

Eastern Business Changes. ONTARIO.

A. Ryan, shoes, Toronto, has assigned.
 T. Y. Savage, physician, Weston, is dead.
 Wm. Slattery, fruits, Ottawa, has assigned.
 F. C. Lotch, grocer, Strathroy, has assigned.
 Sam Rook, dry goods, Toronto, has assigned.
 F. J. Braund, fancy goods, Ottawa, has assigned.
 Jas. Moffatt, shoes, Parry Sound, has assigned.
 Helen B. Boyle, fancy goods, Picton, has assigned.
 Samuel Ruthven, grocer, Toronto, has assigned.
 W. C. Murray, tailor, Toronto, reported away.
 Birr Cheese Co., Birr, advertise to sell out at auction.
 Thos. Orr, saddler, St. Catharines, sheriff in possession.
 Chester McGregor, merchant, Wallaceburg, has assigned.
 David Watt, general storekeeper, Watford, has assigned.
 Mrs. W. Reid, millinery, etc., Bracebridge, has sold out.
 J. Merner & Co, general store, Zurich, now J. Merner alone.
 J. Corliss, physician and drugs, Drumbo, has sold out his drug business.
 F. Clarke, general storekeeper, Bolton, was burned out; partially insured.
 W. S. Pulford, hardware, etc., Leamington, has sold out his hardware business.

QUEBEC.

L. Marion & Co, tailors, Hull, have assigned.
 J. F. Gillespie, grocer, Montreal, has assigned.
 Camille Bertrand, tailor, Longueuil, has assigned.
 A. A. Boomhower, furniture, Bedford, has assigned.
 Devault & Thorien, hotel, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Gagnon & Toussignant, dry goods Montreal, have dissolved.
 D. Reay, general storekeeper, Hudson, is offering to compromise.
 Vailancourt & Freres, shoe manufacturers, Montreal, have assigned.
 W. F. Johnston, wholesale flour, Montreal, meeting of creditors called.
 R. S. Oliver, commission flour, Montreal; meeting of creditors called.

"The Commercial" at Vancouver.

At a late meeting of the Vancouver Board of Trade, J. B. Ker addressed the Board in respect to the necessity of making the advantages of the city known and thereby promoting the influx of capital for investment. He quoted from an article by R. E. Gosnell in a recent number of the Winnipeg COMMERCIAL which he said was calculated to seriously prejudice Vancouver with eastern people, and showed that it was necessary to counteract the effect of such misleading statements.

Mr. Gosnell has a reply in the Vancouver News-Advertiser to Mr. Ker's strictures, from which we make the following extract:—

"Although I have heard a number of favorable comments on the article, Mr. Ker is the first I have known to take exception to it. There is nothing I wish to have condoned or explained away concerning it, which was

written in good faith and conscientiously in the interests of the city, and if Mr. Ker will have the manliness to publish *in toto* in any of the city papers the article in question, I am willing to allow the members of the Board of Trade and the citizens generally to decide as to the extent to which the reputation of Vancouver has suffered thereby and accept all consequences, but it is manifestly unfair to intrude a single sentence from its context for the purpose of producing the impression that the writer is a defamer, and prejudicing him in public estimation. . . . If the entire contents of my letter to THE COMMERCIAL is given to the public by Mr. Ker, it will be observed in the brief reference to the real estate situation, which it contains, that I undertake to show that Vancouver has passed the speculative era, and that advances in future depend upon, not mere prospects in a real estate way, but the volume and extent of business. I, with the best of intentions, combatted the current outside impression that we were existing in corner lots, and pointed at some length to what extent trade and industry had developed, and the elements of stability and permanency which entered into the future of the city. I did say that the days of speculation, such as had enriched our citizens in the past, had gone by, when, for instance, a man could buy to-day and three months hence double and treble the price paid, and I am prepared to stand by it and defend every statement in the article. . . . It is possible to see on'y through real estate spectacles, but in reality you cannot injure our prospects more thoroughly among eastern people who have Winnipeg ever in their mind's eye, than by advertising this as a real estate city. A great suspicion exists in regard to "boom" towns, and if there is one prejudice more than another by which they are affected, it arises out of that very idea of inflation. If you can convince outsiders that Vancouver has elements of stable industry and commerce—in other words, has something behind it—you have ten chances of their investing and settling with us against one on the inducements held out by mere love of speculation. In anything I have ever written to outside papers concerning this city or province, and I have contributed a great many letters to various journals during the past few years, I have endeavored to make that view prominent.

