

How doth the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour.

Is now rendered by Mr. Jacob Spence, late
Secretary to the Ontario Bee-keepers:

Look for some sweet in all I meet
And store up all I find.

Not a bad motto, this, for a newspaper reporter of the present day.

THE Essex Centre Manufacturing Company will remove their plow works to St. Thomas.

H. C. CHARTERS, one of the principal retail dry-goods merchants in Moncton, assigned in trust last week to T. R. Jones & Co., of St. John.

MR. JOHN BOWDEN, lately inspector for the Standard Life, has been appointed special City agent for the British Empire Mutual Life Insurance Company, for which Messrs. J. E. & A. W. Smith are the general agents in Toronto.

WE learn from last Saturday's Winnipeg Sun that a special train went up the Manitoba & Northwest railway Wednesday, taking 40 men and a large grading and construction outfit, to begin work on the new 50 mile contract on the railway. Mr. D. Mann the contractor, will proceed at once to finish the work between Solsagirth and Birtle.

ADEQUATE means of communication between Hastings and Prince Edward counties is likely soon to be provided in the shape of a bridge across the Bay of Quinte at, or near, the city of Belleville. The subject was discussed at a largely attended meeting of the Belleville Board of Trade on Thursday last, when it was resolved to petition the Government to grant a charter to a joint stock company which would bind itself to carry out the work satisfactorily.

THE proposal of Mr. John Crawford that the Hudson Cotton Co. and the Merchants Cotton Co., should amalgamate, was laid before the shareholders of the latter on Monday last, and decidedly rejected. Since the change of management by the Merchants, its affairs are looking up; there was, we are told, a small profit in February and a very satisfactory one in March, and a dividend at the end of the year is even talked of. So the shareholders were in no mood to accept suggestions about amalgamating.

WE learn that a new firm composed of Messrs. McCol, Boyle & Wilson, has commenced business in this city as wholesale lumber dealers and manufacturers. The firm named, it appears, has just closed the purchase of 4,000,000 feet dry lumber, manufactured last season by the Georgian Bay Lumber Co., at Collingwood. This has long been looked upon as one of the choicest and best assorted stocks on the Georgian Bay. The firm's mill at Huntsville, is to commence operations this week with a capacity of over 3,000,000 feet per annum which will be ready for shipment on the opening of the Northern & Pacific Junction line.

TAKE comfort, O despondent merchant who thinkest all pleasure gone from merchandising, all skill of salesmanship useless, all profit vanished out of business. Here is the primrose path—the not-too-much-trodden path. It is fashionable dress-making. In a case just tried in London, where a woman of fashion refused to pay a dress-maker's bill on the ground of extortion, it came out that for a dress charged at £210, the whole material and trimming did not amount to £80. Again, Madame Merveille charged £170 for a garment that only costs £62 odd, with 40 per cent. profit added. "It is the custom of the trade to promise to make a dress for one sum and without a blush to put it down in the bill at three times the cost." Who would worry

over a three per cent. profit on sugar or nails or factory when money can be trebled by making dresses!

A JEWELLER in Hagersville named C. F. O. Hager has made an assignment.—So has Geo. Wiles manufacturer of fanning mills at Listowell.—Wm. Bugg, of Mitchell, bought a hotel in that place recently for \$15,000 agreeing to pay \$4,000 cash on account. He is now reported to have left the place having failed to perform his part of the bargain. Rumor has it that he owes a considerable sum to various persons and that he gave a chattel mortgage on the hotel contents to his brother-in-law.—Since J. Henderson a general dealer in Newry, failed some years ago, the business has been carried on in his wife's name. She having died recently, he has sought relief in a second assignment.—E. B. Surbey a grocer in St. Mary's has assigned.—Two fires in about as many years have proved very serious obstacles to the success of I. F. Belfry in the drug business at Shelburne. His assignment is now announced.

An American company, the general manager of which is named Wiggins and his assistant Jardine, both of whom are said to have been in the employ of the Bethlehem, Pa. company, has been doing brisk work through last winter leasing and opening up iron mines within a tract some thirty miles in extent near the Kingston and Pembroke Railway track. Six mines have thus far been opened, viz: two mines of the old Bethlehem company's at Wilbur, the Caldwell and Gildersleeve at Flower station, the Wilson at Calabogie, and the Laronde and Colham mines at Norway lake. At five of these new shops and engine houses have been built, machinery placed, old pits pumped dry, and fuel collected. Though the output of ore has been small, still the quality is encouraging, at the Wilson mine, where about 300 tons are hoisted out, the ore is said to be perfectly free of sulphur rock and limestone. The prospect is that the output of ore from these mines will be extensive. It goes across the lake to mix with the Pennsylvania and other ores.

