

jeweller, Charlottetown, P.E.I., at 30 cents; Jos. A. McDonald, general store, Charlottetown, P.E.I., at 2 cents; Fred. Morrow, general store, Souris, at 3 cents; E. B. Hyson, general store, Mahone Bay, N.S., at 25 cents secured, 5 cents in 6 months, 6 cents in 10 months and 7 cents in 14 months.

Commencing or recently commenced businesses:—J. F. McMurray, book store, Fredericton; Geo. C. Pitfield, groceries, Moncton, N.B.; A. G. Kaizer & Co., export furs, Halifax; Edward Burke, groceries, Simcoe, Ont.; Mather-son, Hurley & Co., dry goods, Halifax.

Selling or sold out:—Geo. Borrell, general store, Westover, Ont.; Macraul & Parker, Strathroy, Ont.

—On the 10th inst. at the assizes in Belleville, Ontario, an important insurance case was tried, which, whatever be its merits, goes to show that the sooner some companies exchange the suicide clause out of their policies the better it will be for all concerned. It appears that the widow of the late Grand Trunk Station Agent at Trenton, sued the Union Mutual Life Insurance Company for \$500, her share on two policies for \$1,000 each on the life of her husband, who died in May last, leaving her with three children. The Company resisted payment on the ground of suicide, it being conditioned in one policy that in case of suicide by violent means they should not be responsible for the amount insured, but return the amounts paid in the premiums, less any payments for the expenses of management. On behalf of the defence it was proved that the deceased was visited unexpectedly on the day previous to his death by the Traveling Inspector of the Grand Trunk, who found his cash short. He told his wife of this, and next morning, shortly after going on duty, returned into his dwelling, which was in the station, and commenced to vomit matter of a blue color, such as would be caused by blue vitriol, used in telegraph instruments, to which he had access. A doctor was sent for who treated him for poisoning by corrosive poison, and he died four hours later, without stating whether he had taken the poison voluntarily, or drank it by accident. It was also shown that some of the poisonous solution had been taken from the instrument in the telegraph office, and one of the cups, such as are used in the batteries, was found outside of the door, showing that it had contained some of the vitriol solution. The motive alleged for suicide was disgrace consequent upon his defalcation, the deceased being more than an ordinarily sensitive man. For plaintiff, it was shown that his defalcation had been arranged for with the inspector by a friend, and it was contended that poison might have been taken by accident, and that proof of self-murder had not been adduced; or, if so, that suicide was not of that violent nature provided against by the policy. The judge instructed the jury to find whether there had been suicide or not, and that if there had been was it such as the policy expressly provided against, for it might be that the Company contemplated incurring the risk of certain less frequent causes of suicide, such as voluntarily smothering by charcoal. The jury found that deceased had accidentally taken the poison, and a verdict was given for plaintiff.

—Two inventors in Philadelphia are said to be incubating great revolutions in the art of printing that are only surpassed, if at all, by the recent and alleged inventions in rapid telegraphy. One has perfected a justifying type-setting machine which uses new type only, since, by its methods, it is cheaper to make new type than to distribute it; while the other inventor uses type so sparingly that a single alphabet is all that is needed in any given font, and neither type-setting nor distribution is required, the type making an impression in a wooden block when touched or "set," and this block forming a matrix for a stereotype plate.

