

MR. JOHN BOULTBEE, at one time a barrister in Hamilton, has been appointed Police Magistrate of Vancouver.

H. P. Roy, the defaulting teller of the branch in the Bank of Montreal in Stratford, was arrested at San Francisco on the 26th. The amount alleged to have been stolen is \$6,000. The prisoner has confessed his crime and says he will return to Canada.

To encourage the native iron and steel trades the French government has determined to discard the use of wooden sleepers on the State railways, and to gradually substitute the metal ones which are coming into extensive use on the Continent.

THE National Insurance Company of Ireland has decided to do no more business in Kingston till the fire protection is better. A private letter states, says the *News*, that the company thinks that Kingston is no better protected from fire than a village is.

It is stated by the *Coal Trade Journal* that a rising analytical chemist of New York, Mr. Henry Y. Castner, (who is a son of the late Samuel Castner, known to the coal trade of the East for thirty years,) has recently accomplished and patented a process for the manufacture of Sodium, that will enable not only Aluminium, but the metals Magnesium, Silicon and Boron to be cheaply produced.

THE week just past has almost been a "white kid glove" one, as the sheriffs say, as regards failures in the Province of Quebec, for we do not hear of one actual assignment. The only item we can glean is a composition granted to P. Bailey of Champlain, the exact terms of which are not obtainable. The liabilities are \$4,000 to \$5,000, a portion being for borrowed capital, which it had been supposed was his own.

A MAN who is attempting to start a retail lumber yard down in a small town in Ohio, gave a jobber the name of his former employer for reference, and left his order. The report received by the jobber, although slightly ambiguous, was not of a nature to induce him to hustle very much in the execution of the shipment. It is so subtle, and withal so honest, says the *Lumberman*, that I am tempted to subjoin it:

"Mr. — has worked for me 12 or 13 years, and has always been a faithful man, and I respect him as a true friend; but if I was a stranger to him and knew his failings, I would not want to trust him."

A MEETING of the Irondale, Bancroft & Ottawa railway company was held last week in this city, when Hon. S. C. Wood, H. S. Howland, A. F. Wood, M. P., of Madoc, W. A. Humphreys, of New York, and C. J. Pusey, of Irondale, were elected directors. Mr. Howland was afterwards chosen president. A contract was let for fifty miles of the road, running eastward from the Victoria R. R., and we are told that twenty miles of it will be completed this season.

THE wholesale liquor & cigar firm of Reid, Goering & Co., Hamilton, has been dissolved. Messrs. W. G. Reid & G. F. Birely continue as Reid, Birely & Co. while Mr. Wm. Goering carries on upon his own account in liquors only. —J. E. Atkinson takes over the stationery business of Scott Bros. Lucan. —A. O. Hogg will continue the general store business heretofore conducted by T. McGlashan & Co. Oakwood. —S. J. McLaren, a dealer in clothing at Port Arthur, has withdrawn his Winnipeg branch. —"Moved to Ridgetown" will explain the closing of Jas. May's harness shop at Thamesville.

THE Nova Scotia Government, in its agreement with the Joint Stock Association restricts the company which shall complete and work the western consolidated railways of that province to a maximum tariff of charges which is as follows per car:

	Flour.	Grain.	Lum-ber.	Live Stock.
225 miles	39.50	41.00	31.00	36.50
100 "	25.75	27.00	18.50	24.00
50 "	16.00	17.00	11.00	14.00
20 "	10.00	11.00	6.00	8.00
5 "	6.00	7.00	4.00	6.00

WE have pleasure in adding to our exchange list the name of the *Cornwall Standard*, a new weekly journal under the editorship of Mr. James Harper, late of the *Montreal Witness*. On leaving Montreal, Mr. Harper was entertained by over a hundred of his admirers at a diuner in the St. Lawrence Hall. His worship Mayor Beaugrand in the chair. A journalist of long experience, on the Montreal press and elsewhere, and one of whose integrity and ability no two opinions are expressed, Mr. Harper has the cordial good wishes of many Ontario friends.

HERE is a commentary on the reduced values of floating carriers now-a-days: At a sale of shipping in Bath, Maine, last week, the vessels all went off cheaply, some of the shares at almost half-price. One sixty-fourth of the ship "Standard," which cost \$64,000 in 1878, sold for \$535; 1-64 of the ship "James Drummond," built in 1880 at a cost of \$68,400, brought \$640; 1-64 of the ship "Berlin," built in 1882 at a cost of \$80,000, sold at \$800; 1-64 of the ship "E. F. Sawyer," built in 1883 at a cost of \$104,000, brought \$1025. All these vessels are in excellent repair, having been recently coppered, and are free from debt.