Victoria Board of Trade.

At the last meeting of the board of trade of Victoria, B. C., Owen T. Bulkeley, of London, addressed the board by letter, asking that the members get out a book, illustrative and descriptive of Victoria. It was referred to the advertising committee.

Captain John Irving wrote informing the board that the steamer Danube, with a draft of seventeen feet, had found bottom 300 feet from her wharf in the inner harbor at high water. It was a' together mud, which the company is now engaged in removing, but the writer stated that the Dominion Government should act in this matter. The board instructed the secretary to make the proper representations to Sir Hector Langevin, minister of public works.

The advertising committee reported, recommending the publication of an illustrated book. The report was adopted. Ellis & Co. tendered for the work of producing 5,000 copies for the

sum of \$1,500, the work to be done under the supervision and to the satisfaction of the boards of trade and aldermen.

Mayor Grant speaking on this subject said that he was authorized to state that one gentleman had promised to give \$500 alone, and his worship had every reason to believe that the council will give the sum of \$2,000 as partially understood now.

The president having referred to the death of the late James Fell, Mayor Grant proposed the following resolution: "Whereas the late Mr. James Fell, who was present at our last meeting, has since passed over to the great majority; and inasmuch as Mr. Fell during his lifetime was a most useful and energetic member of this board; therefore be it resolved: That the condolence and sympathy of this board be transmitted to the members of the family of our late fellow member; That the board wishes to emphasize the great assistance which our late associate has rendered in the interests of our city of Victoria."

D. Ker produced a copy of the C.P.R. summer tours, in which the population of Victoria is given at 15,000, and moved that the secretary be instructed to write the company with a view to having a correction made. This matter also brought up the error in Dunn Wiman's commercial reference book.

Mr. Erskine broached the subject of the tax on commercial men. He thought it somewhat inconsistent on the part of the council to institute a scheme to vote money to advertising the city while they killed the best advertising medium we could have. There are, he said, from 200 to 300 commercial men coming to the city yearly, and they have a far greater weight in advertising the city than any book that could be published. And yet the city prevented them coming here. But business men of this place go and meet them at Vancouver, Tacoma and Seattle. Victoria not only loses them, but gets their bad word as well, which has a great deal of influence. He moved that the secretary of the board address the city council, asking that body to make representations to the local government with a view to the repeal of this law. The motion was adopted.

Waghorn's guide for January is to hand. It contains a number of new post offices opened and changes of names, and alterations in mail and stage services. In railway matters the new route from Lethbridge and Great Falls is given, and trains on the M. N. & W. Ry. are now running as far as Yorkton.

We are called upon to notice, says an eastern trade paper, the difficulties of D. Maxwell & Son, of St. Mary's. The firm claim an apparent surplus of \$170,000, but this is in farmer's notes, plant, and other unrealizable assets. In the middle of last month they held a meeting of creditors, at which most present agreed to allow the firm an extension of two years at 6 per cent. interest. But one bank objected, unless a claim for some \$12,000 was settled first, and this leaves the whole matter in abeyance. In the meantime the factory is closed down, most of the hands have left, and it is doubtful if the firm will resume operations this winter. Their liabilities are not far from \$400,000, and it is believed that fully two-thirds of the assets are represented by farmer's notes.