—Leading citizens of Brantford are agitating the subject of establishing a beet sugar factory in or near that city. At a recent meeting a gentleman from Hamilton presented the following facts there aient as affecting the farmer: From 15 to 30 tons of sugar beets can be raised from an acre of land, with no greater labor than is required for an acre of turnips. An acre of beets will pay from \$60 to \$120 in cash, whereas only from \$12 to \$20 can be made from an acre of wheat. The cultivation of beets in rotation improves his other crops, doubling, and in some cases trebling the yield of wheat. The beet pulp from the sugar factory will enable him to feed ten times as many cattle as he can feed under the present system of farming. That 200 pounds of beets contain over 12½ pounds of sugar. That a pound of sugar (crystalizable and uncrystalizable) can be extracted from eight pounds of beets at a total expense (including the cost of beets) of two and two-fifths cents. That the method of making sugar from beets is very little more complicated in principle than the boiling of maple sap into maple sugar, the operations being simply to express, purify and condense the juice. The costly machinery required is intended to do the most work at the least expense, but sugar can be made without it. That no other Canadian enterprise will pay so large a profit, or afford greater guarantees of stability. Several farmers present spoke, stating that from their experience in raising other roots, it would pay them to raise sugar beets at \$4 per ton, or 12 cents per bushel. If a ready market was ensured, Mr. Watts said, as one of the capitalists, there would be no trouble in raising the money to equip and carry on a factory, if the farmers would only guarantee to furnish enough beets to keep the works employed. A committee of the following gentlemen was formed: Messrs. Watts, Cockshutt, Waterous, Elliott, Clement, Henry, Heyd, and others who are empowered to collect all the information possible, examine statistics, etc., and to proceed with the formation of a company and erection of factory. Lists are to be circulated among farmers to ascertain what area of land will be promised for the cultivation of beets. A stock-book will at once be opened. The gentlemen, whose names appear on the list, are men of wealth and business reputation, and are well able to carry out whatever they attempt. It is hoped to have the factory in operation the coming fall.

—The Ottawa branch of the Banque Nationale was recently victimised by a couple of clever

swindlers. On the 19th ult., a man giving his name as Frank Wood arrived in the city with a few boxes of cigars and rented an office on Elgin street, where he set himself up as agent for a large manufacturing establishment. On the following day he opened an account in the Banque Nationale, depositing a small sum of money. The next day, in company with a second party, whose name is supposed to be A. S. Tunnden, he presented a number of small bills and secured four \$20 bills. Nothing more occurred until Tuesday evening, when he deposited a check for \$1,600, apparently made in his favor by Messrs. Baskerville Bros. A clerk was immediately despatched to the Ontario Bank to ascertain if it was all right. He returned with the information that there was sufficient funds to meet the check, and the amount was accordingly placed to his credit. On the following morning, the 26th, shortly after the bank had been opened, a messenger boy employed by Wood was sent to the bank to draw \$600. He received the amount, and returning to the office handed it over to his employer. Shortly afterwards the boy was given two other checks to get cashed—one for \$900, made out by Wood, and the other for \$850 on the Union Bank, made out in the name of Fitzsimmons & Browne. One of the clerks was about to proceed to the Union Bank, to ascertain if there were funds to meet Fitzsimmons & Browne's cheque, when information was received from the Ontario Bank that the \$1,600 cheque of Messrs. Baskerville Bros., about which enquiries had been made on the previous afternoon, was a forgery. The boy was consequently detained and a policeman sent for. When he arrived a consultation was held, and it was decided to allow the boy to go back to his employer's office, the policeman, who was in civilian's clothes, to follow at a respectable distance, so as not to arouse suspicion. When they arrived at the office it was found that Wood had decamped, having, it is supposed, got wind of the boy's detention through a confederate, one Tunnden who was in the Bank and got a five-dollar bill changed, when the boy presented the \$600 cheque. The boy was at once taken into custody, but nothing could be learned from him. He said he had been working for Wood since the previous Monday, and knew nothing about him.

THE CONDITION OF ENGLISH TRADE.—A recent issue of the London *Economist* gives the customary commercial history and review for the year 1878. The year is stated to have been even worse in the commercial affairs of England than the year previous. Trade was more stagnant and the public mind more depressed. Prices had sunk lower than for thirty years, wages were being pressed downward at the price of great discontent and obstinate labor conflicts, and in spite of the low interest on money the movement of capital was sluggish. The causes for this state of things are varied and numerous. For the first half of the year, the foreign relations were a source of anxiety, and war with Russia appeared imminent. Then the acquisition of Cyprus produced an apprehension of fresh complications. Later in the year, the trouble with Afghanistan assumed threatening proportions. Russia was demoralized by the long war. Germany was in