

legally executed on Feb. 28?" Of course not. The confusion on the subject has evidently arisen from statutes treating of the entire year as a whole. Thus, there is a provision in the Revised Statutes of New York that whenever the term "year" or "years" shall be used in any law, contract, or instrument, the year intended shall be taken to consist of 365 days: a half year, 182 days; a quarter of a year, 91 days; and the added day of a leap year and the day immediately preceding, if they shall occur in any period so to be computed, shall be reckoned together as one day."

THE FALL RIVER DEFALCATIONS.—Boston financial circles have been deeply agitated over the revelations of fraud by the Treasurers of the Fall River Mills. Boston capital has been heavily invested in the paper of these manufacturing, and the defalcations of Chace and Hathaway will make a frightful addition to the "suspense account," of some of the Boston banks. One year ago, in April, 1877, the financial statement of the Border City Mills showed a surplus of \$123,800.88, and a gain for the year of \$140,130.11, while their quick assets, subtracted from their bills and accounts payable, showed the net indebtedness of the entire property to be \$129,362, which, by taking out the value of tenement-houses and real estate, was reduced to \$189,564.88, as the debt on the two mills with 76,208 spindles and 1,412 looms. It is reported that the mills involved by these defalcations of Chace and Hathaway have now \$1,200,000 of paper out. The Treasurer obtained the confidence of financial men by the statement of a year ago, and was thereby enabled to borrow almost without limit. "The catastrophe shows," as the Boston *Advertiser* says, "that, as a basis for unlimited credit, it is not enough that a corporation shall be a strong one, and doing a good business. There must be some assurance that the Treasurer is an honest man." The guarantee companies about to be started in New York will doubtless have plenty to do.

BET ROOT SUGAR.—The people of Maine are giving attention to the subject of Beet Sugar under the patronage of the State. The following suggestion is worthy of attention:

"Milk, cheese, sugar, are all articles of prime necessity, and are also products of agriculture; the first two are now produced largely by co-operative effort among the farmers, and the last can be as well, if the cheese factories now organized would add the requisite machinery for grating and pressing the sugar beets; such as is now used for making cider, and a pan such as is used for evaporating sorghum juice will answer the purpose as well as that more costly. The farmers would raise the sugar beets, the pulp and leaves of which are good for stock, particularly milch cows, improving the quality as well as increasing the quantity of the milk produced; the patrons of the cheese factory would be benefited pecuniarily, and as cheese is an article of large export demand and sugar principally imported, if these interests were united as suggested above, it would benefit the whole country and the dairy interest in particular. The cost of the necessary apparatus is but little, and the product large; it adds another remunerative crop to those now grown, and as all the mineral elements are again returned to the soil, its capa-

city for larger crops is increased without any extra expense, which enables the farmer to carry more stock, and consequently increase his profits from the sale of its products."

—Said a young husband, whose business speculations were unsuccessful:—"My wife's silver tea set, the bridal gift of a rich uncle, doomed me to financial ruin. It involved a hundred unexpected expenses, which, trying to meet, made me the bankrupt that I am." His is the experience of many others less wise, who do not know what is the goblin in the house working destruction. A sagacious father of great wealth exceedingly mortified his daughter by ordering to be printed on her wedding cards:—"No presents except those adapted to an income of \$1,000." Said he:—"You must not expect to begin life in the style I am able by many years of labor to indulge; and I know of nothing that will tempt you more than the well intended but pernicious gifts of rich friends."

FIRE RECORD—INSURANCE.

Cobourg, June 7.—Grocery and liquor store of Thomas Battell, badly damaged. Loss \$800; insured in the North British and Mercantile, and Western.

Belin, June 6.—Residence of Geo. Underwood, together with contents, destroyed. Loss \$1,000; insured for \$400 in the Economical Mutual.

Montreal, June 6.—Shed in rear of J. A. Johnston's grocery, destroyed. Loss \$50.

Ottawa, June 8.—Dwelling of Dominion policeman O'Brien, destroyed. Loss \$800; little saved.

