

Mr. J. C. McLagan, an enterprising business man in Guelph, has become involved through speculation in crude oil. He suspended payment last week, and assigned on Wednesday, 26th, to Mr. George Anderson, his book-keeper, for benefit of creditors. Mr. McL. appears to have made desperate efforts to avoid his present unpleasant condition. He sold his large block of buildings for \$28,000, but the surplus in this was not sufficient to meet the pressing demands made upon him, not only from oil men but others, for his business appears to have been of a diversified character. Meantime the Wellington Oil Works are continued under the supervision of Col. Higginbotham, his former partner. We understand that a statement of assets and liabilities is being prepared, and will shortly be in the hands of those specially interested.

In July, 1879, a company was formed in London, Ont., for the purpose of heating that city with steam. The nominal capital was \$30,000. In June last, Mr. Isaac Waterman bought the plant, etc., of this concern for \$11,500, and formed a new company called the London Steam Supply and Manufacturing Company, with \$30,000 capital. In the early part of the winter the company had nearly 150 customers, and the president appeared to think that he had really found a new *bonanza*. But it is evident that the present unusually severe winter or other causes have changed his mind. The *bonanza* has turned out any thing but a "treasure," and the creditors were asked, on Monday last, to consider the situation. They decided to appoint a committee of creditors, consisting of Messrs. John McClary, Henry Taylor, Thomas Green, T. H. Smallman and F. A. Fitzgerald to carry on the business for the present season, and to report to a future meeting. An effort is being made to obtain an increase in the prices paid by consumers. The liabilities are about \$30,000.

We find in a Western paper the following resolution with its appropriate "whereas," more *Americana*, recently passed by the Chamber of Commerce at Duluth. If its premises be true, and the canal which it foreshadows built, Canada will be knocked for ever into an eternal cocked hat, by Gosh! railroad and all, "hook and line, bob and sinker":

Whereas, the history of navigation on our lakes and rivers, and the Erie Canal, has demonstrated the fact that water transportation is the chief factor in reducing to a minimum the cost of marketing the products of our country:

And Whereas, the construction of a canal, less than fifty miles in length, and the slight improvement of intervening natural watercourses between the head waters of Lake Superior and the Red River of the North, will open up a navigable water system of more than 3000 miles in length, through the fertile valleys of the Red, Saskatchewan, and Assiniboine rivers, and their tributaries, to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, and enable the United States to maintain forever its supremacy as the granary of the world:

Therefore Resolved, That our Senators and representatives in Congress are respectfully and urgently requested to use their best endeavors to secure an appropriation of \$30,000 by the present Congress for the purpose of making a survey for the proposed canal and river improvements.

LIFE INSURANCE NOTES.

To a subscriber who enquires as to the standing of two "Beneficial Societies" in Pennsylvania the *New York Spectator* replies as follows:—

"The companies named we know little about, except that they belong to a swarm of co-operatives with which the country abounds. Such companies are based on fundamental error, and do not guarantee life insurance. They simply promise to pass around the hat, collect what is voluntarily contributed, and to pay over the amount so collected (less expenses) to the persons in whose behalf the collection is taken up. Pennsylvania co-operative societies are just now in specially bad odor because of the extensive frauds perpetrated on them by reason of their reckless methods of doing business. We advise you to get out of them, and invest your money in life insurance that insures, as furnished by the regular companies, whose practices have stood the test of many years and given satisfaction to all interested."

As the enemy of fire underwriters, the fire-distributing plumber is well known. No less is he the foe of life insurance, says the *N. Y. Chronicle*, as the subjoined extract from the report of Dr. Nagle, deputy register of vital statistics in this city, shows:—

The following deaths from zymotic diseases, which were influenced or aggravated by defective plumbing, allowing sewer gas to enter the apartments of the victims, occurred during the year 1890:—

Disease.	Total containing deaths less than report'd	In houses 4 families	In houses containing less than 3 families	Ins-titu-tions
Measles.....	484	100	329	64
Scarletina	610	165	418	25
Diphtheria	1,331	399	950	31
Membranous croup	903	228	660	14
Whoop'g cough	276	48	199	23
Typhus fever.....	3	2	1
Typhoid fever	237	52	106	76
Total	3,894	990	2,655	239
Total deaths from all causes	31,866	7,851	17,667	5,525

We learn from the same journal that a bill was introduced last week which should be put through without delay. It provides for a compulsory registry of plumbers in New York at the office of the board of health, and requires that plumbing work and drainage for new buildings shall be done only in accordance with plans approved by the said board.

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