

THE Kingston Lead Works have, it is said, orders on hand which will keep all hands employed until the New Year. Up to date something like 100 tons have been smelted and sold to Montreal houses. The mine is holding out well.

A Moscow despatch says that the bank of Kamieschin has failed. A series of trials for fraudulent bankruptcy and forgery will ensue. The Mayor of Moscow is reported to be implicated. Over 200 families have been reduced to despair by the failure.

SOME thirty different factories offered their cheese at Saturday's market, in London, Ont., the total aggregating 10,450 boxes. The sales were 1,200 August make at 10½; 1,050 at 1¼c.; 1,115 at 11c.; 500 August and September at 11½c., and 4,180 balance of season at 12c.

An order-in-council has been passed allowing steel for shovels and spades, not less than eleven or more than eighteen wire gauge, costing not less than \$75 per ton of 2,240 pounds, to be imported free of duty by manufacturers of shovels and spades for the purpose of manufacture, until the next session of Parliament.

THE owners of plate glass windows will be glad to learn that Messrs. Scott & Walmsley's company, The Hand-in-Hand, has been licensed to insure this valuable description of property. It is in fact the only company recognized by the Government, and with its strong list of stockholders should commend itself to the insuring public.

BOTH the exports and imports of Toronto were larger in September of this year than last. The figures for 1884 are, exports \$199,419; imports, \$1,588,092; for 1883, exports, \$145,827; imports, \$1,522,013. The three largest items in the imports column this year, are woollens, \$283,600; cottons, \$128,999, and iron and steel, \$122,256. Silk comes next with \$72,888, then coal valued at \$69,686, and fancy goods, \$52,567.

THE Chicago Board of Marine Underwriters has advanced rates for October about 50 per cent. The following are now the rates per \$100: Chicago to ports on Lake Michigan, 50c.; ports on Lake Superior, 85c.; ports on Lake Huron, Sarnia and Detroit River, 60c.; ports on Georgian Bay, 68c.; ports on Lake Erie, 75c.; ports on Lake Ontario, \$1.05; Ogdensburg \$1.20; Montreal \$1.50; Montreal, special, \$1.75. Ten per cent. is added on B 1 vessels, and no distinction is made between steam and sail.

In June last a Sarnia insurance agent, S. L. Hitchcock, was charged with the serious crime of inciting a man named Davis, to commit arson. He has been at liberty ever since, having furnished bail to the amount of \$2,000. The case was to have been tried a few days ago, but it was found that Hitchcock had taken a hurried leave for Uncle Sam's domains. The biggest "risk" that he is ever likely to take will be when he again places himself within reach of Canadian justice.—At the Windsor assizes on the 4th, Edward Wilson was tried and convicted of setting fire to a dwelling house. He was sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment.

MESSRS. Jos. Monteith and A. W. Smith announce themselves as an addition to the retail dry goods trade of Paris, Ont. The former, whom we know to be a young man of excellent personal qualities and possessing a thorough knowledge of his business, was for some years in the employ of Mr. Jas. Scott, the well-known merchant of this city; the latter has just disposed of his interest in a general store at Mount Albert. The new firm, Smith & Monteith, starts out with the commendable determination to do an exclusively cash business. This, in these days of

generous credits, requires some nerve, but the wisdom of such a course, will, if persisted in, manifest itself in more ways than one.

It is said that twenty out of the twenty-five Boston banks who are holding the paper of the insolvent leather firm of Shaw Bros., have signified their willingness to accept 30 cents cash. These banks include the largest creditors and represent, so far as Boston banks are concerned, considerably more than the necessary three-fourths in number and amount required by the law. If the remaining creditors in Massachusetts will accept this offer which the trustee now makes, a settlement may be shortly arrived at; if not, the property of the estate will be placed on the market. There are some 300,000 acres of timber land in New England, and tanneries and other assets in Maine, New York, New Brunswick and Quebec.

ACCORDING to the *St. John Globe* the shipments of deals from that place to trans-Atlantic ports during the past nine months show some reduction as compared with the shipments last year. From January 1st to September 30th last year 153,535,517 feet of deals were sent forward, while this year 145,957,817 feet were exported. There has been an increase in the shipments of birch timber, which this year amounted to 11,546 tons compared with 7,401 tons last year. Of pine timber 3,642 tons went forward this year and 7,401 tons last year. The two largest shippers this year are Alex. Gibson with 90,789,825 superficial feet of deals, and W. M. Mackay, 22,337,201 S. feet. Then follow in order Gay, Bevan & Co., Samuel Schofield, and R. A. & J. Stewart.

