

THE Nanaimo Customs' returns for last month were \$4,836.

WE have received the Annual Report of the Harbor Commissioners of Montreal for 1885.

THERE is no truth in the story which found its way into the papers as to trouble between the Bell Organ Company and its employees.

IN March, the collections at the New Westminster Custom House, B. C., were \$3,671, which is \$452 more than the previous March.

RATS swarmed into J. McPherson & Co.'s boot and shoe factory at Hamilton, last week, and destroyed between \$500 and \$600 worth of fine shoes. It is thought that the heavy storm of Tuesday drove them out of their customary resting places.

LARGE quantities of freight are being handled daily at the Intercolonial station, St. John. Last month there were 365 more cars of freight handled than in last October, the heaviest freight month of the year. The freight receipts for March, 1886, were between \$5,000 and \$6,000 greater than those of March, 1885.

PRESIDENT BULKLEY of the Aetna Life Insurance Company, of Hartford, has again been re-elected Mayor of Hartford by a handsome majority, which leads an American journal to say: "It would be well for a number of other municipalities, throughout the country, if they had sense enough to see that successful insurance officers could serve them better (and more honestly) than the average pot-house politician."

THE apothecaries of St. Louis appear greatly excited by the steady shrinkage of their business, owing to the introduction of a druggist's department in the large dry goods stores, where the sale of patent medicines is made a speciality; and also to the free dispensary system, where prescriptions are compounded at a cost to the buyer of fifteen cents. The druggists claim that their trade is being ruined, and they propose to hold monthly meetings to work out a remedy.

THE bone industry of America is an important one. The four feet of an ordinary ox will make a pint of neat's-foot oil. Not a bone of any animal is thrown away. Many cattle's shin-bones are shipped to England for the making of knife-handles, where they bring \$40 per ton. The thigh-bones are the most valuable, being worth \$80 per ton for cutting into tooth-brush handles. The fore-leg bones are worth \$30 per ton and are made into collar buttons, parasol handles and jewelry, though sheep's legs are the staple parasol handles. The water in which the bones are boiled is reduced to glue and the dust which comes from sawing the bones is fed to cattle and poultry.

APPEARANCES are often very deceptive. E. B. Shurley, who was in the grocery trade at St. Mary's was supposed to be doing a nice steady trade. He has asked his creditors to meet him in Brantford.—A compromise at sixty cents on the dollar has been effected by A. M. Gilpin, an Uxbridge jeweller.—W. H. Green, who two years ago succeeded to the wholesale fancy goods business of J. Staunton & Co, in this city has made an assignment.—After holding the fort for nearly 30 years, Wm. Drummond, a general store keeper, in Blyth has been compelled to make an assignment. He was formerly a book-keeper for Adam Hope & Co., of Hamilton and previous to that studied law in Scotland. About four years ago he showed a surplus of \$8,000.—After a year's experience in the grocery line at Woodstock, John C. McLeod finds it necessary to assign. He formerly did business in drygoods under the style of Jno. C. McLeod & Co.

THE following are the business failures for the week in the Province of Quebec, not noted elsewhere:—Phillippe Pouliot, general dealer, Frazerville, is reported assigned.—T. Gaudette, hotel, St. Hyacinthe, is seeking a settlement at 50c. on the dollar.—A. St. Martin, storekeeper, St. Louis de Bonsecours, has failed, as also has Desmarais & Frere, general dealers at St. Thomas de Pierreville.—At St. Johns, S. Dunn, confectioner, has assigned, and estate will realize very poorly.—Joseph Lemieux, general store, St. Isidore, has failed, and estate is advertised for sale.—LeCavalier & Frere, dry goods, Montreal, have suspended; they have been unfortunate twice before.—J. E. A. Dubord, tailor, of the same city, is also insolvent.

ON the 6th instant, the Hamilton Bridge & Tool Company held its annual meeting. Mr. Wm. Hendrie, president, in the chair. A dividend at the usual rate was declared and the financial statements, being found satisfactory, were adopted. Among the work executed by the company during the year ended with March last, were six iron highway bridges, five railway bridges, turntables, electrical machines and repairs to the Burlington swing bridge. Directors and officers were chosen, as under: Mr. Wm. Hendrie, president, (re-elected); Mr. W. A. Robinson, vice-president, (re-elected); Messrs. A. T. Wood, D. Moore, and Matthew Leggat, directors, (re-elected); Mr. C. Teiper, engineer and manager; Mr. John Stuart, secretary and treasurer.

