

"I wish I had a messenger to send for my umbrella."

"If I could only get my hand-bag I would go to Long Branch when the bank closes."

"My wife might come and lunch with me this hot day, if I could only get word to her."

Many a time such ideas occur to a business man in Toronto, and he is positively inconvenienced for lack of means to transform his impulse into action. It is agreeable to learn, therefore, that the means now exist whereby such wishes as we have sketched may be gratified, thanks to the G.N.W. Telegraph Company, which has organized a special messenger service whose headquarters are at 12 King street east. The office is open day and night and notes or parcels may be delivered promptly. Telephone No. 445.

THE other day the miners employed by the Orford Copper & Sulphur Company, at Capelton, Que., with their families and friends, to the number of five car-loads, celebrated their fourth annual *fete* in the customary manner, at Bacon's Bay, under the friendly and fatherly care of Mr. John Blue, the general manager.

It is not extraordinary, says the New Glasgow *Chronicle*, for water to sell for a cent. a bucket. Water sells every day in the week (Sunday excepted) for a cent. a bucket in New Glasgow, Westville, Pictou and many other places, and a big lot of it has been purchased at that price. When the waterworks get started, that business will be spoiled in New Glasgow.

THERE was a time when the pedestrian in our streets used to be frequently fooled with the bright tin disc, which the tobacco chewer and smoker detached from his plug, so like was it to a new five-cent piece. But we know a hawk from a handsaw, now. The *Bangor Commercial* says that the "penny plug" is among the novelties offered by the tobacconists. A new cent is imbedded in every ten cent piece sold, thus reducing the price to the consumer to nine cents, with no diminution in the size of the plug.

A ST. JOHN correspondent of the Montreal *Herald*, writing on Friday last, said: The Maritime Bank affairs are as much a mystery as ever. McLellan & Blairs, assignees, have declared a first dividend of thirty cents to the dollar. How much more is realizable from the estate no one can tell. Creditors have ceased to complain. It is an old story now. What new defalcation will next emerge? Men never learn wisdom. Saml. Scoville's bankruptcy and the Commercial Bank failure were about forgotten when the Maritime Bank and McLellan brought up the old story of misplaced confidence for comparison, and the sorrowful tales were again rehearsed about widows and orphans left penniless.

LIKE many other traders before them, Sutherland Bros., of Newmarket, lost money in buying bankrupt stocks. They paid too dear for their whistle and this, it is said, is the principal cause for the meeting of creditors that was held a few days ago. It was then found necessary to compromise at sixty cents on the dollar at two, four and six months secured, without interest. Their indebtedness foots up to a little more than \$22,000 with assets of about \$17,000. The principal creditors are in this city. Seven years ago the firm made its first failure, paying 35 cents on the dollar. Unlike the one just announced the trouble was brought about by wheat speculations on the part of a member of the firm now deceased. The present members are well regarded by the trade and do a business of \$25,000 per annum.

THE sheriff has been engaged to superintend the lowering of the curtain on Thos. Starkey's brief experience as a dealer of stoves in Toronto. The same functionary has a representative on the premises of C. Wilson & Son, scale makers, also of this city.—Nothing of a definite nature was transacted at the meeting of E. Maycock's creditors held a few days ago. He has been established in Winnipeg for a number of years and a year ago opened a branch here. His business is that of wholesale fancy goods, but his capital is too limited.

WE learn from the *Victoria Colonist* that the Selkirk Mining and Smelting Company of Illecillewaet, British Columbia, shipped its first car load of ore on the 25th instant, to the smelting works at Denver. The shipment consisted of fifteen and a half tons of tested ore, having an assay of 2,120 ounces of silver. The work on the four ledges owned by the company is progressing favorably, says the *Colonist*, and it is hoped that in the course of a short time that they will be in a position to turn out ore at the rate of two or three carloads per week.

IN Belleville we note the failure of two traders. J. W. Drury, who was formerly a working journeyman, began the clothing business about the first of the year. He commenced with only a few dollars and the natural supposition now is that he euds with still less in his purse. When Munro & Co., assigned in March 1886 they compromised liabilities of \$14,000 at 43 cents on the dollar, the composition being paid by a Montreal firm. Since then, and up to the time of the second assignment just announced, they have been a "supply account" of the house in question.

