

ACCORDING to Bradstreet's, Canada had twenty-nine failures last week, as against nineteen the corresponding week of 1883 and four the corresponding week of 1881. The failures last week were nearly all those of small traders.

### CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

AT HOME.—Another victim of the railway disaster has died during the week.—Prescott has voted to unite with the counties of Leeds and Grenville.—The civic relief committee of Toronto has \$1,640 on hand. Considering that Toronto is regarded by so many of the enterprising emigrants from Ireland as a place where it is no work and all play, and the girls can become fine ladies without wetting their fingers, the fund is not likely to endure very long.—The Shields libel suit against the *Globe* has failed for want of prosecutors. It will be remembered that the *Globe* charged Shields, who is a Government contractor, with having been in corrupt collusion with the Ottawa Ministry, with having paid certain moneys to aid the Government in their elections, and with having received beforehand, a sufficient consideration for this course. Shields, on reading the accusation, wrote indignant letters, declared he would take the *Globe* to court, actually issued the writs, but now when the question actually comes up he fails, not alone to appear, but to so much as press the suit through agents.—Free libraries have been voted for Berlin, Simcoe, St. Thomas, and London, but Whitby, which is a city already wise enough, defeated a free library proposal. The example of Toronto, it is pleasing to note, is being followed in many prominent towns in the Dominion.—Biddulph has begun again to render brutal account of itself.—The Eastern Extension Railway has passed into the hands of the Dominion Government.—The Toronto Electric Light Company is fast winning a foothold in the city. The electric light is used by a number of prominent establishments along the principal streets, and the clear, delicate illumination, so resembling an intensified moonlight, gives a gross and brassy aspect to the competing gas.—The South Renfrew Liberals have nominated Dr. Dowling as their candidate for the Local Legislature.—The Governor-General, the Marchioness of Lansdowne, and suite, arrived in Toronto on Wednesday morning, after a delay of several hours on the route, occasioned by the heavy snow-fall. The party made a flying trip to Niagara Falls, and also visited the chief places of interest in Toronto. They attended the Yacht Club ball, making an excellent impression upon all who met them. His Lordship was entertained at dinner by the Toronto Club, and made a practical, manly, and successful speech. He has evidently, from the frequent warm outbursts in his speech, the faculty of "thinking on his legs." Very many have declared his speech to have been equal to, if not better, than any address delivered under like circumstances by Lord Dufferin, who was nothing if not profusely, promptly, and at all times and places, eloquent.—The "agony" in political circles in Quebec is now over. Mr. Mousseau has escaped and been appointed to the vacant judgeship of Rimouski. Hon. Dr. Ross, who besides having a fairly brilliant political record, is governor of the Quebec College of Physicians and Surgeons, has been called to the premiership. The Reform press still continues to predict a collapse of the *Bleus* as the ultimate outcome of the embroglio, but the thought is the son of the wish, and that is all. Hector Langevin and Mr. Mousseau are very suave politicians, and will do things smoothly, and, for themselves, well.—The following appointments to the Senate have been made:—Mr. J. G. Ross, of Quebec, in the place of the late Senator Price; Hon. A. Lacoste, Montreal, in place of the late Senator Bureau; Dr. McMillan, of Alexandria, in place of the late Senator Brouse; Mr. James Turner, of Hamilton, in place of the late Senator Hope; ex-Sheriff McKindsey, of Halton, in place of Lieut.-Governor Aikins. The vacancies caused by the death of Senators Hamilton and Gibbs have not yet been filled.—A child in Hamilton died from the effects of having swallowed a nut-shell.—According to Premier Norquay, Manitoba is on the verge of a crisis.—During the past year, 110,284 persons settled in Canada.—London is about establishing a soup kitchen. In the same city two female liquor detectives are busy in helping to carry on the "great movement."—The Grand Trunk Company will be asked to pay certain claims of those dependent for livelihood upon the victims of the late railway accident.—It is rumoured that Mr. Norquay is to be taken into the Canadian Cabinet as Minister of the Interior. If this be so, Mr. Miller will probably succeed him as Premier of Manitoba.

