

THE wholesale dry goods firm of R. Carrie & Co., in this city, has suspended payment, owing, in part to the unfavorable opening of the present spring business. The firm's direct liabilities are understood to be about \$80,000, and indirect about \$50,000.

MR. R. H. KILBY, of Montreal, a large dealer in guns, sporting goods &c., is in financial embarrassment and will have to get indulgence from creditors in some shape or other to enable him to continue. His liabilities are stated at about \$45,000, with assets nominally to the same figure.

A GENERAL storekeeper in Brechin, Alfred Gregg by name, has been ambitious to do a large trade. He opened a branch store at Gravenhurst, and also bought grain until he lost his margin. The sheriff is now in possession of his premises. This is his second failure.

MR. GEORGE JACKSON, an agricultural implement maker in London, has been unable to arrange the extension of time expected and has assigned. His liabilities are heavy, but he claims assets of \$20,000 to pay them with. He has offered 50 cents in the dollar, but this was not accepted, as 80 cents is deemed likely to be realized.

A GROCER in Ottawa named Fred. Plunkett, has been missing for several days, and his absence is attributed to financial embarrassment. Mr. Plunkett was formerly of the firm of Cregan & Plunkett who dissolved last fall. His habits were not such as to inspire much confidence.

A. W. LOOMER, a general dealer of Aylesford, N. S., whose speculative tendencies have always caused a lack of faith in his business success, has assigned to J. A. Cox, after preferring certain creditors. He had a vessel loaded with potatoes frozen in at Parrsboro, this winter which helped to cause his failure.

MESSRS. SPINK BROS. who have been interested in the milling department of the extensive grain and shipping firm of Messrs. W. P. Howland & Co. in this city, have terminated their connection with that firm and opened an office here, where they will dispose of the well known brands of flour manufactured at their mills in Pickering.

MR. THOS. SWAN who has been making carriages for over twenty years in Mount Forest, is in trouble. For many years he has taken an active part in the welfare of the town, and always bore an excellent reputation. The immediate cause of his troubles is found in the Manitoba trade. He manufactured largely for the North-West, and being unable to make the sales expected, he has been obliged to assign. Much sympathy is expressed for him.

It appears that injustice was done the Joseph Hall Works Company in stating last week that it had made some unsuccessful attempts to produce malleable iron castings. We knew that the company had a lot of worthless castings on hand, and now have ascertained that they were not made in this establishment. The specimens of their recent castings that we have seen cannot be excelled in regard to stiffness and toughness of fibre.

IN Toronto E., Mrs. Anderson, grocer, is reported to have left the city and her husband. The store is closed and but little assets remain.—Another small grocer, N. C. Brown, finds the bailiff in possession.—C. Sheppard, dealer in harness ornaments, has offered to pay 25 per cent. of his liabilities.—A bailiff is in possession of the premises of W. B. Thompson, grocer. The creditors of E. Wallace, who called his place the Dominion Tea Co., met yesterday, when a statement submitted showed liabilities of \$16,000 and assets \$10,000.

MESSRS. John Nay & Co., who did a large grocery trade in St. Catharines, and during the last twelve years were believed to have secured a good position, have been obliged to assign. They opened, last summer, a store in Winnipeg, and in the autumn William retired from the firm and continued the Winnipeg business, taking out \$3,000 in notes which were given in exchange for groceries. At a meeting of creditors held this week John submitted a statement showing liabilities of about \$32,000 and assets of \$21,000. He is said to have cut prices very closely.

THE Government of New South Wales has just made a contract for 72,695 tons of steel rails in Sheffield, at \$25 per ton delivered on board, the time to extend over four and a half years before all the deliveries are completed. The weight is 71½ pounds to the yard. It is stated that sales of rails are quoted in London down to \$24 per ton. After the new American tariff of \$17 per ton goes into force, these rails could be delivered in America at not much over \$41 or \$42 per ton.

THE extensive frame and moulding factory of the Cobban Manufacturing Co. on Hayter Street in this city, had a narrow escape from destruction by the fire which broke out in it the other night. The damage done was bad enough, it is true, but might have been much worse had the flames penetrated the portions of the building where stock was stored. The Company's March circular, in black and gold with a view of the factory executed by Rolph Smith & Co., is a tasteful as well as novel vehicle for catching the attention of purchasers.

A SMALL furniture dealer in Ancaster, James McElroy, has been getting behind for a number of years and at last finds the sheriff in possession of his premises. — Mr. James Squire, of Penetanguishene, who did a good-sized tailoring trade and was supposed to be in a good position, has assigned.—J. G. Robinson, grocer, Ottawa, whose name was used until recently as a cover by John Hill to do business under, has assigned to E. McGillivray. Liabilities are nearly all local.