ON a recent evening, Messrs. Wm. Davies & Co., pork packers, in this city, gathered together their employees, when the senior partner in the firm announced its decision to distribute annually a percentage of the profits of the business among the work-people. At the close of a humorous address, replete with practical advice, Mr. Davies proceeded to hand round amongst those who had been steadily with the firm during the past season, a handsome bonus, based on the individual earnings for the year ending 31st Dec. last. Great was the gratification of the recipients, many of whom have been with the firm upwards of twenty years.

QUITE a few changes have taken place of late in Manitoba business circles. At Brandon, Coombs & Stewart, general store keepers, contemplate retiring, and Whitehead & Whitelaw, of the same place, and in the same line of business, will shortly dissolve—David Evans, a tailor, at Emerson, has left for British Columbia, and Chalmer Bros. & Bethune are about to open a branch of their hardware business at Pilot Mound—A general trader, at Minnedosa, H. G. Henderson, has removed to Solsgirth—J. R. Strome, in the same line, at Portage la Prairie, is selling out.—The American Plumbing Company, in Winnipeg, is about dissolving, and Carberry & Nixon, commission merchants, have dissolved.

THE reported sale of Lake Superior Copper amounting to probably from 8,000,000 to 13,000,000 pounds by the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, at ten cents per pound for delivery during the next two months, came to the trade as a complete surprise. The price is low, for other companies previously sold at eleven cents for delivery; but it is a judicious one under present circumstances, when Chili Bars are selling in London at £39 10s., and

best Selected Ingots at £45 per ton. Our exports to Europe were 2000 tons less this year, says the *Shipping List*, compared with same time last year. The United States are at present the largest producers of Copper in the world, and have become now regular exporters; the foreign markets, therefore, cannot remain without influence on our prices.

FIRE by the prevailing unrest of the time, even school-boys, here and elsewhere, have been known "to strike" against the rules of teacher and trustees. But the very latest manifestation comes from the newsboys of Toronto. In the report of the voluntary organization which conducts a home and night-school for this class of juveniles, we find the following, which we commend to strikers everywhere: "The night school has been carried on as in past years throughout the winter months. One of the teachers, who who a University student, when setting sums for the boys in the first efforts at arithmetic, found a certain lad so far in the advance of the others that he set him an exercise in compound division; upon which the others, as became such experienced Knights of Labour, at once declared they would strike work unless all were advanced to compound division!"

HERE are further business changes in Ontario: D. L. Goodwin, a grocer, at Court-right, has sold out, and Jas. Fowler, in the shoe business, at Eastwood, has moved to Woodstock.—J. A. Wood, the well-known and successful grocer of Guelph, has disposed of his business to Chas. Watson, and intends going abroad for a while.—Loughrey & Tackaberry, saddlers in London, will hereafter trade under the style of Tackaberry & Wigmore.—The stock of general goods belonging to Jno. Stinson, at Maxwell, has been sold to C. McD. Williams, who will remove from McIntyre, where he trades in the same line.

—Wm. Kough, a dealer in hardware at Owen Sound, advertises his stock for sale.—R. Hodgson has bought out the furniture business of Jno. Campbell, Teeswater.—A new firm succeeds that of Brimer & Nicol, wholesale dealers in woollens in this city. The style will be Nicol, Sutherland & Jeffries.

It is four years since James Laut came to this city from London and entered the store of a King Street grocer as clerk. Not long afterward he began business on his own account as a dealer in teas on Yonge Street. Being well regarded and possessing ability he soon built up a profitable trade. Not satisfied with a moderate degree of success he, like many others, thought that extended business meant more money and in time we find him trading in this city, under three distinct styles i.e. James Laut, Laut Bros., and the Mutual Tea Co., besides opening a branch in London and another in Hamilton. All this, it was guessed, could have but one ending, and we know that in one instance his account was, by a far-seeing creditor, gradually reduced. Still, the statement now shown of the estate is somewhat of a surprise, in face of the fact that he showed in January last a nominal surplus of \$12,000. To-day the figures stand: nominal assets, \$17,000, and liabilities about \$23,000. It does not look at present as if more than 50 cents on the dollar will be realized. The business will likely be wound up. An investigation into his affairs is in progress. Perhaps it will be found that the foolish system of making presents of china and glassware to customers who buy so and so many pounds of tea, or the offering of pianos as prizes, does not result always in success and fortune.