

THOMAS H. SIMS & SON, general dealers of Kensington P. E. I., whose position has been one of considerable doubt for some time past, have been closed up under bill of sale.

THE long pending pooling agreement between the cable companies was ratified on the 15th instant. Gould's new cables finally passed to the control of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

MR. J. D. EDGAR has resigned the presidency of the company organized for building the railway from Gravenhurst to the Sault, and his place is taken by Mr. Joseph Hickson, general manager of the Grand Trunk.

THE export trade in phosphates promises well for this season. Already some 1,000 tons has arrived at Montreal for shipment to Europe. It is expected that this year's shipments from this port will reach to double those of last year.

IN England the law against imitation butter is being vigorously enforced. Six provision dealers at Lambeth were brought before the court for selling Holland "butterine," as pure creamery butter, and were fined in sums varying from £2 to £3.

FROM all accounts and indications this year's cotton crop in the United States will be fully up to that of last year. The improved methods of cultivation, handling, ginning, etc., are expected to gradually increase the value of the crop.

A FEW days ago says the Newcastle N. B. Advocate, H. O'Leary, of Richibucto, received from a dealer in San Francisco an order by telegraph for 1,500 cases of his canned lobsters. This is, so far as we know, a new market for our fishery products.

THE value of shingles exported from Brookville, Kingston and Prescott last year was \$23,840, against \$10,440 in 1880 and \$8,152 in 1879. The value of the different kinds of lumber exported from the same ports in the same period was as follows: In 1879, \$262,517, in 1880, \$474,436, and in 1881, \$722,256.

HENRY MAUDSLAY, the great English authority on the mind and its diseases, says that insanity is the almost inevitable result of exclusive devotion to money-getting. It may not show itself in the first generation, but it is almost sure to break out in the second.

IN the list of arrivals at Winnipeg hotels one day recently, the following widely distant places were represented, Leeds, England, Chicago, Denver, Amherst N.S., Montreal, New York, Brookville, Ottawa, Toronto, Milwaukee, Sarnia, Sydney, Halifax, Kingston, Woodstock, London, Ont., Liverpool Eng., Emerson, Nelsonville, Goderich, Listowell, Ont., Lisburn, Ireland, St Stephen, N. B. St Paul, Glasgow Scotland.

A GROCERYMAN in Kane, Illinois set out a box of loose smoking tobacco and mixed in it a quantity of powder. One of his customary callers came in, filled his pipe, and lighted it. The powder burned his eyes badly, and a suit in the Circuit Court netted him \$1,000; the Appellate Court sustained the decision, and the Supreme Court then in turn, thought \$1,000 would be about right for that sort of a joke. So Mr.

Parker, the groceryman, figures the cost of his fun at a little less than \$2,500.

THE manufacture of houses is being rapidly pushed by the company formed for the purpose at St. Romuald, Quebec. The company commenced by building little wooden houses 24 feet square for the use of workmen on the Isthmus Canal at Panama. They have now entered into a contract with Sheriff Quesnel, of Arthabasca, to construct a thousand houses to be forwarded to Manitoba, some of which are three stories high and 60 by 83 feet.

MR. Z. ROBERTS, a Winnipeg dry goods dealer, has not profited much, it seems, by the recent "boom" in real estate in Manitoba, for he is now in difficulties. Possibly this is in part because he gave too much time and thought to land transactions instead of to his store, which he opened less than a year ago. It is stated that in March last, when trying to get a partner he offered to invest in cash and stock \$15,000, so that the new firm might obtain larger premises. If this be true it seems strange that his total assets should now be put down at only \$6,800. His liabilities are \$6,000. He has assigned to Messrs. Thibault & Freres for the benefit of creditors.

MR. MATTHEW ROBINS, who has faithfully discharged the duties of registrar to the London and Canadian Loan and Agency Company, has resigned that post. Having severed his connection with the company after ten years service, Mr. Robins has taken the opportunity to visit England for needed rest. So active and capable a man will probably be in request in business circles upon his return. The directors, it is stated, have appointed Mr. James Turnbull, late of the Consolidated Bank and afterwards of the British Canadian Loan Company, to the vacant post. We understand that the appointment gives general satisfaction.