MR. GEORGE CUMMING, a general merchant, etc., at Rosemont and Alliston, has exchanged his property and stock in Rosemont, for 200 acres of land in the township of Blenheim, Oxford Co., which property is valued at \$14,000. The buildings are excellent, the barn 65x100 feet, and stabling for sixty head of cattle and horses. The property is four miles from Drumbo, on the C. P. R. and G. T. R. The business in Alliston will still be continued by Mr. G. W. Cumming, and the new occupant of the store in Rosemont is Mr. George Boucher, of Oxford. Mr. Geo. Cumming has been almost thirty years a prosperous dealer in Rosemont, and has received various government appointments during that time. A few days ago his many friends and well-wishers from surrounding townships, assembled and presented him with a handsome gold watch and his wife with a set of jewellery. The *Shelburne Free Press*, from which we get these particulars, confesses that the only fault that "our respected friend Cumming" has is that he is a Grit in politics.

IT is not many years since the residents of Brampton and vicinity thought Wm. Broddy, agent, auctioneer and bailiff, to be worth a good round figure. Some put the amount at \$100,000, others even more. His assignment is now announced and the estate is expected to pay less than 40 cents on the dollar. He appears to have been speculating, and owes about \$70,000, principally to the banks.—Not long ago, Williams and Roantree, manufacturers of woodenware and brooms in Hamilton, dissolved partnership, Roantree's place being taken by a Mr. Copeland. Something is awry, for we learn that the former has made an assignment which has resulted in the sheriff's taking possession of the firm's premises.—Shortly after the great fire in Port Perry, T. S. Corrigan, a general storekeeper in that town, was compelled to compromise which he did at 25c. on the dollar. He does not appear to have made any headway since then, and has just effected a second arrangement at 70 cents on the dollar.—The stock of M. P. Anhalt, a general dealer at Rat

Portage has been sold for 47½ cents on the dollar.—When doing business in shoes at Ridgeway five years ago, J. M. Cronk failed, his removal to St. Thomas does not appear to have helped matters for a second assignment has just been recorded against him.—We made reference some weeks ago to the absconding of M. T. Moore, a leather dealer, also of St. Thomas. His creditors have succeeded in inducing him to return and a settlement at 50 cents on the dollar has been arranged. His liabilities are mainly local.

QUEBEC BOARD OF TRADE.—The Quebec Board of Trade protests against the proposed use of the North Shore Railway by the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk. The objection to the assumption by the Dominion Government of the Lake St. Peter debt is reiterated. A breakwater at the Magdalen Islands is recommended. Discriminating rates on flour and other commodities between Halifax and Montreal, to the detriment of Quebec, forms a subject of complaint. The desire for a railway bridge at Quebec is expressed. Quebec places great hopes of increased business from the Lake St. John Railway. Regret is expressed that the laws for the compulsory inspection of fish have been repealed. At the annual meeting, on the 6th instant, towards the close of the proceedings, Mr. Shehyn thanked the Board for the honor it had done him in electing him three years in succession as president, and now begged to decline re-election, his business demanding his whole attention. The ballot being all but unanimous in Mr. Shehyn's favor, he was requested by several members of the Board to reconsider his determination and again accept the office. The list of officers elected is as follows:—President, Jos. Shehyn, M.P.P.; vice-president, T. Beckett; treasurer, S. Sloane Bennett; Members of the Council, Wm. Brodi, F. Billingsley, R. R. Dobell, R. Turner.

LANCASHIRE INSURANCE CO.—We observe by the report of the Insurance Department, that the Canadian fire business of the Lancashire amounts to nearly \$20,000,000, with a premium last year of \$208,000. A good sum, this, for Canadian premiums, but the total income from premiums and interest in various parts of the world is £110,000 sterling per annum. The company's report for 1885 shows in the fire account, a surplus of £20,730 carried to the profit and loss account, upon which remains a sum of £333,638, as a fire insurance reserve fund. Upon this the *London Review* comments: "The fire premium income of £601,000 is a very large one to keep together in these times. That the Lancashire has succeeded in doing so with success is a subject for congratulation. The Lancashire does not transact a large life business, but it does a sound one. With an income from premiums and interest of nearly £110,000 per annum, its life insurance fund is gradually increasing in magnitude. The total assets of the office are nearly £1,300,000." It is evident that the company has obtained the confidence of the English and foreign public.

FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—This company has now reached its sixth year and has collected a premium income of £293,320 which is a handsome sum. Its early years have not fallen on auspicious times, a fact which it has to realize in common with various other concerns of the kind. Its losses for last year were £229,481, of which one-ninth was swallowed up by the Galveston fire alone. But it