Ottawa, June 8.—Barn, stables and shed with their contents, consisting of valuable farming implements, machinery, grain and fodder, belonging to E. Wright, destroyed. Loss \$5,000; partially insured.

Baddeck, C. B., June 8.—House of Neil W. Mackenzie, with contents, destroyed. Loss \$1,600.

Goderich, June 8.—Residence of John W. Pharis, situated just outside the town, destroyed. Loss partially covered by insurance.

Port Huron, June 9.—Propeller *Montgomery* almost destroyed. Her cargo consisted of corn, wheat, flour and merchandise.

Kinburn, June 7.—Residence of Michael Lowry, destroyed. Nothing saved.

Montreal, June 8.—House belonging to F. X. Blouin, of St. Croix, destroyed.

Simcoe, June 7.—Barns belonging to J. E. Potts, destroyed.

Upper Canard, N.S., June 6.—Dwelling of Timothy Rockwell destroyed. Loss heavy, no insurance.

Gatineau Point, June 5.—Soper's large saw-mill, McGahey's residence, and dwelling owned by C. B. Hall, destroyed. Loss, Soper, \$18,000; insured for \$8,900 in the Aetna; Hall, \$1,000, insured; McGahey, \$2,000; no insurance.

Great Village, N. S., June 6.—Wellington iron foundry, destroyed.

Montreal, June 6.—Residence of Thos. Swift, damaged. Loss \$1,000; insured for \$400 in the North British and Mercantile.

Ottawa, June 5.—House situated on the canal owned by Mr. Kearns, destroyed. Loss \$2,000. Very little saved.

Montreal, June 11.—Small wooden cottage owned by a coloured man who lives in Toronto and occupied by Mr. O'Farrell, painter, destroyed. Contents were nearly all saved.

DOWNING STREET,
2nd May, 1878.

Canada, No. 82.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches noted in the margin forwarding offers of service from officers belonging to the Militia of Canada and others in the event of England becoming involved in War.

I request that you will be so good as to cause these offers to be acknowledged on the part of Her Majesty's Government, in the terms of the accompanying letter, written by direction of the Secretary of State for War to whom they were duly communicated.

I have, &c.,

M. E. HICKS BEACH.

Governor General,
The Right Honorable
The Earl of Dufferin, K.P., G.C.M.G., K.C.B.
&c., &c., &c.

Copy.
7696—534

WAR OFFICE,
24th April, 1878.

Sir,—I am directed by Secretary Colonel Stanley to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Malcolm's letters of the 28th March and 8th April, transmitting copies of despatches from the Governor General of Canada forwarding offers of service in the event of war, from Officers Commanding Corps in the Dominion and from other officers resident there.

In reply I am to request that you will inform Sir M. Hicks Beach that Colonel Stanley would suggest that the answer to these Despatches should be that Her Majesty's Government highly appreciates the patriotic spirit which has dictated these offers. That the time has not arrived for taking them into consideration, but that, should circumstances render it necessary for this country to defend the interests of the Empire, they will not be forgotten.

I am, &c.,

(Signed,) RALPH THOMPSON.

The Under Secy. of State,
Colonial Office.

ASSIGNMENTS.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Thos. H. Ivey, Cayuga.
Jas. Fitzgerald, variety store, St. Catharines.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

J. A. Moison, grocer, Quebec.
C. F. Lapointe, sewing machines and general store, St. Flavie.
F. X. Blanchet, dry goods, St. Hyacinthe.
Wm. Maguire, grocer, Quio.
Chas. O. Roy, grocer, Laprairie.
J. H. McLaughlin, grocer, Montreal.
Jos. Pelletier, grocer, St. Sauveur.

WRITS OF ATTACHMENT.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Robert Young, Walkerton.
John Pollard, grocer, Toronto.
S. R. Wicket, leather, Toronto.
J. H. Ferguson, Brockville.
Fred. Mitchell, Windsor.
Silas Bonm, provisions, Toronto.
Wm. Ritchie, general store, Haliburton.
D. King, grocer, Barrie.
David Hewitt, general store, Feversham.
Wm. Hogan, grocer, Listowell.
Alex. C. Irvine, Brampton.