We learn from an exchange that the Kingston and Pembroke Railway Co. has purchased the car works at Kingston. The price paid was $20,000.

The electric gear of H.M.S. "Colossus" was tested on 30th ult. at Portsmouth prior to the vessel being taken over by the Admiralty from the contractors. The machinery answered satisfactorily. There are 411 electric lamps on the ship.

Great complaints are made in Cuba of the inconvenience and loss arising from the use of a silver currency of much less than its face value. The present fall in the price of that metal will aggravate the evil there as well as elsewhere.

Angus McDougall, who kept a general store at Mira in the island of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, has made an assignment for the benefit of creditors generally.——Wm. E. Barry, carriage maker at Great Village, in Colchester Co., N.S., assigned on the 5th instant to Amos A. Hill.

The Hartford Fire Insurance Company's annual statement shows assets of $4,745,342 on a capital of $1,250,000, with a net surplus of $1,443,359 over capital and liabilities. This is a gain of $213,956 in net surplus over the figures of a year ago. The surplus as to policy-holders is $2,693,359.

The International Park arrangements are expected to be completed by the 1st of April. Already the State of New York has done its share, and the work of Ontario is now far advanced. When the work is completed we shall have a veritable international park. The blood-suckers will, nevertheless, be hard to kill, if that achievement be possible at all.

George W Hoffman, one of the best known agency underwriters in Detroit, Mich., died on Jan. 6, aged 76 years. He had conducted an insurance agency in Detroit for many years. Prior to that time he held the position of secretary of the Corn Exchange Insurance Company in New York. After his removal to Detroit he held the general State agency of the Ætna, of Hartford.

The Dovercourt Land, Building & Savings' Co. has been organized, with headquarters in this city, and an authorized capital of $500,000, for the purpose of lending money and investing in real estate in Toronto and its suburbs. The incorporators are Messrs. James Brandon, A. M. Walton, F. M. Morson, M. Walton, and A. Gilbert Lightbourne. The management has been entrusted to Mr. Lightbourne, whose experience in real estate matters will no doubt be of much service to the company.

An enormous business was done by the Equitable Life In. Co. last year. Its books shewed $96,000,000 of new busines. This is over $10,000,000 more than was written by the Equitable in 1884, and $30,000,000 more than has been written by any other company in a single year. Its assets have increased about $7,000,000, and surplus nearly $3,000,000. Square dealing, energetic workers, and judicious advertising have doubtless brought about the remarkale result.

Messrs. Jno. Elliott & Sons, of London, celebrated the re-building of their foundry, which was destroyed by fire last summer, by a banquet on Thursday evening last week About 300 persons were present, among whom were noticed W. R. Meredith, M.P.P.; Mr. Washington, U.S, consul for London; W. J. Scarffe, sheriff, Brantford; Alds. Browne, Stringer and Taylor; Mr. Cowan, of Cowan & Co., Galt; and Messrs. Chas. Murray, Yates, Anderson, (Bank of Montreal), G. Jackson, Dodds, Ferguson and many others.

The People's Savings' Bank, of Detroit, Mich., has reduced its rate of interest from 4 to 3½ per cent., and it is possible that the other savings' banks of the city will follow suit shortly. "We had to do it," said cashier O'Brien, "because we can't use the money. Money is a drug in the market. Nobody wants to borrow it. We have nearly $1,000,000 now that we would like to lend on good security."

In the beginning of 1883, P. D. McCraw succeeded to the general store business of R. W. McMoran at Edengrove, in Bruce County, and paid $1,000 in cash thereon. Now he succumbs to a judgment for some $800, in favor of a Toronto dry goods house, and assigns to the sheriff.——At Guelph, Andrew Armstrong, jr. paint manufacturer, has made an assignment to John Smith. He is the same person who was charged with arson.——The cabinet-making firm of Hill, Foster & Barker has made an assignment to James Paterson. They are said to owe $1,000, and to have assets of $600.

Mr. D. Schwersenski, of Montreal, who began in a modest retail way as a furrier a few years ago, and who latterly blossomed out into a wholesale business on St. Paul st., has not been giving satisfaction to his creditors, and having heard that he contemplated leaving town, Messrs. Harris, Levy & Mills capiased him for 1,700 odd dollars. Securing bail in this case, he was again capiased by Messrs. John Martin & Co., on a claim of $500, and by a New York house for some $6,000. He is understood to owe all told about $24,000, while the assets available will be very small.

