

AN order in Council renews for five years the contract of the British America Bank Note Company with the Dominion Government. Its competitor for the contract was the newly incorporated Dominion Bank Note Company.

THE appeal of the Western Counties Railway Company against the Windsor & Annapolis Co., of Nova Scotia, to the Supreme Court, was heard, but it is not certain that any judgment will be given, because a point has been raised on behalf of the respondents as to the jurisdiction of the Court, the judgment appealed from being, as it is said, not final.

IF "brevity be the soul of wit," the following by a country dealer in Nova Scotia is an extremely witty production, addressed in shape of a circular letter to his creditors: "Sir,—I am obliged to fail. Please to consult with A—B—, Halifax. (Signed) R. R. RAY." This may be called Ray's Ready Relief.

THE Mersey Docks and Harbor Board, at Liverpool G. B. have decided to spend £36,000 in erecting accommodation for cattle from America as well as slaughter sheds. They evidently have faith in the future continuance of the trade.

A MEETING of creditors of E. Morrison & Co., flour dealers, Halifax, was held on 15th inst. and instead of an extension of time enabling the firm to pay liabilities, the estate shows a great deficit. A committee of able business men was appointed to investigate the affairs of the firm. Mr. Morrison has offered 62½ per cent. on time without security. A settlement it is impossible for him to carry out, even under the most favorable realizing of the assets shown. Fifty cents in sixteen months has been since accepted under trustees.

MR. E. W. PLUNKETT, formerly of the contracting firm of Messrs. Shanly & Plunkett, who are building the Western Counties Railway in Nova Scotia, went to England in December last, to raise money on the bonds for the completion of the road. It proves the indisposition of British capital towards such enterprises at present, that although these bonds have their interest guaranteed by the Dominion Government for twenty years, Mr. P. could raise no money on them.

A SCHEME is to be laid before the St. Thomas council next week to grant to a company, who shall build rolling mills there and expend \$2,500 a month, a bonus of \$10,000, free use of the water supply for ten years, and exemption from taxation for a like period. A certain group of manufacturers propose to erect a rolling mill and nail works either at Port Stanley, St. Thomas, London or Hamilton, and are said to be now visiting Pittsburg, Penn., purchasing machinery for this purpose. Port Stanley appears to be regarded with most favor, owing to its superior facilities for getting in coal and iron, and for shipping; but the Canada Southern interest is strong in favor of St. Thomas for the purpose. Since there are so many bidders for the rolling mill, there is the more likelihood of some one of them granting the terms demanded.

MR. J. C. WILLARD, mill owner, of Bolton, Que., has assigned, owing, says the *St. Johns News*, \$108,890—\$29,448 direct and \$78,442 indirect. The latter includes endorsements for the Missisquoi and Black River Railway. The assets are stated to be less than \$20,000, and some of this not available. Personal endorsements or obligations given in behalf of companies' operations are in some instances justifiable and successful. But in many more instances they disappoint the hopes and wreck the fortunes of those sanguine or enterprising people who good-naturedly go into them.

A FENELON FALLS correspondent makes a curious boast of the ability of that once lively village, "to turn out insolvents," no less than 19 or 20 having been turned out during the last five years. The reason why, is the too great number of business men (with large families) to be kept up by a comparatively small population. Since the lumber trade ceased to exist in 1874, when it had four lumber mills, with 100 men and boys each, the population has decreased about one-third. There are now only two, running three months of the year, and then only employing about fifty hands each.

AS instances of how the plunder of thieves is scattered about the world, we hear that a large package of the bills stolen from the Receiver General's office in this city were last week entered at the Custom House. The thieves having gone to Europe had the bills exchanged by some German bankers, who will, no doubt, lose considerably by the transaction. On the previous day a Montreal firm received from a Boston correspondent some of the \$10 Consolidated Bank notes which were stolen from the bank in 1877.