A PLEASANT occurrence, the more pleasant on account of its extreme rarity, is related by the *Montreal Star* in a recent issue: "Leading merchants will recollect the celebrated Carrier failure which took place in Quebec in 1867, when the largest retail house there collapsed to the figure of over \$150,000. Mr. Carrier subsequently settled for fifty cents in the dollar, all his creditors signing off, and, being quite satisfied, granted him his discharge. A few years ago Mr. Carrier died, and in his will he requested his wife, when the estate was wound up, if anything remained to attempt a further payment to his ere-while creditors, and this she has now done. Yesterday at the end of seventeen years such of the creditors in Montreal as could be found were astonished at receiving a substantial reduction, in the shape of twenty cents on the dollar, of the old debt."

A ST. JOHN'S N. F. despatch of the 24th ult. says: "Reports from all fishing centres on the island are most discouraging. From the northern part of Labrador, where great numbers of fishing craft had gone, doubtful accounts are received. Out of 700 vessels, only 100 returned with full fares, 200 with half, and 400 had not taken 100 quintals each. At the Straits of Belle Isle and on the French shore the fisheries have been a total failure, while at White Bay great distress is already prevailing, and the inhabitants are threatened with starvation during the coming winter unless the Government comes to the rescue. Gloomy reports are coming in from every quarter. Not since 1869 have the fisheries proved such a failure. Present prospects indicate a disastrous failure of the fisheries this year, which will undoubtedly throw a large number of supply merchants into bankruptcy."

A PRIVATE banker, C. T. Scott, doing business at Wingham and Oakville, was evidently unworthy of the name of banker. He was guilty of some very irregular practices and when charged with fraud concealed his books. After this he was committed for trial and released on bail. He has failed to appear in court.—Another

defaulter is A. A. Hicks, a sewing machine agent, at Woodstock. He left owing about \$1,000.—In March last, Klein & Smith, two young men, began business in Ayton. They possessed but little capital, but succeeded in making a heavy purchase of stock, giving a chattel mortgage for \$2,800 on the same. Their goods have since been seized and sold to one Graves.—It would seem that the influence of the "Scott Act" is being felt in Halton county. The hotel property of Robert Bennett, Georgetown, was one time valued at \$12,000, but now it is said would not bring half this sum. Bennett has been fined several times for violating the act and now his assignment is announced.—Wm. O'Connor, general agent, Guelph, has been getting behind for some time. He owes some \$6,000 on chattel mortgage and has assigned.—A small grocer in Peterboro, M. Quinlan, began business in 1882. He lacked the necessary qualifications for success and has assigned in trust.

A NUMBER of gentlemen, we are informed by the *New York Times*, interested in the improvement of the telephone system met one day last week to witness experiments with a new telephone. They saw what appeared to be an ordinary Bell telephone, with a face like a Waterbury clock, attached to the wall. As they sat in a semicircle about ten feet from the instrument, it emitted a series of discordant sounds. Opening with a blast apparently from a fish horn, the instrument gave a shrill whistle, then yelled "Hello! hello!" and wound up by singing a refrain from "The Warrior Bold" in a deep bass voice. "John," said General Manager Andrew Friedman, of the Empire Telephone and Telegraph Company, "I'm going to whisper to you." Then in a sonorous whisper he said: "Who are you going to vote for?" The answer was prompt: "Cleveland, you betcher life." The inventor, Mr. A. A. Kinnison, then described his instrument. It consists simply of a diaphragm made of splints of imported woods, woven like a basket. There are four thicknesses or layers of this basket work. The conducting wire passes through the centre of the diaphragm, and is held in place by a nickel-plated disk. There is no battery attached to the instrument, and there are none of the appliances used in the Bell Telephone. It has been tested with much success for a distance of two and one-half miles. It is not affected by the weather, owing to the absence of electricity. Several experts present expressed their satisfaction with the new telephone.

THE manager of the Huron and Middlesex Fire Insurance Company, H. L. Ainslie, is reported to have left London under rather suspicious circumstances. A hurried examination of his books and accounts, has led to the belief that all is not right. The *Free Press* states that "reports of a serious nature are afloat as to the authenticity of a note of \$250, made by a gentleman of Bluevale to the company." It will be remembered that we found it necessary to criticize the company's method of doing business, whether our remarks were likely to make it unpleasant for the manager we do not know, but the fact remains that he has left his post. His reasons for so doing are most likely to be ascertained in a day or so.

MUCH sympathy will be felt for Mr. William Hewett, manufacturers agent in this city, who represented in this province the well known Messrs. Parks of St. John, N.B. From what we can learn Mr. Hewett had, for a considerable time allowed his commissions to remain unpaid and had also endorsed the firm's paper for a pretty round sum. The banker who holds this paper is now pressing payment which Mr. Hewett is unable to meet, hence his present difficulty.