MR. G. W. PENNINGTON, a dealer in dry goods at Simcoe, has consulted creditors as to his future operations, and they advise him to assign. A year ago he sold out his business in that place and went to the North-west, but not being satisfied he returned and began again in September last, with unsatisfactory results. Messrs. Smith & Clute, grocers in Ridgetown are in difficulties. Neither of them had had experience in business; the former was a livery stable keeper, the latter a farmer. They have assigned. Joseph Bond, a grocer in Aurora, has also assigned. He has small assets and a large family, which is not conducive to a trader's comfort at one and the same time. Another assignment is that of A. W. Rupert, general dealer in Maple. Some time ago he was burnt out and lost heavily.

Probably the most noted illustration of the successful keeping of "a trade secret" is that of the manufacturer of bronze powder, by Sir Henry Bessemer, in England, which has been kept for nearly forty years. Mr. Bessemer prepared working plans for machinery to manufacture this product, and had it made, piece by piece, at different establishments. With two

trusted assistants he put the works into condition to do the work, and they are still in use. In this case Mr. Bessemer "was afraid to patent his invention," inasmuch as a pound package being so small it could easily be smuggled into use, and its illicit manufacture would be certain. The reason that particular processes of manufacture are sometimes kept secret, in preference to relying upon a patent, can be easily understood. Any one can obtain a copy of the specifications of a patent, and thus the way is open to an infringement.

—An average shipment by rail eastward from Chicago of 53,500 tons weekly has been made this year by the various railways leading from that city. The share of the Grand Trunk in this total has been increasing. Beginning in January with 4½ per cent. of the whole, it had reached 17 per cent. in February and 26 per cent. in March, declining, however, to less than 12 per cent. at the close of April. The *Railroad Gazette* thus tabulates the shares of the different roads. We give a portion of the table, not having space for the Baltimore & Ohio and the Pittsburg & St. Louis roads. The other roads tabulated are the Michigan Central, Lake Shore, and Fort Wayne. The Lake Shore seems to have suffered most heavily.

		Percentage of total by				
Week to	Tons.	G. T.	M. C.	L. S.	Ft. W.	
Jan. 7.....	55,189	4.5	29.2	32.1	15.7	
" 21.....	77,679	8.0	31.4	26.0	20.2	
Feb. 4.....	73,425	9.6	24.9	27.2	21.8	
" 18.....	57,662	11.8	30.9	19.7	22.2	
Mar. 4.....	48,681	11.2	27.8	14.8	32.0	
" 25.....	34,335	26.4	22.2	13.1	24.3	
Apr. 1.....	32,447	22.7	17.0	15.0	30.8	
" 15.....	33,232	17.4	16.8	18.4	35.1	

The Grand Trunk is blamed for taking freight at lower rates than those fixed by the combination, and its rapid rise of traffic in March is thus sought to be accounted for. This having been put a stop to by Commissioner Fink, an exchange suggests, a decrease in Grand Trunk shipments comes about.

—A gentleman who read the item in our last respecting Bermudian ideas of banking, writes as follows: "I was amused, tho' not surprised, upon reading your article. Having been for months at a time in Bermuda, I have had long talks with the merchants on this matter, and know of a party who went to Hamilton three or four years ago to start a bank agency, and after consulting with the head business men of the Islands he gave it up and went away sorrowful and blue. I have seen business people going about the Island with a shot-bag filled with sovereigns to make their drafts on England from the Navy yard and the soldiers, and pay for them in gold. The inhabitants thought they had all they wanted, however, and did not seem to pine for more facilities or cheaper ones." In this connection we observe that stock is being subscribed and a Board has been formed for the Planters' Bank of Canada, which is to operate in Jamaica where there appear to be encouraging prospects. The bank having been established to assist trade between the West Indies