THE bridge over the Thames, at Wardsville, needs repair if not renewal. The Middlesex and Lambton County authorities consulted upon the matter, hesitating between a new span of iron or one of wood. It is now decided to ask tenders for a new wooden span on the South end of the bridge.

SARNIA harbor was surveyed in 1875 by a Dominion officer, with a view to deepening it as a harbor of refuge for vessels exposed to the fierce storms of Lake Huron. Nothing more was done however; and as there is an awkward shoal at the S. W. boundary, the Sarnia Board of Trade and the Town Council are having representations made in the hope of Government assistance to the work which we think is a desirable one. What is needed, is that the entrance to the bay shall be dredged, in which case vessels, instead of anchoring in the main channel of the River St. Clair, could sail into the bay and be safe.

L'Union Commerciale de Quebec is the name of an association of gentlemen in that city whose object is to discuss commercial affairs. At the annual meeting, held on the 19th inst., the following officers were elected for 1879-80, viz., Messrs. L. C. Marcoux, President; C. Morency, Vice-President; Eugene Roy, Recording Secretary, these being re-elected; C. F. Lacroix, Corresponding Secretary; Oscar Arch-

ambault, Treasurer; W. Gaboury, Assistant Treasurer; Joseph Martineau, Librarian; George Gagnon, Assistant Librarian. Board: Messrs. Cyrille Gingras, Chas. Villeneuve, Louis Laperriere, F. I. Moffet, P. Huot.

ON condition that the County will give \$8,000 of a bonus to any person or company who will establish a factory in Napanee, within a year, the Lennox and Addington Agricultural Joint Stock Company, which includes some good men, pledges itself to give \$1,000 towards the same enterprise.

GOLD mining is being prosecuted in the County of Hastings in more than one mine in Marmora township, and accounts which read quite glowingly are given of the several workings in the *Belleville Intelligencer* thus: The Feigel Mine employs about 25 men constantly with very satisfactory profits. The shaft at the Williams Mine is now down about 135 feet; the vein is improving and yields the richest ore yet taken from the mine. The Gatling Company are perfecting arrangements for treating twenty tons of ore daily, at a cost of \$6 per ton, the ore yielding \$20 and upwards per ton, which is said to be greater than the Black Hills yield.

THE Emerson (Manitoba) *International* says: A traveller in from Pembina Mountain says the road for forty miles is lined with teams drawing in wheat. That this traveller saw more than was to be seen is evident from the following, from the same paper, at the same time: "Grain receipts light this week. Shipments, eight cars of wheat and one of flax." We already expect great things from that country, but "travellers" must not lead us to expect too much.

THE Grand Trunk engineer and Mr. Parkyn are in treaty with the Reeve of Point Edward, near Sarnia, for a site upon which to build a new grain elevator. The plans are ready, and the scheme begins to have a definite look.

THE Ottawa River Navigation Co., held its annual meeting at the office in Montreal, on the 12th inst. The directors chosen for the ensuing year were R. W. Shepherd, President, J. J. Gibb, Vice-President, G. W. Simpson, W. W. Shepherd, and C. W. Schneider.

FRANCOIS Xavier street in Montreal was thrown into quite a *furor* of excitement on Monday last when it became known that the manager of the Exchange Bank, Mr. C. R. Murray had decamped, and was a defaulter to that institution for some \$12,000 or \$15,000. Mr. Murray was formerly manager in Hamilton of the Bank of Commerce, which position he resigned to go to Montreal. Shortly after his advent thither his speculations in stock commenced which has now resulted so disastrously. He was a gentleman highly esteemed and trusted, and his default gives quite a shock to financial circles. The bank hold bonds and other securities and it is believed will not be heavy losers.

MR. THOMAS McLEAN, dry goods dealer, Brantford, got an extension from his creditors about ten years ago, and afterwards compromised, paying 60 per cent. of his debts. He has since done a large and apparently a pros-