with the ambition to be a merchant, he embarked in storekeeping last March, buying out one A. Lafrance. It has been reported that he has suffered penalties for selling liquor illegally, and already he has made a voluntary assignment.

WEDNESDAY, February 15th, was the date of the annual meeting of the Bank of Nova Scotia; the People's Bank of Halifax is to meet on the 1st of March, and the Commercial Bank of Windsor on February 21st. A dividend of 3½ per cent. for the half year is declared by the Union Bank of Halifax, and one by the Commercial Bank of Windsor of 3 per cent.

We learned last evening that Mr. J. C. McLachlan has sold out his interest in the Toronto Electric Motor Company, Limited, to Mr. John W. Thompson. It is the intention of Mr. McLachlan, we understand, to go into the manufacture of gasoline machinery for horseless carriages. He has not yet made all his arrangements, but is endeavoring to secure his old premises on Adelaide street in this city.

An assignment has been made by J. G. Leuty, grocer, at Cobourg, who has been in business about two years. His capital was small, and he could not earn any addition to it.—In November, 1892, Nelson Keefer opened a grocery in Burlington.

After three years' trial, he made an assignment, and his creditors let him off with a cash payment of thirty per cent. Since that time he has made but little if any improvement in his position, and now again he has assigned.

An assignment has been made by G. W. McAuliffe, tailor, at Rossland, B.C. He made the claim a year ago that he had a stock of \$2,000, on which he owed \$1,000. We shall see how the estate turns out.—The Qu'Appelle drug and stationery establishment, of which F. E. Parker is the sole owner, has assigned. A stock list is now being prepared, and it is thought that Mr. Parker will owe about \$4,000. He has written to his father in England for assistance.

On Friday last the wholesale crockery and china premises of Gowans, Kent & Co., on Front street east in this city, were entirely gutted by fire. The fire was a fierce one and the brigade worked under difficulties arising from the extreme cold and the clusters of electric wires. The loss is placed at from \$130,000 to \$160,000. Gowans, Kent & Co. have \$88,333 insurance in fourteen companies, seven British, five Canadian and two American. The buildings were owned by the Crombie & Kent estates, and are insured for \$13,500 in British companies. The loss on buildings is placed at \$24,000.

At the annual meeting of the Vernon Board of Trade the old officers and directors were re-elected, as were likewise the members of the council.

A. O. BILODEAU, general merchant at Windsor Mills, Quebec, is reported as arranging a compromise at 50 cents, with the assistance of his largest creditor, liabilities being about \$9,000. He came here in 1897 from Kingsey Falls, where he was in trouble in 1893, compromising then at 60 cents, and now proposes returning there.

THE directors of the Grand Trunk Railway have declared a dividend of .4 per cent on guaranteed, and of 3 per cent. on the first preference stock of the company. The issue of the latter amounts to £3,420,000 sterling, and ranks, for dividend purposes, after £5,219,793 of 4 per cent. guaranteed stock. The dividend is the result of the good traffic receipts of the past twelve months, the statement of accounts for the June half year showing a surplus of £16,709, after payment of bonded and debenture stock interest. After paying the dividend, amounting to £102,000, about £4,000 is carried forward. The dividend is the first of its kind for many years and made a stir on the Stock Exchange. First preference, which closed in London the previous day, at 71¼, opened next morning at 72½, and closed at 73¼. Second preference shares sold at 50½, on February 12th, and third preference at 23.

THE WINNIPEG HOTEL FIRE.

"We would come out of that burning hotel hot and dripping with water, which in two minutes would be frozen, and the effect on the men was that they were rendered physically unable to do effective work." This sentence from the account given by Chief Rogers, of the handling of the brigade at the Manitoba hotel fire in Winnipeg last week, serves to give an idea of the difficulties under which the firemen worked. The cold was intense that night, hose was continually freezing, and, while there was no scarcity of water, it was difficult to keep up the steam in the fire-engines, up to working pressure. Here is the chief engineer's account of the engines: "The L. M. Jones engine burst a valve stem and was temporarily disabled; the Merryweather came to grief from an accident to the packing of one of the flanges, and the Waterous, although in perfect condition, did no work at all, owing to a defect caused by its not having been in use for some time." That is to say, it was not ready for work, whose-soever the fault. The rebuilding of the hotel is a question of great moment to Winnipeg. It was not considered a paying investment by the Northern Pacific Railway Company, which built it, and as the company is its own insurer, the rebuilding is extremely doubtful. The loss on the building is perhaps \$400,000, and property and furnishings worth \$140,000 to \$200,000 were destroyed besides. The insurance has as yet been only guessed at.

Debentures.

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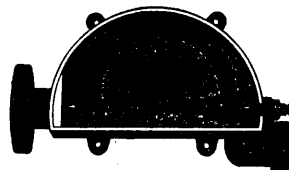


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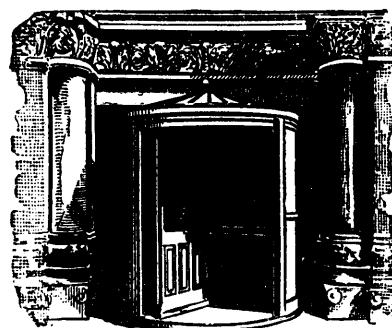
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