

their railway privilege certificate for 1892, and newspaper men wishing to join, are advised to make application to the secretary, Mr. J. B. McLean, 6 Wellington St. West, Toronto.

A DEALER in coal and wood at Blenheim, Ont., named Chas. Currie, was believed to be adding to his supposed surplus, but has suddenly made an assignment. — In Collingwood, a builder and contractor named C. P. Hueser, has found business exceedingly dull in his line and an assignment has been found necessary. — W. G. Townsend, Custom House Broker in Hamilton, has been guilty of some improper practices in connection with his business, and is now stated to be beyond the limit. — Some time ago Phillips & Co., dry goods dealers, sold out their stock at Trenton to A. H. Van-Norman, formerly a commercial traveller. We now hear of Mr. VanNorman's assignment. — J. M. Calder, a Woodstock grocer, has been three years in his business, but has not given it that attention it deserved. Consequently an assignment was necessary.

THERE are a few failures in this city this week, among them that of Leslie & Co., wood, turners, who have for years been struggling under the weight of chattel mortgages. Therefore it is no surprise to hear that the bailiff is in possession of their premises. This official is also in possession of the dry goods establishment of McKeown & Co., Eliza McKeown being the sole owner. Nearly twenty years ago her husband, Edward, began business and was apparently successful up to Jan., 1888. Then he found that his liabilities had reached \$55,000 and nominal assets of only \$26,000. Mrs. McKeown then bought the stock of \$14,000. At the time of the McLachlan failure in Montreal, she owed that estate \$7,000, on which she had to get an extension. For some time past she has had outside assistance, and in order to continue this she gave two chattel mortgages of \$5,000 each; two days afterwards the mortgagees took possession of the stock, and are now selling it. The sheriff is in possession of the hardware premises of V. E. Ashdown here, who began business just four years ago with a capital of \$1,000. Two years afterwards his statement showed a surplus of over \$2,000. Notwithstanding this, for some time past, he has been making the usual complaints about business, and now the result is as above stated.

PAST AND PRESENT.

Some of the retrospections of the president of the Cornwall Board of Trade are interesting

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as bearing on the progress made by that town. At the annual meeting held a few days ago, he said in substance: Cornwall was incorporated in 1834. The population in 1871 was 2,053. To-day it is 10,000. The assessed value of property has risen from \$667,000 in 1874, to \$1,342,950 in 1891. The old hand engine of twenty years ago was replaced in 1874 by a modern steamer, and in 1886 the present splendid system of waterworks commenced. In 1883 there were but two plate glass fronts, to-day there are nearly fifty. No farther back than 1874 Mr. McLean was able to transact the business of the Bank of Montreal, the only bank there then, with one assistant. Now each of our two banks requires a large staff.

In the four principal mills—Canada Cotton, Stormont Cotton, Cornwall Woolen, and Toronto Paper and Pulp mills—the total number of handspins 1531; yearly wages, \$467,744; value of annual output, \$1,912,000. Add the wages paid by the other smaller mills and factories; the total amount paid to nearly 2,000 hands annually for wages exceeds half a million dollars, while the output reaches considerably beyond \$2,000,000.

On the other hand, trade is far from satisfactory. Competing towns, with the advent of the railroad, have sprung up. Within the last eight years the number of stores here have nearly doubled, while the volume of business is not any larger than in 1884, notwithstanding increased trade from the factories and canal works. A liberal policy to induce the locating of other establishments and the extension of existing works is advised. Contemplated changes and improvements in the canal will afford motive power for a vast amount of new machinery, and then it is thought great improvement will result. Over-stocking and the credit system do not exist to any extent in Cornwall. There are too many in business. The total trade of the town is large, and would be profitable if the number of merchants were reduced by about one-third. To obtain relief either a reduction must take place or the volume of business increased. Perhaps a beneficial change in both directions may come about.

BOOK NOTICES.

An interesting and substantial paper is the supplementary issue of *The Commercial*, of Winnipeg, which is now in its tenth year of publication. The area, population, and resources of "Western Canada," in its larger, later sense, are described at some length.

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There are articles on Manitoba's fishery wealth, her lands, her immigration policy; the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition; British Columbia coal, lumber, salmon, and fruit; flour milling and dairying in Manitoba and the Territories: there is given in full the report of the council of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, also the interesting address of Mr. Stephen Nairn, the president, which was summarized in our columns a fortnight ago. A number of colored illustrations on toned paper grace the issue, which is in every way creditable to our outspoken and live contemporary.

CASTOROLOGIA—a work on the Canadian beaver. This forthcoming volume, the author of which is Mr. Horace F. Martin, of Montreal, should possess interest for Canadians, inasmuch as it is designed to describe the nature and habits of an animal which is familiar as a type of intelligent industry, but is perhaps better known, among Canadians at any rate, as one of the national emblems of Canada. The author is competent to describe this interesting animal. He has long been an ardent student of natural history, particularly in connection with the fur-bearing animals of Canada, and on this subject he is a recognized authority, having been for some years Honorary Corresponding Secretary of the Natural History Society of Montreal. We are told that his work will deal, *inter alia*, with the beaver from a commercial point of view, dating from the days when beaver skins were the currency of the colony. The material of the book has been in preparation for some time, and when in Paris recently looking up matter, the author came across some very quaint, unique works on the Canadian beaver dating back to the 17th century. Mr. Martin, we learn, has made arrangements for his Canadian edition, but purposes trying an English edition as well. The work will be illustrated.

—Stewart, Munn & Co., flour shippers of Montreal, have sent a circular to the millers of Canada, calling attention to the fact that the tax on Canadian flour entering Newfoundland is \$1.05 per barrel, while United States flours are admitted for 30 cents per barrel. They ask that all millers' and trade associations unite in impressing upon the Dominion Government the importance of the question involved.

TO WATERWORKS CONTRACTORS.

The Municipal Council of the Village of Port Elgin, Ont., are prepared to receive estimates on a system of water supply for fire and domestic use. Address all communications to

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