

couata; the preparation to consist of the clearance of four acres in each lot, ready for sowing, and of the construction of a dwelling house not less than sixteen feet by twenty. The price of each lot, including land and house, is in no case to exceed \$200, and the payment is to be made in five annual instalments. The work on all the lots. however, is to be done as far as possible by the settlers themselves, so as to lessen the burden on the Province.

THE Postmaster-General admits that eighty per cent of the postal receipts in the Lower Provinces go to the postmasters there, owing to the way-office system; while in Cntario and Quebec they receive only forty per cent.

THE Government contract for making 9,000 suits of military clothing has been awarded by the Minister of Militia to Ottawa clothiers, P. A. Eagleston and J. Metcalfe, whose tenders were the lowest.

THE Postmaster-General "has grave doubts" whether winter communication can be kept up by steamboat with P. E. Island. At all events the boat furnished by a late contractor does not answer, and ice-boats and canoes have had to be used.

It has been announced that the returns of imports and exports will be published quarterly hereafter.

An order in Council directs that steamboats in the Dominion shall henceforth pay a duty of seven per cent. per ton in addition to inspection fees, instead of ten as formerly.

THE rate of tavern and grocers' licenses, in Toronto, has been increased to \$160 a year; the effect of which will be to close some of the smaller taverns, and reduce the number of licensed groceries. THE Tanneries Land Swap Committee reported, before the close of the session of the Quebec Legislature, that the Government property was worth \$100,000 or \$150,000 more than that which was given in exchange for it, and that Mr. Middlemas obtained the influence of M. Dansereau, as a journalist and friend of the Ministry, to aid in effecting the exchange.

THE following figures show the effect of the present tariff upon the importations of tea at the port of Montreal for the past year, compared with 1873: 1873—Green and Japan Tea, \$3,-559,778; 1874—do, \$1,196,897, leaving a balance of \$2,362,881 in favor of New York and against the former city.

WE cannot attribute entirely to recent severe weather and consequent blocking up of railway and other routes, the scarcity of remittances and the frequency of renewals which merchants complain of. It is but one of a number of reasons, for before the recent storms of snow, travellers who had reached every part of Ontario found stocks full and few orders obtainable. Almost every branch of trade whose reports we consult shows duliness;]and people are generally looking anxiously for the Spring and for the impulse it is to give to commercial affairs. The weekly list of failures do not decrease, and we note in them recently some names which one would scarcely expect to see in such company. W. E. Ross, whose stand in Brockville was an old established one, has assigned. Park & Borrowman, of Amherstburg, Hardware, &c., and George Middleton, of Wheatly, long a merchant and contractor, have failed, while James Smith, of Tilbury, well known in the adjoining County, has stopped payment, probably owing to a recent fire in his premises.

TIMOTHY RAJOTTE, of Ottawa, C. King

& Co., Ottawa, Desmarteau & Bond, Montreal, W. Fairweather & Co., Peterboro', and Mark T. Rogers, of Napanee, all we known in Dry Goods circles, are unable to pay in full. The failure of the last named two, however, has ceased to be a matter of grave surprise. Insolvencies are not confined to these or to any particular line, but appear in nearly every rank of trades. We count thirty-three assignments for February in Ontario alone. Montreal and Quebec furnish a fair quota of small failures; the Eastern Townships are tolerably free from them. The Lower Provinces are very quiet, not to say stagnant in a commercial way, so much so that we question if wholesale men there would agree with Governor Tilley in his congratulation on the abundant harvest and the "satisfactory condition " of their trade and commerce. We wish it were possible for Wholesale men to unite on some policy which would moderate our imports, especially of Dry Goods, for even a year or two, and so give the overburdened storekeeping community a chance to get their stocks within their wants, and the country a chance to get rid of a millstone.

ON Saturday last, a meeting of the Commercial Travellers' Association was held in Mon treal, for the purpose of hearing the report of the delegates to the recent fannual meeting held in Toronto, and to consider the propriety of withdrawing from the old Association and forming a separate organization. After some discussion, the following resolution was adopted : "Having heard the report of the delegates to the adjourned annual meeting at Toronto of the Association, it is hereby resolved, that the Local Directors of this branch of the Commercial Travellers' Association of Canada be requested to resign their positions in the Associa-