

THE estate of John Fraser, Dry Goods Merchant Montreal, shows liabilities, direct and indirect, of \$217,306.18. The assets amount to about \$80,000, of which \$38,000 is represented by stock, and \$24,000 by book debts. The Bank of Montreal is the heaviest creditor its claim amounting to about \$90,000.

GEO. STACEY, nails, Montreal, has failed; his name is on accommodation paper to Mullett and Baker, for between \$20,000 and 25,000. In reality Stacey was merely a manager for M. & B., and another lending hardware house, so that his liabilities outside them will be trifling.

J. O. TREMPER, one of the too numerous dry goods merchants of St. Lawrence street, Montreal, has come to a stop, opposition there being too keen.

ALTHOUGH frequent examples have been had of lost fortunes and ruined prospects from the folly of accommodation paper, they are evidently unheeded. Thos. Walls and Sons' failure ruined four firms or dealers in Toronto and vicinity. Next, through the failure of Mulholland & Baker, Montreal, quite a number of smaller failures have arisen, traced to granting them accommodation paper, and now, through the failure of Messrs. W. S. Woods & Co, several others will have to follow suit. McD. Simpson, a Notre Dame Street furrier and hatter, who for several years has done a comfortable little business in Montreal, and might have prospered well, comes to a sudden stop, having given "kites" to that firm for about \$150,000, probably twice what he was worth. He has assigned, and his estate will likely turn out poorly. S. Goltman, a Montreal tailor, is another victim, having signed his name for \$26,000, for which, it is said value has not been received. Mr. Goltman has hitherto been credited with more cuteness than to be caught napping in this way. A demand of assignment has been made on him by the Exchange Bank.

THE Grand Trunk Railway's return of traffic for week ending 17th inst., is as follows: Passengers, mails, and express freight, \$59,078; Freight and live stock, \$152,028. Total, \$211,106; Passengers, mails, and express freight, \$56,754; Freight and live stock, \$137,104. Total, \$193,858. Increase, 17,248.

AMONG the assignments during the past week are those of J.B. Turcotte, general store, Joliette, M. Gregoire, Levis, hotel; J. H. Howse, stoves, St. Catharines; Henry Pearce, Drummondville, grocer; Hambleton & Agnew, Lucknow, mill; Charles Chamberlain, Toronto, builder; James Kimber, Montreal, painter. Amongst the attachments are those against P. Gravel, tailor, Three Rivers; D. McCleave, G. S., Moncton, J. T. Boivin, watches, St. Johns; P. Cavan, Clinton, grocer; Stenden Bros., Gananoque, grocers; Frank Smith & Co., Guelph, hardware; E. O. Smith, Kincardine, general store; Meek Bros., St. Thomas, saddlers; Thompson Bros., Toronto, contractors; S. P. C. Clarke, Windsor, peddler; Messrs. W. Ogilvy, dry goods, Hamilton, and H. Philip, Woodstock, call meetings of their creditors.

HALIFAX AND THE ALLAN STEAMERS.—A conference took place on Wednesday, at Halifax, between Sir Hugh Allan and a deputation of citizens, at which the question of making that city the winter port for the Allan line of steamships was discussed. Sir Hugh Allan pointed out that, anxious as he was to meet the wishes of the Haligonians, there were several obstacles in the way. The terminus of the Intercolonial Railway is too far from the wharves, and during part of the year the landing place at Richmond is unapproachable from ice; besides, provisions were fifty per cent. dearer than at Portland. But if somebody would take the business in hand and have produce ready to ship, the steamers would certainly call for it. He would, moreover, undertake to carry produce at as low rates from Chicago to Liverpool via Halifax as by Portland, if the Grand Trunk and the Intercolonial would carry out what they had undertaken to do. The meeting on Thursday was large and enthusiastic, the Mayor in the chair. It was decided to send Mr. Geo. P. Black as a delegate to Quebec and Ontario to influence grain freight towards Halifax as an Atlantic port.

THE LASH INSOLVENCY CASE.—We have received a letter in reference to this case, in which the ground is taken that all evidence producible was not brought out at the hearing, and that much which was discreditable to Mr. Lash's principals was left out of the reckoning in the Judge's charge. It is not pretended that what we said in a recent issue was not true enough, but that, to quote the words of the letter:—"In the commission of the worst of these errors, viz.: the bank matter, Lash was acting with the full knowledge, and at the suggestion if not under the actual compulsion of his principal creditor." The writer gives a deal of information about accommodation paper to heavy amounts between Lash & Co., and Joseph & Co., for the benefit of the latter: and about certain manipulations of the stock, and statements made to banks, the figures of which, it is stated, did not originate with Lash & Co. In reference to all which we can only say, that it does not excuse Mr. Lash for conducting his business in a manner that outraged every maxim of business prudence, to have it pleaded in extenuation that other people coaxed or pressed him to do wrong. Nor can anything excuse his giving blank notes, as he says he did, to be used at the discretion of Joseph & Co. or his trusting to another house for his book-keeping. It is a very unpleasant business altogether, but it illustrates the usual termination of fancy methods of "raising the wind," and of the hard road which young men are frequently made to travel through allowing themselves to be set up in business without capital of their own.

—The Standard Bank declares three per cent. dividend for the half year now current.

—The Bank of Commerce has declared a dividend of four per cent., for the current half year.

—A branch of the Consolidated Bank has been opened at St. Hyacinthe, under the charge of Henry Barbeau as manager.

—At the annual meeting of the Life Association of Scotland, held in Dundee, on the 1st. inst. a dividend of fifteen per cent., for the past year was declared.

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