

We note some assignments among traders of minor importance: such as Chas. Gauceau, tin-smith, St. Cessaire; P. A. Hebert, grocer and hotel keeper, Chateaugay, owing \$1,850 and showing \$1,450; J. P. Tobin, grocer, Cornwall, also Alex. J. Reid, who keeps a general store at Middle Musquodoboit, N.S.

RIEPPERT, PAYNE & MACKEY, Mnfrs. of shirts and ties in Montreal, have effected a compromise at 66½ cents on the dollar, payable in three, six and nine months. They show a surplus of \$5,000 over liabilities of about \$25,000. Their troubles were brought principally through disagreements among the partners.

J. A. ARTHUR & Co., grocers of Shebrooke, and Caron Bros., hardware dealers, of the same place, have assigned in trust, the latter firm being another instance of farmers becoming merchants. They only commenced business last summer, with no experience, both having previously worked on their fathers farm, and the above is the result of their ambitions and desire to be merchants.

THE annual meeting of the Ontario & Quebec Railway Co. was held on Tuesday last, when the following gentlemen were elected directors, viz: Messrs. E. B. Osler, Geo. Stephen, Duncan McIntyre, H. C. Hammond, Hon. J. R. Thibaudan, Hon. Peter Mitchell, A. B. Chaffee, Wm. Hendrie, Adam Brown. At a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors Mr. E. B. Osler was elected president, and Hon. J. R. Thibaudan vice-president.

THERE are no items of remarkable interest among the business changes in the North-West this week. At West Lynne the affairs of D. N. Germain are somewhat entangled with those of the parent hardware house of a similar name in Winnipeg, which is in difficulties. Nearly all the effects of the West Lynne concern are mortgaged.—In the same place the bailiff is in possession of J. S. DeLaine's hotel.—At St. Jean Baptiste, T. McCrea has had his effects seized and is out of business.—J. Z. Desautels at Gauthier assigned with liabilities of \$2,500. Assets, \$2,800.—The publisher of the *International*, at Emerson, has his plant advertised for sale by the sheriff.

AFTER a long illness, the Hon. T. N. Gibbs died, at his home in Oshawa, on the 7th instant. He was born at Terrebonne, Que., in 1821 of English parents, and went to Oshawa more than fifty years ago. With his brother, he built up an extensive grain, milling and store business, and in 1866 was elected to Parliament for South Ontario. In 1873 he became Secretary of State for the Dominion, was appointed later, Minister of Inland Revenue, and called to the Senate a few years ago. He has been a director of the Ontario Bank, president of the Dominion Telegraph Co., and at the time of his death was president of the Standard Bank. Mr. Gibbs possessed much force of character, persistence in the face of difficulties, and had to do, during a long and active life with a goodly list of commercial and manufacturing enterprises.

The lumber export of St. John during March amounted to 1,276,000 superficial feet of deals, battens and boards, 21,000 pieces palings, 530 tons birch and 7 tons pine timber. This went to Liverpool, Glasgow and Dublin. The shipments from that port for the quarter ended 31st, ult., were as under:

Deals, battens, deal ends.....	9,651,886	sp ft.
Scantling and board .....	40,498	"
Palings .....	39,000	Pos.
Birch .....	830	Tons.
Pine .....	279	"

The timber all went to Liverpool, as did some of the deals and palings. But London got the largest shipments of deals. Glasgow 1,899,000

feet, the Continent 1,841,000, Penarth, Dublin, Greenock, Barrow, Belfast and Africa the remainder.

River John, Pictou Co., boasted an apothecary and postmaster named John D. Gaud. This official went to the United States some days ago and need hardly be expected to return. He is behind in his accounts to the P. O. Department, we are told; and owes a good sum for merchandise. He is said to have made over his assets to local creditors, before he left.

A BRAMPTON by-law to grant \$6,000 to J. O. Hutton & Co., to establish a woollen and knitting factory in that town was defeated last week by about 20 votes.—Messrs. Haggert & Cochrane, of the same place are negotiating with the Town Council for a bonus of \$75,000, and agree to double their works and mortgage their property as collateral security for twenty years.

RECENTLY, says a Chicago despatch, the Nickel-Plate railroad demanded 15 per cent. of the east bound shipments of live stock from the other pool roads, but was refused. The arbitrator has awarded percentages of freight as follows:—Lake Shore, 32; Pittsburg & Fort Wayne, 23½; Michigan Central, 23½; Grand Trunk, 6; Buffalo & Ohio, 5½; Nickel Plate, 10.

A GENERAL dealer of Valleyfield, Que., named F. X. Barbeau, has been obliged to succumb after a year's existence owing to the excessive competition existing there, and has assigned in trust to a Montreal advocate. His liabilities are said to be about \$11,000 and assets nominally about the same. —Another firm of the same place, St. Amour & Co., have also assigned in trust.

