

THE first call of 10 per cent on the shareholders of the Mechanics Bank under the double liability clause of the Banking Act, fell due yesterday.

MESSRS. McGauvran, Tucker & McDonnell, lumber merchants, Montreal, have effected a settlement with their creditors at 50c of the dollar. One-third cash and the balance unsecured at nine and twelve months. The total liabilities are nearly \$200,000.

MR. H. C. RUSSELL, furniture dealer of Port Hope, who fell into difficulty through endorsing for friends, has obtained a discharge in insolvency. He owed to people in the trade, on his own account, not more than \$100.

THE Montreal Woollen Company, with a capital of \$100,000 in \$100 shares has been incorporated. The parties mentioned in the charter are Messrs. John Fisher of Montreal, Edward Fisher, W. Dale Shaw, Wm. Shaw, Robt. Mac Shaw and Joseph W. Shaw of Huddersfield England.

AT a recent meeting of the Mutual Fire Ins. Co. of the counties of Chambly, Laval and Jacques Cartier P. Q., now in liquidation, Mess. Benoit M. P. Chas. Demontigny, E. Belanger, N. Senecal, J. B. Jodoin, J. Amyot Sr. and A. Deslauriers Jun. were elected a board of directors charged with the liquidation of the Company.

A COMPANY incorporated by the New York Legislature for building a tunnel across the Niagara River at Buffalo has decided to open a subscription book; and when \$100,000 shall have been obtained to call a meeting of the incorporators and organize.

THE New Brunswick Cotton Factory of Messrs. Wm. Parks & Son, according to the St. John Sun pays out for wages every Saturday night \$1000, an amount nearly equal to that disbursed for stowing all the ships now loading at that port, 18 in number, with deals.

MR JOHN FERGUSON, fancy goods, Gananoque, called his creditors together just before Christmas, and made them an offer of 40 cents in the \$, for their consideration during the festive season. Their holiday good nature was not equal to it, however, and Mr. F. has been attached in insolvency.

THE firm of Messrs. Tuckett & Billings, well known to Canadian users of the fragrant weed as tobacco manufacturers in Hamilton, has been dissolved: Mr. Billings retiring, and Messrs. Geo. E. Tuckett & Son continue the business. The Toronto wholesale firm of Nerlich & Co., tobaccoists' sundries and fancy goods dealers, has dissolved by effluxion of time, Mr. Hugh Blain retiring.

THE affairs of Mr. Charles Campbell, dealer in Groceries, of Owen Sound, being not in satisfactory shape, his Hamilton creditors have sent an assignee up to look into them. An attachment issued against Harris, Brelford & Co., jobbers, of this city. Jno. H. Smith, builder, Toronto, has made an assignment. J. & J. Vanstone, builders, Kincardine,

have assigned. J. H. Craik, Aylmer, shoedealer, calls his creditors together.

MR. JOHN H. WRIGHT, who has been engaged making wooden pails etc., for Eddy of Hull, and had a little grocery to supply his hands called a meeting of his creditors for 22nd ult., having been pressed by some one for payment. He has been attached on New Year's eve. The firm was formerly Wright Bros. & Merryweather, and a year ago the concern claimed a surplus of \$2,000, the last named partner went out, and a chattel mortgage was given to Wright's father, as security for advances but the surplus is no more.

THE municipal tax in the township of Albermarle, Bruce, is two cents in the dollar exclusive of school rates, and that of Keppel, Grey, two mills in the dollar over and above school rates. These are the highest rates in the two counties.

THE following figures attest the extent of Brazilian trade: Imports into Rio de Janeiro for 1879, according to the American Consul general, were: from Britain \$12,000,000; from France \$6,000,000; from the United States \$4,000,000. Nearly half the amount last quoted was for flour, of which the United States supplied 385,000 barrels, or 35 per cent. of the whole import, and her largest return import is of coffee.