THE list of failures &c., for the Province of Quebec, since our last report, is as follows:—Thomas McKee, storekeeper, Kinnear's Mills, is offering a compromise at the rate of 25c. J. S. Gelinac, general dealer, Labaie, has assigned. J. B. Gascon, grocer, St. Jerome, is insolvent. Langellier & Decelles, general dealers, St. John's, whose failure with heavy liabilities we noted several weeks ago, have arranged a composition at 50 cents, cash. At St. Michel, A. Godin, general store, and Lucien Godin, baker, have both assigned. T. Dufresne & Co. grain dealers, Yamachiche, have failed with liabilities stated at \$40,000, the Hochelaga Bank being interested to extent of \$7,000.—Mrs. C. Berthiaume, milliner &c., Montreal, having been unsuccessful in arranging a compromise at 75c. has assigned, owing about \$5,000 to general creditors. Jacques Robitaille, a Quebec grocer, has compromised at 25c. on the dollar. Wm. Cosgrave, general store, Hathaway, has failed. Arthur Talbot, of Sootstown, who was burned out last November has made an assignment. Napoleon Fugere of Batiscan, general store, has assigned on demand; he got into trouble some years ago and arranged then at 50 cents. Frechette & Co, match manufacturers, of Three Rivers, who have been the victims of several disastrous fires, have been obliged to suspend.—J. A. Germain, dry goods dealer, Sorel, has failed with liabilities of about \$13,000.—Joshua Scafe, trader, Lacolle, is insolvent and assign-

ed. Louis Bachaud fils, lumber dealer, St. Joachim de Shefford, and Eusebe Semard, a general dealer, of Hebertville, have also failed.

FOUR or five years ago Wm. Clelland a dry-goods dealer came to this city to try his fortune; but a short stay convinced him he had better return to Brantford where he laboured for many years previously. His assignment is now announced.—A bailiff has taken possession of A. E. Panton's hotel in London.—Jos. Swayzie, a maker of paper bags in the same city has cleared out and his stock has been advertised for sale.—The creditors of J. M. Cronk, a St. Thomas shoe dealer, have been offered 80 cents on the dollar, cash.—The trustee has disposed of the general store stock of A. Conn, at Tyrconnell.—A builder in Dutton, E. Southwood by name, finding himself heavily embarrassed has left the village.—In 1881 the firm of Rainor, Sweetman & Hazelton, manufacturers of pianos in Guelph, was supposed to be worth about \$10,000. Some years ago Mr. Rainor left the firm and commenced business on his own account. The remaining partners do not seem to have made satisfactory progress and are now compelled to consult their creditors.—A short extension of time has been granted to the Strathroy Knitting Co., which finds the result of the past three years anything but satisfactory.

WE note the following changes amongst Ontario traders during the past week or two. J. B. Tait a jeweller in Arthur has moved to Meaford.—W. T. Birney has sold his carriage business to Josh Laurent.—J. A. Smith & Co. of St. Thomas advertises their stock of gent's furnishings for sale.—The grocery firm of Diprose and Foreman in Strathroy is about to dissolve.—P. Caron & Co. have given up the grocery business in Trenton.—Cain Bros., grocers, Bobcaygeon, have removed to Fenelon Falls where they have bought the business of Barret Bros.—Knoll & Co. in Humberstone have sold out their general store.—Kincardine will have one general store less when H. Collins removes to Calgary.—In Kingsville, J. S. Middaugh a general dealer has disposed of his stock.—T. E. O'Callaghan, grocer, and H. D. Williams coal and wood both of London are advertising to sell out. In the same city Tytler & Bullen, grocers, have dissolved.—Mrs. Buckwell at Onondaga has sold her general store business to Simpson Bros.—M. T. Ostrom will hereafter continue the business of Ostrom & Ostrom, dealers in fruits in Peterboro.—A harness maker at Ripley, H'y Webster, is removing to Dorchester station.—The style of the plumbing firm of Burrow & Chatfield, St. Catharines has been changed to Chatfield & Neelon.—J. M. Conroy & Co. in St. Thomas have disposed of their stock of gent's furnishings.

THE failure of Mullarky & Co., wholesale shoemakers, Montreal, has been the cause of much and loud comment, not of an altogether favorable nature, among leather men of that city, and the meeting of creditors will in all likelihood be a stormy one. The firm has made an assignment, and, it is said, is not likely to make an offer. The liabilities aggregate about \$85,000, and some leather firms of only moderate strength have been badly hit. According to present indications it is feared the estate will not realize much over fifteen cents in the dollar, after payment of expenses and privileged claims. The amount of the senior partner's drawings the two years past has been the subject of frequent remark, and further developments are awaited with interest. Mr. Mullarky has been in business in Montreal for something like thirty years. Beginning life in a humble way he had grown to