GILBERT BOUVOIER, a small shop-keeper of St. Martine, Que., commenced business as a youth of 18, without any previous experience, in the fall of 1875, being advanced some money by his mother. But naturally enough was unable to make a success of it and failed and compromised in 1879, and has apparently been unable to do any better as he has just recently been seeking indulgence from creditors, who have granted him a compromise of 40c. on \$1.00 cash.

THE Hamilton Bridge and Tool Company held its annual meeting last week. Seven per cent. dividend was declared on profits of last year. The following were elected directors; Messrs. W. Hendrie, President (re-elected); W. A. Robinson, Vice-President, (re-elected); A. T. Wood, D. Moore, M. Leggat, Directors. Mr. John Stewart was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer, and Mr. Teiper appointed engineer and manager of the works.

AN assignment was made last week by R. B. Huestis of Charlottetown, P. E. I., who places his assets as follows; Stock \$9,547.56; Cash \$48.13; books debts \$377.94; real estate \$5,000; Total \$12,968.63. Liabilities include mortgage on real property to Merchants Bank \$600, Bill of Sale on stock to Merchants Bank \$1,800; other liabilities unsecured \$5,800, total \$8,200. There is thus an apparent surplus of \$4,768; but his assets will not probably realize what Mr. Huestis calls them worth. If they would, there would be no need of his assigning.

HENRY LINDSAY, who keeps a small general store at Drummondville, Que., D. A. Chaurette, a small grocer of Montreal, and F. Charland, general dealer at Beloeil, Que., have assigned in trust. The last-named has liabilities of about \$3,000 and assets amounting to \$2,000.—Thos. McSweeney, dry goods dealer, etc., of Moncton, N.B., is offering 40c. on the dollar. His statement shows liabilities direct about \$20,000, and indirect, \$5,000; assets nominally about \$12,000, so that he is \$8,000 short, after being in business a little over a year, on his own account.

A MANITOBA item of March states that D. Noyes, who has contracted to take out 6,000 saw logs for the Edmonton Mills, near Edmonton N. W. T. has ten men at work near the old White Mud fort. They have 1,000 logs out now and 1,500 more cut. They will get out 4,000 before the snow goes and the rest in summer. The snow is about two and a half feet deep in the woods and travelling is very difficult.

A MONSTER iron ferry, for transporting railway cars across the river Detroit at Detroit is to be built by the Michigan Central Railway, and not the Southern as stated. Mr. Frank Kirby of the Detroit Dry Dock Co., is now preparing plans and a model. It is desired to make her a boat that can buffet with the heavy floating ice of the river, while her machinery will be the newest and most practical. The boat will have three tracks and carry a load of thirty-four cars. The *Transport* carries 24 cars and the *Transfer* 21. She will cost in the neighbourhood of \$250,000. Her dimensions are formidable; length 315 feet, beam 75 feet maximum; molded depth 18 feet; draught of water load 11 feet and when light 9 feet. Two pairs of engines having cylinders 3 feet diameter and 6 feet stroke will furnish power to her side paddles; these are to be 30 feet diameter, with buckets of 9 feet length and 2½ feet face. Six steel boilers will be fired with a dozen furnaces, the total horse power will be 4,000.

SOME weeks ago, we stated that Mr. W. G. Whitehead, dealer in fancy goods at Winnipeg, was being pressed by his creditors, and that one firm accused him of misrepresentation. Mr. Whitehead assures us that he never did get goods by misrepresentation, and claims that our item does him injustice. It is true that his stock has been sold under judgment; the proceeds have been divided, we are told, *pro rata* amongst his creditors, realizing between 30 and 40 cents in the dollar. But one creditor to whom we wrote replies under date 10th inst.: "So far as we know, Whitehead acted straight with his creditors, and from what we heard, we had a good opinion of him. His difficulties we understand were brought about by real estate speculation." We are endeavoring to find what the so-called "false pretences" were that the creditor referred to complained of. Meantime we give Mr. Whitehead's denial of the charge, and shall regret if we find that an accusation has been made against him which is unfounded.

WRITING on the subject of carrying customers, a St. Louis exchange remarks; Why it is such a universal practice for customers to ask grocers for credit is not exactly clear. We do not believe that the dealers in any other line of merchandise are called upon to grant credit in any such degree as is the grocer. A stranger moves into a town, and one of the first moves is to find a grocery where he can deal on "trust" and find it he generally does. The fact of being a stranger in a town does not militate against his asking, but he rather conveys the impression that he is doing the grocer a favor when he asks him to sell goods on time. There is that in his manner which seems to say that, if "you don't trust me, there is a grocer around the corner who is just dying for a chance to get my trade even on the credit "system," and so overpowering is this threat that he is given credit 'by the week,' which may mean by a good many weeks." We do not know but that the baker or the milkman here-about are just as often asked or expected to credit, but if they do so, it is for a shorter time than the grocer allows, and the collections are more frequent. One thing is certain if the grocer is one who *buys* for cash, he will not be long in finding out long-winded customers and 'shunting' them.