

A QUANTITY of smuggled gin and other goods which were recently seized at Yarmouth, were brought to Halifax port some days ago in the steamer M. A. Starr. We presume the 'other goods' included the sailors favorite rum. Would not these beverages sell at least equally well in the very nautical neighborhood of Yarmouth?

COUNTERFEIT half dollars have made their appearance in Brantford, which stood the test of acid perfectly, and the fraud was only fully discovered when the silver plating was removed. The spurious coin was lighter than the genuine, and had a peculiar ring. Spurious quarter dollar dated 1874, were attempted to be passed at Hamilton the other day, heavily plated with pure silver, and very bright in appearance; but of a less distinct impression on the face, and about one fifth lighter in weight than the genuine; ten cent pieces are announced from other parts of Ontario, while there is also quite enough of counterfeit paper afloat to make people examine their change carefully.

THE crooked sort of manipulation of valuable securities known to Wall Street as re-hypothecation, is discovered, since the detection of this practice of Netter and Bonner, to have been becoming more common than is pleasant to think of. It is closely allied to the dodge practised by some insurance companies of ill memory of borrowing for a consideration, securities which should be available for show when the insurance superintendent came around, and which might be returned when his inspection was made. It does not appear that Bonner, who fled to Canada can by the laws of N. Y. State be punished for his offense.

THE Welland Railway Company have come to a sensible conclusion in the matter of providing the road with the passenger and smoking cars they need, by utilizing the labor of their own employers in their own shops.

It is stated by the *Montreal Gazette*, that one of the steam fire engines in that city was allowed, for want of assistance, to stand in the street outside the fire station after use at a fire, until its injection pipe was burst by the frost, and it was rendered temporarily useless. Also that upon another occasion, the 'cheap' horses balked, and refused to pull the engine out of the station. Whereupon the suggestion is made that horses should be procured that can be relied upon. Such incidents as these do not speak well for the efficiency of the brigade.

THE proprietors of the Burlington Glass Works had decided to entirely close their establishment when a compromise of the difficulties were arranged, and the workmen agreed to commence work again. There appears to be sufficient material on hand to employ the men about two months. When this is finished, the works will be locked up, the proprietor's states, unless some change is made in the tariff this coming session.

CREDITORS of the Insolvent estate of E. C. Davies & Co., of Halifax met, on the 14th inst., This young man Davis began business a few years ago, under fair auspices, and with an

inheritance of some \$4000 from his father's estate. He had good connections, willing to assist him, possessed fair business capacity and a good deal of energy, but no method. He had loose ideas of accounts and lacked the essential element, got his affairs "mixed" and to serve the present purpose of extricating himself from trouble tampered with a bill of lading or some such paper. Fearing the consequences, he took steamer for England, leaving his affairs to take care of themselves. His books show liabilities of some \$25,000 and assets of nearly \$20,000.

THE Chief of the Toronto Fire Brigade in his annual report shows, that the total value of property destroyed by fire in this city during the past year was \$24,275, which was fully covered by insurance.

It is to be regretted that the break-water at Souris, Prince Edward Island, on which considerable money and labour had been expended was seriously damaged by a late storm. A Charlottetown paper states that nearly half the break-water was washed away, and the remainder is breaking up.

THE Oil City and Petrolia Section of the Sarnia, Chatham and Erie Railway was formally opened on Thursday, and a passenger train left St. Thomas in the morning. The track has been laid about a mile and a half northwest of the town, through the heart of the oil-producing district.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us the following account of a little scene in the Maritime Provinces occurring in the course of a discussion as to the settlement of an insolvent estate. The insolvent's solicitor, upon being interviewed as to what his client would do, remarked: "If the creditors do the proper thing and treat Mr. W. as a gentleman, he is prepared to offer them from ten to fifteen per cent., more than they can get otherwise; if they do not do as Mr. W. thinks they should, he will let them settle the affair themselves." The gentleman in question owes about \$120,000, has secured his "friends," and the rest of the creditors can divide say ten per cent.

THE Intercolonial Railway traffic earnings for the month of December were as follows:—Passengers, \$37,065.72; freight, \$68,514.54; mails and sundries, \$7466.77; total, \$113,047.03, as compared with passengers, \$30,400.85; freight, 43,991.58; mails and sundries, \$7,236.83; total, \$81,629.26, for the same month in 1876, showing the gratifying increase of \$31,417.77.

A furrier of Ottawa named T. G. O. Cote has got into disrepute with his creditors, who have issued a writ of attachment. He is accused of squandering his stock in presents to his friends, some of these being of questionable reputation. He has barely sufficient left to pay rent and taxes. His general creditors, to whom he owes about \$6,000, have a poor chance of getting anything. An order has been issued for an examination before a judge. The same gentleman, if we mistake not, failed about July last and got a settlement at twenty-five cents in the dollar.

MR. J. T. BRILL, of Guelph, holds, in the several warehouses of his beef and pork packing establishment, some \$45,000 worth of pork, lard, hams, and bacon, which is intended for the British markets. Also, some twenty car loads of wheat, barley and peas, similarly destined.

MR. CHAS. CHAMBERLIN, builder, of Toronto, who was in difficulty for some time, has agreed to a compromise of seventy-five cents on the dollar, payable in three, six, and nine months, secured.

AT a meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Mullarky & Co., Montreal, held on the 18th inst. An arrangement was made by which the liabilities of the firm amounting to \$150,000, are compromised at seventy-five cents in the dollar, payable in 4, 8, and 12 months, without interest. Mr. Mullarky getting a further extension of time on his individual liabilities. His estate is placed in the hands of trustees to wind up, with the understanding that should there be any surplus after paying off his private debts, it is to be divided among the general creditors.

MR. J. G. CORMACK of Pembroke, one of the oldest druggists in that district has failed, owing seven or eight thousand dollars. His business has been gradually going behind for some time owing to the general inactivity of the lumbering interests.

A DEMAND of assignment has been made on Charles Boyle, a hardware dealer on McGill St. Montreal, a young man rather favorably known among athletes. He began business three or four years ago, with lots of energy, but with very little capital; and has found the commercial road to fame, rather harder to tread than a snow shoe track. The liabilities are small and principally to one house.

PROBABLY in no trade has the depressed condition of business been more keenly felt for the last three or four years than in the fur trade. A good many stocks of high priced furs are held and have met with but few purchasers, in fact the present winter, with so many auction sales of cheap furs, has almost killed legitimate trade. We notice the failure in Montreal of Messrs. Schultze, Reinhardt & Co., who began business about four years ago, but owing to overstocking, dull times and heavy losses, had to stop in November, 1876. Compromised at twenty cents, but have had to resort to holding auction sales in order to meet their notes and pay rent, and in this way have pretty well exhausted their assets. Their liabilities are considerable.

THE cash price for wheat in Winnipeg is fifty-five to sixty cents, and at Portage la Prairie forty-five to fifty cents.

THE gold mining district of Goldenville, Nova Scotia, yielded 8,200 ounces of the precious metal last year, against 5,200 in 1876.

It is stated that 100 new buildings went up in Halifax last year. Within the brick district 41 new buildings were erected and eight repaired; and 51 new, 42 repaired, in other parts of the city.

A GENTLEMAN in Abbotsford, Que., wintered eighty swarms of bees last winter, and during the summer of 1877 he had an increase of forty