MR. T. A. CODE, of the Perth wool mills, writes us to say that he is not the Mr. Code who was last week described as being served with a writ of attachment. The person so served was, he understands, a storekeeper, at Innisville. The confusion of the names was not unlikely, for the notice in the *Gazette* respecting Thomas Code, was dated Perth. The writer, who is in no financial difficulty, manufactures woollen yarn for the trade, as well as doing a custom wool milling business.

THE annual meeting of the Montreal Telegraph Company was held yesterday, when the report was adopted. Several amendments by those desiring a change of directorate received at most three votes. The old board of directors was re-elected. We reserve for another issue the publication of the report and comments thereon.

THE Montreal stock market has been weak for the first days of the week, but is now a little firmer. Bank of Montreal sold on Thursday at 136 to 136½; Merchants 84½; Montreal Telegraph Company's stock is very weak at 89 to 89½ and New City Gas firmer at 113½. Money is easy at 5 per cent. on call and 6 on time and commercial paper is discounted at 7 to 8 per cent.

WE are accustomed to laugh or indeed sometimes to frown, at the ignorance of old country people as to this land. Whether the noble Duke of Argyle makes a slip in writing upon rivers and mountains, or Tupkins, representing some mercantile interest, misplaces our cities or misrepresents our climate, we wonder why they don't know better. But the ignorance is not all on one side; here is an instance. A trader in Three Rivers was called upon last week by an

importer who was returning from the Maritime provinces to Montreal, and this trader, understanding that his caller was just back from Nouvelle Ecosse (Nova Scotia) congratulated him on getting across *ce grand pont* (the Tay Bridge) before it was blown down with the train load of passengers.

A MATTER of considerable interest to the fashionable world is just now agitating scientific circles in Great Britain. Professor J. Mc. Tear, of the St. Rollox chemical works, informs the Glasgow Philosophical Society, that after experiments since 1866, he has succeeded in obtaining crystalized forms of carbons, which Professors Tyndall and Smith do not doubt are diamonds, manufactured diamonds. They are pure and transparent, and have all the refractive power of diamonds, possess the crystalline form of those gems and resist acids, alkalis and the intense heat of the blow-pipe. They also scratch glass, and the only other test that remains is whether they will scratch diamonds or be scratched by them. A doubting Thomas appears, however, in the person of Mr. Maskelyne, of the mineral department, British Museum, who alleges that Mr. MacTear's specimens are bogus. He probably thinks it a modern case of alchemy. Light, according to the ancient Rosicrucians, produced gold, and dew was the greatest solvent of that metal. If Mr. MacTear produces the Simon-pure diamond he will deserve to be hailed as a trans-Atlantic Edison.

THE following letter received Christmas week, by a Toronto house from a French Canadian firm, is interesting, not less on account of the overflowing courtesy with which it ventures into an unaccustomed language to convey the good wishes of the season, than of the glimpse it gives of the effect of American competition in wool, and of the stimulus which that trade feels in the adjoining province:

"M. M——, Toronto.
"GENTLEMAN,—That is with myty pleasure, that we have receive your wishes the most in cordiality for our welfare, and we will join all in society for present to you our most cordial salutation for the new year that we are to begin, and in hope that we shall continue to transige our commercial business together and that they Will take more extension more grandiose to both side, and With the same succes as in the past. For our lot of goods, if we are late to write you, it is that we received instruction of an American on pretence that he will offer us a big price, please let us know your most highest price possible and We shall give you the preference upon them all. We send to you enclosed sample for linings; please to have the goodness to tell us if we could have some of those articles in some of the canadian factory, because We hope that We shall be in want soon of a certain quantity for next year because we have sold very moch of our articles this year."

A MONTREAL firm of importers and manufacturers send us the following sketch of the condition of a trader's affairs in one of the towns in Quebec province, revealed at his stoppage some days ago. "This concern, it appears, has now resolved to clear itself by means of the insolvent court, and start even. It is the old story, working along, mainly on credit, and