The jute trade in Dundee during last year was extremely unsatisfactory to all concerned, the values of manufactured goods of all kinds having been unprecedentedly depressed. This has been largely due to over-production during the past few years, not only in Dundee and neighborhood, but also on the continent and in Calcutta, the only consolation being that Dundee manufacturers have not suffered to the same extent as their competitors, especially those in Calcutta, where the year's operations have been very disastrous. At the opening of 1885, Hessians and other manufactured goods touched a lower price than had ever before been reached.

Much of the trade of Quebec and Ontario wholesale men with the Maritime Provinces, which used to be done by commercial travellers, now passes through the hands of resident agents in the cities or larger towns by the sea coast. We learn that Messrs. J. H. Parks and E. B. Ketchum, favorably known in connection with the Parks Cotton Mill in St. John, are giving much attention to handling Canadian products from points as far west as Toronto, as well as in Montreal and the Eastern Townships. Probably the close profits now obtainable on manufactured goods will not permit the expense of sending travelling salesmen a thousand miles or more to sell them. Hence the reliance on trusty resident agents.

The firm of John Allen & Sons has done a considerable business in Halifax as fish dealers, &c., Mr. James Allen being, we understand, the only partner. In common with other firms, he has felt the depression in the fishing and supply trade, and having of late been pressed by several creditors, he has made an assignment to his brother-in-law, Henry Hechler. Our information is that he gives preferences to several parties to whom he was privately indebted. The merchandize claims are not heavy, and the firm is reputed to have assets equal to four or five times their amount, though under present circumstances largely unrealizable. A preference to the extent of $8,000 is given in favor of his late father's estate, and the obligations outside of the preferential claims amount to some $7,000 or $8,000.

At the annual meeting of the Manitoba Board of Underwriters, held in Winnipeg on the 6th inst., Mr. G. F. Carruthers was unanimously chosen President, vice Hon. Gilbert McMicken, who resigns after retaining the office since the formation of the Board. A vote of thanks was passed to the retiring President for his long and valued services. The *personnel* of the Board is now as follows:—President, G. F. Carruthers; Secretary, R. Strang; Members, Hon. G. McMicken, J. H. Brock, G. A. Muttlebury, Capt. Lewis, G. W. Girdlestone, C. S. Drummond, Capt. Howard, A. Halloway, W. T. Kirby.

The list of failures in the Province of Quebec for the week is as follows:—Henry Chartrand, dealer in Indian and fancy goods, Montreal, has failed owing about $3,000.——N. Mathurin, of the same city, tailor, has upon demand of Gault Bros., assigned and owes about $2,000.——Senecal & Scott, jewellers, also of Montreal, have assigned, and owe about $3,000, principally in the city. Ludger Bolduc, a Quebec dry goods man, has failed, liabilities about $3,000.——Joseph Bergeron, St. Hyacinthe, A. Plamondon, St. Marcel and Michael Hayes of Sheenboro, all small general dealers, have failed and assigned.——George Anderson, a drover of Athelstan, has made an assignment.——A. Gaudet & Co., of Montreal, shoe manufacturers in a small way, have abandoned their estate. P. Tremblay, general dealer, Ste Luce, has failed and assigned.

The new year has brought the usual crop of business changes, among which we note the following more important ones: The wholesale dry goods firm of McCall, Shehyn & Co., Quebec, and Stirling, McCall & Co., Montreal, have been dissolved. The Quebec house will be continued under the same style by Messrs. Joseph Shehyn and John McCall, while Mr. John Stirling will continue the Montreal business alone, under the old firm name. Mr. C. G. Hope has been admitted to an interest in the wholesale wine and general agency business of John Hope & Co., Montreal. Mr. Jas. Law has been made a partner in the well known firm of Law. Young & Co., Montreal. Messrs. Lennon, Pennie & Co., wholesale provision and flour merchants, Quebec, have dissolved, and Mr. E. M. Lennon will continue alone. H. Jonas & Co., wholesale dealers in essences, &c., Montreal, have dissolved, Mr. L. Silverman retiring. Mr. John Smardon, soap manufacturer, Montreal. has retired and is succeeded by his sons J. L. and W. H. Smardon, who continue as John Smardon & Co., Kemp, Edy & Co., wholesale tinware, &c., also of Montreal, have dissolved.

According to the *Railway Review*, there were twenty-two railways in the United States sold under foreclosure last year, and forty-four placed in the hands of receivers. The capitalization of the sold roads was nearly $280,000,000 in the aggregate, being larger than in any year except 1878. As for the new receiverships, the showing is very bad. The forty-four roads which went into the hands of the receivers had an aggregate mileage of over 8,000 miles, and a stock and bond capitalization of a little over $385,000,000. This exhibit does not make it appear that railways are such uniformly successful money-makers as some interests would have us believe." The fact of the matter, says