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The failures in the United States last week were 187 against 184 in the preceding week and 178, 137 and 85 in the corresponding weeks of 1883, 1882 and 1881 respectively. The failures in Canada last week were 16, against 15 for the week previous.

The liabilities of E. A. Calder, general trader, Grand Manan, N.B., are not more than \$1000, but his assets are still smaller, amounting to only some \$160, consisting chiefly of stock in store, which however, is scarcely sufficient to cover his rent. His former partner it is said holds a preferred claim of \$160, and it is feared the creditors will get little or nothing.

A JUDGMENT has just been rendered against the Fellows' Manufacturing Co. in the Superior Court for \$204, the amount of tax imposed on corporations according to the Quebec statute of 1882, 35 Vict., chap. 22. The above company questioned its legality, but the court held, as in previous cases of the same class, that the tax imposed by the act in question is in the nature of a direct tax, and within the powers confided to the Provincial Legislature.

The principal coal companies in the United States have recently presented a firm front, and decided to curtail production two alternate weeks in July, and to advance the price of stove 25c per ton, and of chestnut 15c in the July circular. In view of this, it would seem that the present time is the most favorable for buyers to secure their years requirements. Many persons will, nevertheless, take another view of the situation, remembering former tactics.

At a meeting of the creditors of the London Steel Works Company, held on the 19th inst., says the *Advertiser*, matters were discussed more

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Celebrated Soft and Stiff Hats.

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or less, but the item of the men's wages unfortunately still remains unsettled. The managers want the men to take hold of the raw material and work it up and sell it, but in the meantime the men want to know what is to feed them and their families while this material is being worked up and a market found for the same.

The Dominion Bolt Co. of Toronto, Mr. John Livingston, managing director, have been closed indefinitely, the result of the recent troubles. One by one they fall,—the enterprises fostered by the absent manager of the Exchange Bank, who a year ago could boast for his bank the largest proportionate "Real" in Canada. Mr. Livingston complains of "aspic" assertions in the newspapers, which must be a new complaint incidental to "progressive banking."

The estate of R. P. Bliss, boots and shoes Halifax, N.S., shows liabilities of \$20,000. Regarding the assets it is known that Robt. Taylor has a preferred claim of \$15,600.—Daniel J. Hatfield, butcher, St. Stephen, N.B., has assigned in trust to Jas. G. Stephens, jr. The estate is a poor one, the assets amounting to only \$598 to meet liabilities of \$2,818.35. Book debts comprise the principal assets, of which \$150 to \$200 are considered good, and the rest bad and doubtful.

THE VILLE MARIE BANK.—We learn with satisfaction from the report submitted by the President of the Ville Marie Bank that there has been a steady increase in the business, and that the losses have been comparatively light. It is not likely that during a year of such business depression the profits could have been as much as the shareholders could have wished, but Mr. Weir is one of those men who is devoted to his work, and anxious to do all in his power to advance the interests of the institution over which he presides. We venture to anticipate

that, like other banking institutions, he will perceive the necessity of holding a larger portion of his reserves in gold.

THE HOP SCARE.—Advices from England are of such a gloomy nature regarding the growing crop, that many apprehend a recurrence of the disastrous failure of the English crop of 1882, which caused an unprecedented advance in prices of over 400 per cent. This event being comparatively of recent date, holders on this continent have become so exorbitant in their demands, that buyers cannot comply with them, and although it is well known that there is an ample supply held, the amount available is small. A further sharp advance in London, Eng., has had the effect of strengthening prices, but, at the same time, it has curtailed the volume of business. The New York market is 2c to 3c higher, while the advance in England has been 5c. Here business is confined to a few casual sales to brewers who buy from hand to mouth.

THE ADVANCE IN POTATOES.—The large consumption of potatoes, which low prices and good quality have induced, has at last caught up with the supply, and values of old stock have experienced within the past few weeks an advance of fully 100 per cent in New York and Chicago, having sold in the former city at \$1.50 to \$3 per bbl, and in the latter at 60c to 80c per bushel. In this market a sharp advance has also occurred of 25c to 30c per bag, sales having taken place at \$1.00 to \$1.10. Within the past few days, however, the American markets have become somewhat easier, owing to the more liberal supplies of the new crop. A large grower in the suburbs of this city says that the prospects are that new potatoes will be upon the market much earlier than last year. The recent copious showers have done an incalculable amount of good to the potato crop in this vicinity, and from present appearances a large yield is expected.