

Business East.

ONTARIO.

W. Sloan, grocer, Chatham, has sold out.
John Halfner, butcher, Kingston, was burned out.

Thos. W. Resde, physician, Chippawa, has sold out.

A. Wilson & Co., tailors, etc., London, have assigned.

J. E. Shaw, physician, King, has moved to Chippawa.

Norman Davey, grocer, etc., Kingston, was burned out.

Patzer & Lett, axe manufacturers, Belleville, were burned out.

Ira Palmer, general storekeeper, Balsam, is giving up business.

J. P. Armour, physician, Lakefield, has moved to Wardsville.

Harvey & Co., general storekeepers, Meaford, are advertising business for sale.

Montezuma Bros., general storekeepers, Branthorn; trustee advertising business for sale on 12th inst.

Estate of Geo. Smith & Co., woollen manufacturers, Lambton Mills. Stock advertised for sale by auction on 8th inst.

Melville, Fair & Co., general storekeepers, etc., Collingwood and Nottawa, have dissolved. E. Fair & Co. continue at Collingwood and A. Melville at Nottawa.

QUEBEC.

Noe Goyette, saloon keeper, Montreal, is dead.

Wilfrid E. Menard, grocer, Montreal, has assigned.

Alfred Belanger, blacksmith, St. Henri, has assigned.

J. H. Perrault, general storekeeper, Gentilly, has assigned.

Cardinal & Corriveau, tobacconists, Montreal have assigned.

Louis Lafranc, general storekeeper, Bic, has assigned in trust.

John Johnson, grocer, Montreal; stock damaged by fire and water.

Brossard & Frere, saddlers, Drummondville, were partially burned out.

Bastien & Quevillon, dry goods dealers, St. Jean Baptiste, has assigned.

A. Marchand & Co., general storekeepers, Beauharnois, have assigned.

L. M. Perrault, dry goods merchant, Montreal, is offering to compromise.

W. Copping & Co., saw millers, Joliette, are succeeded by Kelly Bros. & Co.

Francois Ouimet, produce merchant, St. Alexandre, is about to give up business.

J. F. A. D. Trudeau & Co., general storekeepers, Henryville, are about dissolving.

A. Herbert, general storekeeper and baker, Drummondville, stock partially destroyed by fire.

Lafreniere & St. Onge, commission agents, Montreal, have dissolved; business continued by S. St. Onge.

Leonard & Co., restaurant keepers, Montreal, Mrs. L. J. Leonard has ceased to do business under this style.

Compagnie du Baie des Montagnes Vertes,

Montreal, have dissolved; Geo. Tucker continues under same style.

The Boston Millinery Rooms, Montreal, have dissolved. Lizzie Moore, Alice Swallow and Maggio McKenna continue under same style.

The Virtues and Vices of Options.

A rather marked feature in the Stock Exchange recently has been the revival of "option" dealing. In years gone by a considerable amount of business was habitually transacted in "options," especially in consols, but more recently this species of speculation had dwindled down to very restricted dimensions. But at no period has it ever been as popular as it is on the continental bourses, and on the stock exchanges across the Atlantic. At Paris, and on all the German bourses, there is a vast amount of speculation constantly carried on by means of options, not separate from, but auxiliary to, direct operations for the rise or fall. In New York, "options" or "privileges" are also a very favorite form of speculation, and that the means for indulging it have been abundant is evidence by the fact that Mr. Russell Sage, the well-known associate of Mr. Jay Gould, who was, until the collapse of May 1884, one of the wealthiest and most powerful manipulators in Wall Street, has always been a great dealer in "stock privileges." It is difficult to understand why options have so far not been acclimatized in England, but, in view of their becoming more popular, it may be well to refer to their advantages and disadvantages from an outside standpoint.

An "option" is the price paid for the right to demand or to deliver a certain amount of stock at a given price within a certain definite period. The prices given for this "option" may, of course, range infinitely, according to the supposed value of the elements of which it is composed. The right to demand a stock is termed the "call" and the right to deliver it the "put." For instance, one may pay to day say, two per cent, for the "call" of a month hence of £1,000 Russian 1873, which right may or may not be exercised. And a "put" would be exactly the converse of this. It is possible to buy the double privilege of both "put" and "call," but the price asked is usually so heavy as to be practically prohibitive. Now, the idea of the speculator who dabbles a little in options is simply to buy the "put" or "call" according to whether he thinks the market will fall or rise; whereas their real *raison d'être* is something altogether different. They should always serve as a protection to other operators. For instance, a speculator becomes a "bear" of, say, £10,000 Russian 1873, and buys "call" of the same amount of stock. If the price falls, as he anticipates, the profits which he realizes are reduced by the amount paid for the "call." On the other hand, if the stock rises, no matter how much, he can "call" the same amount of stock as that sold at presumably the same price, which liquidates the stock sold, leaving him only the premiums paid for the "call" out of pocket. It is, of course, evident that an "option" often affords protection not to one, but to a series of operations. Moreover, the holder of an "option," using it this way, may

finally find it to his advantage to close all operations for which it acted as protection, and using, say, the "call" in a direct manner, turn over from the "bear" to the "bull" side of the market. An "option" used properly, therefore, affords ample scope for skillful speculation, while no loss can be incurred beyond the premium paid in the first instance. But when a speculator who dabbles a little in this sort of business just buys the "put" or "call," and, as it is termed "sits upon it," he simply plays a losing game, for his operations for the fall or rise, which would be sufficiently weighted in the case of a purchase or sale by his own inexperience, and by the expenses of commission, &c., are now burdened by the heavy prices paid for the option itself. In fact, the charges are probably multiplied tenfold against him. It is true that the loss is limited, but then the prospect of a profit is reduced almost to the vanishing point. On the other hand, "options" capably used not only limit the loss, but offer a fair chance for making a profit. They are, in fact, an excellent medium for clever, yet cautious, operators. From what we have said, it will be seen that those who advise people to buy "options," without taking any other measures, are simply considering their own interests, the more especially as the securities so often recommended are those which are extremely unlikely to fluctuate to the extent of the given premium—the latter frequently remaining in the hands of the broker, or so-called "broker," as something of a much more satisfactory nature than any commission.

From the standpoint of business morality, two things may be adduced in connection with "options," one for and one against. In the first place, they foster a form of speculation which already flourishes too abundantly. They do this not only directly, but also indirectly, as, owing to the way in which they limit loss, encourage people to speculate in stocks and shares who otherwise would be restrained, not so much by a positive prudence as by a negative timidity. But it is evident that one can be as effectually destroyed by a poison taken in regular and known quantities, as by a large draught taken heedlessly. It is only a question of time—both methods are equally certain. On the other hand, used by experienced speculators, "options" are generally great safeguards against unexpected and violent movements in prices, and hence, in times like the present (speculation being a fact which must simply be acknowledged and dealt with), they are entitled to some commendation. As a matter of fact, speculation in stocks and shares at the present time is, for most people, gambling of an ultra-violent character, and is only tolerable when protected in the way described.—*London Economist*.

THE planting of a Hungarian colony in the Northwest means the creation in that country of a Hungarian vote, with all that the term implies. Surely Canada has sufficient variety of class voices already without adding to the number. Settled in masses immigrants and their descendants retain their old world characteristics, and constantly bring foreign ideas and influence to bear upon politicians. The policy in not a wise one.—*Toronto World*.