ON Tuesday, of last week, the stockholders of the Pacific Postal Telegraph Cable Company held their annual meeting at 187 Broadway. Messrs. J. W. Mackay, Wm. C. Van Horn, George Stephen, Charles R. Hosmer, Henry Rosener, Albert B. Chandler, Hector De Castro, Edward C. Platt, and George G. Ward were elected directors. All of them were members of the old Board except Mr. Ward, who takes the place of John O. Stevens, who still remains secretary. The company operates lines connecting the Postal Telegraph Cable Company with the Pacific coast.

EDWIN CLARK & SON have been a long time in the grocery trade at Ancaster. But they never quite recovered from the effects of their difficulties of some years ago when it was found necessary to sell all the property. A Hamilton firm recently obtained judgment and now an assignment has been made to Mr. F. H. Lambe of that city.—A dry goods dealer in the same town, T. L. L. Lewis by name, met his creditors on the 9th. When a similar interview took place in 1885 he obtained a compromise at 60c. on the dollar. We have not learned the result of this most recent conference.—D. W. Fleury, in the dry goods line at Winnipeg, has assigned.

It was the intention of the promoter of the Sauble Falls Lumber Company to make a joint stock concern of it, but this was never consummated. Creditors have now placed the sheriff in possession, and a western Ontario bank has a man on the premises engaged in sawing up the stock of logs now on hand. The property is advertised for sale at an early date, but creditors are not likely to get a large dividend. The reputed owner is one Wm. Durrell of this city.—J. C. De Harnois is the name of a dealer in mens' furnishing at Windsor. It would not be necessary to mention this fact were it not that he has been closed up under power of a chattel mortgage.

A SURVEY is being made of the wharf properties in Halifax with a view to the extension of a branch Line of Railway down the whole water front of the city.

It is announced that about 5,000 Men are at present employed on the Short Line Railway between Mattawamkeag and Megantic; 1,000 more are wanted immediately by the construction department. 3,000 men are also said to be at work on the line between Montreal and Sherbrooke. At this date the long talked of Short Line Railway between Montreal and our own Atlantic seaports will soon be a gratifying reality.

ON Tuesday last, three meetings of creditors, of as many Montreal traders, were held in the Montreal Court house before the Hon. Judge Wurtele. In the matter of the Misses Swallow and McKenna, of the "Boston Millinery Rooms," J. M. M. Duff was named curator, Messrs. Andrew Paterson, A. J. Twist and D. Hootor, inspectors. In the case of J. L. Gaudette, boot and shoe dealer, Mr. C. Desmarteau was appointed curator, and Messrs. Camille Granger and Cleophas Emond, inspectors. Messrs. Kent and Turcotte, accountants, were appointed joint curators to the insolvent estate of L. S. Bisson, merchant tailor, Messrs. H. B. Picken and Duncan Campbell were named inspectors.

"ENTERPRISE," who writes a manly letter to the Amherstburg *Echo*, gives advice to the citizens of that picturesque old town, that may be laid to heart by many elsewhere who are dissatisfied with the place of their abode. "Don't despond," he says in effect, "lay aside politics, *sometimes*; forget petty personalities; don't curse the dulness of the town and throw cold water on projects for its advancement, but unite to welcome any one and everything that will really benefit the place." The letter goes on, "Let the citizens of Amherstburg cast their eyes around them. Begin with Essex Centre. A thriving little village, by the united efforts of its inhabitants they have surrounded themselves with manufactories, an excellent market, established a creamery and have the finest exhibition grounds and buildings west of Chatham. What a change! ten years ago—a swampy waste, a railroad crossing. To-day—a lively, pushing, business-like place with a big future. The people have faith in its future. They are not afraid to risk a little. They do not hold on to the dollars so tightly that the eagle fairly screams with pain. Hence they are successful."

A FUNNY fellow, J. Armoy Knox, of the humorous *Texas Siftings*, and a learned sport, known as "Adirondack Murray," who, when he lived in Montreal added a weekly column to the attractions of the *Gazette*, are making a yachting trip from New York via Lake Champlain, the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, to Duluth. Their joint letters, as published in the *Mail*, are very entertaining. Here is a specimen paragraph: "We went out of the canal into Chambly Basin, a bay in the river Richelieu about two miles wide. Chambly is a small town. I saw nothing worth noting there except the telegraph office. The telegraph agent is also postmaster, both in the French and English tongues, and he runs a general store. He will sell you a can of baking powder and a postage stamp, or a bottle of whiskey and a razor, with equal fluency in either language, and if you wish will throw in a bunch of telegram blanks with each article purchased. A large invoice of string beans and axe handles that he had just received had crowded the telegraph desk out into the yard. He apologized for this,