THE hand of death continues to be busy in the ranks of Montreal's prominent business men. This week we have record the death of Mr. James Benny, of the firm of Peck, Benny & Co., one of the largest concerns in Canada, engaged in the manufacture of nails, spikes &c. Also the very sudden death of Mr. D. P. Beattie, long in business as a large handler of teas, molasses &c., but latterly devoting his attention more particularly to the leather business, being interested in a large sole leather tannery at New Glasgow.

FAILURES to more than the usual number have taken place in the shoe trade this week. Among these, P. McKeith, of Ailsa Craig, finds his premises closed and his books in the hands of a private banker. McKeith has left that place. In Bowmanville, J. N. Saunders is in trouble, and his stock is to be sold under a chattel mortgage.—Chas. Young, in St. Catharines, meets his creditors this week.—T. L. Bayeur, of Belleville, has suspended payment, the immediate cause of which is said to be the failure of Fogarty Bros., Montreal. He expects to compromise liabilities of \$6,000 by paying one half.

THE many rumors current in Montreal during the past fortnight affecting a leading produce firm have culminated in the suspension of Messrs. A. Hodgson & Son, extensive butter and cheese shippers, with liabilities approximating a quarter of a million. The case has developed some very unfavorable features, the Bank of Montreal having had a warrant issued vs. Mr. T. H. Hodgson on a charge of fraud, under which he

was arrested and lodged in prison in order to secure a claim of \$118,000. Mr. Hodgson asserts his ability to prove that all his transactions were perfectly straight and the issue of the case is awaited with much interest.

A MEETING of the creditors of Messrs. H. Chapman & Co., of Montreal, was held last Saturday, at which all local houses interested were represented. A statement was submitted showing the direct liabilities to be \$89,000; and the report of the accountant appointed to investigate their affairs satisfactorily accounted for their suspension. Messrs. Cowan & Wonham, the present partners in the firm, made an offer of composition at the rate of 40 cents on the dollar, payable 25 cents cash and 15 cents spread over 12 months. The feeling of the meeting was favourable to the acceptance of this offer, and it was decided to allow the business to be continued under supervision until foreign creditors could be heard from.

THERE are 501,000 miners employed in the coal mines of Great Britain, and the quantity of coal brought to bank in the United Kingdom last year reached 156,500,000 tons. This is an enormous quantity, and exceeds the extraordinary production of 1881 (154,184,000 tons) by upwards of 2,300,000 tons. As compared with 1880 the excess is as much as 9,700,000 tons, and as compared with 1879 it is 12,500,000 tons. Each man wins about one ton of coal per day, 312 tons per year per man is the indicated average. Taking, says the Glasgow Herald, the average value at the pit's mouth at 8s. 6d. per ton, we have the average earnings per miner employed of £182 12s., making the aggregate value of the entire 156,500,000 tons as much as £66,512,500. Before this coal is marketed the value is increased to fully £100,000,000.

AN accountant in this city, Mr. Day, has been exerting himself to prove that one of our Ontario loan companies makes its statement up wrongly, and is better off than its report shows. In pursuit of his object he writes long and elaborate letters, inserted as advertisements in one of the big dailies. Doubtless it would be gratifying if Mr. Day could satisfy shareholders that their property was better than they thought. But it is significant that all he has written did not raise the price of the shares. And when gentlemen well known as adepts at figures, such as Mr. McCabe, Mr. Douglas or Mr. Whitt, support the view of the company's affairs and the method of showing them, taken by its auditors as well as its directors and manager, it will be difficult to get investors to side with Mr. Day. The New York Book-Keeper, indeed, says that "the company is better off than was stated in the report, not worse," and that "the critic is entirely wrong in his assertions, and if he is sincere in making them, must be ignorant of the science of accounts."

THE trade reports from the North-west continue, as we presume they must for some months, to be of a very unsatisfactory character. In Winnipeg, Messrs. Blair & Larmour, dry goods dealers, have secured an extension of time of one year from eastern creditors.—Mr. Louis Arnett who went from Petrolia to the same city has also got a year's extension on liabilities of nearly \$100,000.—M. Cressighton & Cattnach, general storekeepers at Emerson, after being in business about nine months with originally over \$4000 capital, have assigned with liabilities of \$15,000 and nominal assets of \$18,000. Outside speculation by the senior partners is the cause assigned for this failure.—At St. Leon, Man., Lacasse & Wornicke, a firm of general storekeepers who have been in business since May last appear to have lost some \$2,000 and thereupon assigned.—Walsh & Co., who started business