ABROAD.—New Orleans has now its Cremation Society. Within an hour after the body passes into the hands of the incinerator, and while the funeral sermon is being preached, the body is reduced to ashes, which ashes appear on an urn prepared for the purpose. There is nothing revolting about the ceremony.—The Annamites lost at Sontay 400 killed, and 600 wounded.—There is rioting and bloodshed among the Wisconsin Indians.—The Pope will soon issue an encyclical regarding Catholics becoming Freemasons.—The French Cabinet is divided upon the Egyptian question. Prime Minister Ferry thinks the present a good time for France to regain her position in Egypt. Some of his colleagues hold adverse opinions and deprecate action in the matter.—It is reported that Abyssinian troops have taken and sacked the town of Keren, slaughtering the Egyptians who defended it. The Arab element here is greatly excited, and a conspiracy is said to exist among them which extends to their fellows in Cairo, Beyrout, and Ceylon. Contemplating an outbreak three Arabian ex-officers have been arrested, and evidence establishing the connection of others with the affair is in possession of the authorities.—The Chinese in Hainan solicit imperial protection against the French; and it is reported that 2,000 men are proceeding thither.

### PROSPECTUS OF THE WEEK.

There appears to be in Canadian journalism a field still unoccupied, which can be filled only by a periodical enabled to furnish at the requisite outlay literary matter of the best quality. This field is the aim of the proprietors of THE WEEK to fill. They will appeal particularly to the Canadian public; but they crave no indulgence on this score at the hands of Canadian readers. They are willing that THE WEEK shall be judged by comparison with other periodicals, English and American, of similar scope and price, hoping to gain the favour of a body of readers not limited by the bounds of Canada.

THE WEEK will appeal by a comprehensive table of contents to the different tastes which exist within the circle of a cultured home, and will endeavour faithfully to reflect and summarize the intellectual, social and political movements of the day. The man of business, whose hours for reading are limited, will, it is hoped, find in this periodical the means of easily keeping himself acquainted with the chief events and questions of the time.

Fiction, in the form both of serials and short stories, will occupy a prominent place, and will be regularly and liberally supplied. For this purpose the assistance of acknowledged talent has been secured. Verse will be welcomed as often as it is found possible to procure it of the right quality. Sketches of travel and papers descriptive of places interesting from their scenery or their associations will from time to time appear. Critical essays and short biographical papers will also form features of THE WEEK. Current events, both at home and abroad, will be closely watched, brought carefully into focus, and impartially discussed. It will be the Editor's constant aim to keep his readers well abreast of the intellectual progress of the age.

In politics THE WEEK will be thoroughly independent. It will be untrammelled by party connections, free from party leanings, unbiassed by party considerations. The rule which it will adopt, of requiring every article to bear either the writer's name or some note of individual authorship and responsibility, will enable it to allow liberal scope for the expression of individual opinion, and to present, as far as possible, the best advocacy of the best cause. In Canadian politics its desire will be to further, to the utmost of its power, the free and healthy development of the Nation.

### ANNOUNCEMENT.

The following are among the attractions which will be offered the readers of THE WEEK in the earlier issues:

#### "A BYSTANDER"

will contribute, at intervals, reviews of current events, especially of events in Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe.

#### MR. EDGAR FAWCETT,

the well-known author of "A Gentleman of Leisure," "Tinkling Cymbals," "An Ambitious Woman" (just completed in the *New York Tribune*, and attracting wide attention), "A Hopeless Case," etc., is writing for THE WEEK a new novel, entitled "The Adventures of a Widow." This novel deals with New York Society, a field which Mr. Fawcett has made peculiarly his own. The columns of THE WEEK will also, from time to time, be enriched with some of Mr. Fawcett's exquisite verse.

#### PRINCIPAL GRANT,

in a series of papers, will describe a tour taken by him, in company with Mr. Sandford Fleming, during the past summer, over the route of the Canada Pacific Railway. Dr. Grant and his party traversed entirely new ground, by crossing the Selkirks, which have hitherto been considered impassable. These interesting papers will be entitled "Down the Kicking Horse and across the Selkirks." Dr. Grant will also contribute articles on various important subjects, such as Indian Affairs, Progress in British Columbia, etc.

Contributions in prose and verse may be looked for from J. E. Collins, Joaquin Miller, Louis Honoré Frechette, Dr. C. P. Mulvany, George Stewart, jr., John Reade, Mrs. Kate Seymour McLean, Miss Machar (*Fidelis*), Dr. Daniel Wilson, John Charles Dent, Wm. Houston, F. Blake Crofton, G. Mercer Adam, J. Hunter-Duvar, R. W. Phipps, Wm. F. Clarke, Professor Murray, Sir Francis Hincks, R. W. Boodle, O. C. Auringer, Mrs. J. F. Harrison (*Seranus*), J. M. LeMoine, Frederick A. Dixon, J. G. Bourinot, W. D. LeSeur, and many other writers of note. Art, Music and the Drama will receive abundant and careful attention. There will also be a series of critical essays on "The Younger American Poets," by the editor.