

F. UNSER, of Toronto, wants St. Thomas to give a bonus to a carpet factory which he proposes to erect.

THE annual meeting of the North-West Commercial Travellers' Association was held at Winnipeg on December 6th, in the Board of Trade rooms, but adjourned for two weeks, at the expiry of which the annual reports will be received.

THE Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce intends to urge on the British Postmaster-General the feasibility of a system of half-penny postage for letters posted and delivered within towns of certain population, while Canada charges two cents for delivering a letter in her cities.

THE *Hardware Journal*, of Birmingham, understands that an elaborate system of war telegraphing is being arranged between the British Admiralty and the Post-Office. The arrangements will be such that within 48 hours it will be possible to connect every telegraph station on the coast directly with the Admiralty.

THE Americans are boasting of their deposits of asbestos. The *News of Tacoma*, Washington State, says of the first shipment of asbestos made recently from Puget Sound: It is of a superior quality, and the vein, which is about fifteen feet wide, improves in quality the more it is exposed. The high grade of the asbestos is a surprise to the company, who expected a coarser grade.

A LITTLE budget of business difficulties in the city of Quebec mentions that Menard & Turcotte, a firm of job printers, are in difficulties, due mainly to friction between the partners. Menard has assigned, but Turcotte declines to be a party to the abandonment of the estate. The liabilities are mostly due to a couple of local paper houses.—E. F. Lavoie, a provision dealer, has assigned owing \$2,700, and shows nominal assets of \$2,000.—P. & F. Ouellet, a small grocery firm, of the same city, has failed.

WE learn from the *Winnipeg Free Press* that the Great Northern Railway opened to traffic last week 121 miles on its Pacific extension in Montana. Track laying is progressing at the rate of two miles a day, and it is expected that the Rockies will be reached by Christmas. Two thousand men are at work. Supplies are being concentrated in the Flat-head Valley west of the mountains, where a force of several thousand men will be employed, and the line hurried to its terminus on Puget Sound.

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TORONTO.

THE Ontario Express and Transportation Company of Montreal will enter the field for express business, with a capital stock of \$1,000,000. The leading spirit in the new company is Mr. S. Chadwick, who was for several years London manager of the American Express Company.

THE consul-general of Mexico at Montreal, Mr. D. A. Ansell, says the McKinley tariff shuts Mexican products out of the U. S. markets, so that the Mexicans are angry and disposed to closer trade relations with Canada. They could send Canada coffee, tobacco, hemp and jute. In return they could buy from Canada manufactured lumber, agricultural and other machinery, gunpowder, &c., &c.

ONE of the latest English inventions in connection with the electric-light is a silent cab call. Several clubs and hotels in London have already been supplied with this useful commodity. Two lamps are suspended outside the building, one red and the other green, and by pressing a knob in the entrance-hall one or other of the lamps can be lit at will. The red light calls a four-wheeler and the green a hansom.

A NEW \$50,000 steamer is being built on Lake Michigan to ply among the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence. Her dimensions are 170 feet, over all 155 feet keel, 16 feet beam in hold, with concave 30 feet and 10 feet depth of hold. The motive power is to be a compound engine, cylinders 16 and 30 inches, and 26 inch stroke; steel boiler, while the propeller will be an 8-foot Trout wheel, made by H. G. Trout, of Buffalo, which is expected to drive her fast.

AT St. Hyacinthe, a hardware and tin dealer, J. H. Morin, who began two years ago, is unable to pay his way, and at a meeting of creditors held a few days ago proposed to pay 25 cents on liabilities of \$8,000.—F. J. McCaffrey, a general dealer of Nicolet, Que., has assigned on demand of Letourneux, Fils, & Co., Montreal. He is said to have been in business before unsuccessfully, recommencing in 1887, but has done a very limited trade since.

THE town of Cobourg lost a good citizen, and the industrial world of Canada a representative worker, in the death of James Crossen, which occurred last week at the house of a friend in Montreal while on his return from a visit to his son in Boston. Mr. Crossen began his business life in Cobourg, we believe, and was long a founder there. Considering that an opening existed for a car factory in the earlier days of Canadian railways, he proceeded to

found one; and after hard struggles and numerous difficulties built up the Crossen Car Works at Cobourg to the extensive enterprise we find it to-day. In addition to great power of application, the deceased gentleman possessed enterprise and push. His integrity was undoubted, and his kindly disposition made him many friends.

JAMES N. HENRY, a well-known and extensive produce dealer in Chatham, Ont., has suddenly taken his departure across the border. Before doing so he appears to have levied tribute on all classes, farmers, merchants, and money-lenders. Even this, it seems, did not satisfy him, for, in one or two instances, finding a lender more liberal than a previous one in his valuation, he paid off mortgages on properties and then made subsequent mortgages, increasing the amount. He is understood to owe somewhere near \$30,000.

F. M. DECHENE, of Quebec, a considerable dealer in clothing and staple dry goods of the cheaper sort to longshoremen, schooner men, &c., is reported in difficulties, and a meeting of his creditors was held last week, resulting in an assignment. Mr. Dechene has been in business some thirty years, making money in a moderate way, and has had the name of paying cash for most of his goods in the past, but the habits of his late years are the main cause of the present trouble. He shows a considerable nominal surplus, and creditors are willing to give any reasonable indulgence, if he transfers the business to his sons, who are well spoken of as to ability, &c.

FOR many years R. Crebs worked at his trade as a blacksmith at Bruce Mines, but evidently tired of this, he began storekeeping, with the only result that could be expected from a man without experience—failure.—About four years ago Ruppell Bros. succeeded their father in the general store at Elmira, and although deserving, they have found it difficult to make any progress. The services of an assignee have been called for.—In Sept., 1887, H. F. Buck began as a furniture dealer in Listowel. To-day he is asking a compromise at 40 cents on the dollar.—Wm. Freeland was reported as doing the best grocery business in Palmerston; personally he is keen, shrewd, and very popular, but there are said to be some occult reasons why he is now in embarrassment.—A couple of young men named Goulet Bros., who started a grocery business at Gananoque, last spring, on limited capital, have been unable to make a success in the face of the keen competition prevailing and have assigned.

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