

A LOAN of \$25,000 asked for by the city corporation of Kingston, says the *News*, has been taken by the Bank of British North America at 5 per cent. on seven days' call.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway Co. has erected ice-houses at Rat Portage, Ignace, and Port Arthur, in each of which about 600 tons of ice have been stored.]

THE Bell Telephone Company, of Boston, held its annual meeting on Tuesday, the 28th ult, when the statement presented showed earnings of \$2,295,594 against \$1,576,031 for the previous year.

ALEXANDER GIBSON, the New Brunswick "Lumber King" cut 39,000,000 feet of logs on the river Nashwash in addition to 90,000,000 being got out on the St. John River and its branches by other operators.

A LARGE quantity of flour has arrived here since Sunday last, says the *St. John, N.B. News*, than ever arrived here before in a similar period. Thirty eight cars, containing 5,000 barrels of flour, were received, besides three car loads of sugar. All the flour was of Canadian make, one car load being from Winnipeg.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway telegraph line is now stated to be in operation between Montreal and Algoma Mills. It is also completed from Winnipeg to Michipicoten on the Lake Superior branch. At the present rate of construction it is thought telegraphic communication will be established between Winnipeg and Montreal, by the 1st of May.

The steamship *Aurora*, the first arrival from the sealing grounds, came into St. John's, Newfoundland, on Friday of last week, after three weeks absence, with 28,000 prime seals valued at from \$60,000 to \$65,000. The steamers *Neptune* and *Hector* follow with full cargoes. The former has 35,000 prime harps, and the latter 25,000.

Action has been taken by the liquidators of the Exchange Bank against S. W. Beard for the lump sum of his indebtedness to them, which amounts to \$339,805.82, and includes notes, overdrafts and other transactions. Action has also been taken against Beard by C. H. Walters for \$3,102.50, alleged to be due as the result of business transactions.

A FANCY goods dealer in Bowmanville, Tho's Darlington, who has been gradually getting behind in payments, finds now some five judgments against him but no execution. He is very much behind with his landlord.—Mrs. Radcliffe, milliner, Lucknow, has asked the kind consideration of creditors, and it is stated that she intends to offer 40 per cent. A local banking firm has security for \$1,000 upon her effects.

THE annual meeting of the Starr Mann acturing Company was held last week in Halifax when the directors were re-elected as under: Allison Smith, President; W. J. Stairs, Vice-President; T. A. Ritchie, G. A. S. Crichton, F. G. Parker, J. C. Mackintosh, Geo. R. Anderson. The annual statement showed a profit during the year ending February 29, of \$18,262.53. The capital stock is \$200,000, on which 6 per cent. was paid, and the preferential stock, \$29,000, on which 10 per cent. was paid.

THE assets of the Oshawa Cabinet Company have been sold to H. H. Laing & Co. The stock, we understand, was sold at not far from 50 per cent., and the business will be continued.—Hugh Ross, a dry-goods dealer in Port Hope, who has been in business about twelve years, effected a compromise at 50 per cent. in 1880. A couple of years afterward he failed with liabilities of \$24,000. He has now again assigned.—Edwin A. Smith, druggist, Yonge street, Toronto, has made an assignment.

WHILE we, near Lake Ontario, are doing penance under a fresh snow storm, there are some signs of spring further west. The steamer City of Detroit passed down into Lake Erie, on Wednesday, 2nd April, commencing her regular trips between Detroit and Cleveland. The lake and river Detroit are clear of ice. The entire body of ice in the lake off Buffalo has shifted considerably during the past two days. A great deal of open water is visible along the north shore above Port Colborne.

THE following conversation took place between two laborers at the gate of a large ship-building yard on the Clyde, rather famous for numerous and serious accidents:—"Whaur are ye workin' noo, Bob?" "Doon at Dalmuir." "That's a lang road awa'. What pay are they giein'?" "Oh, no sae bad. I've a pound a week. What are they giein' in here?" (nodding toward the gate). "Oh, no sae muckle's that; I've aughteen shillin's an' my chance." "Yer chance. What chance hae ye?" "The chance o' bein' kill't."

MR. R. G. HECTOR, general store-keeper at Creemore, has compromised with creditors liabilities of \$10,500, at 57½ per cent. secured.—A harness maker in Chesley, W. E. Husband, has been in business since 1881, and last December got an extension, this week he is asking a compromise.—Donald McMillan, general store-keeper, Hillsburg, failed in 1877 and compromised. Since then, although industrious and appearing to have done a fair business, he did not succeed. He has assigned.

ADAM McKEAN & SONS, of Pictou, N. S., who have been doing a quarrying business, shipping large quantities of stone to the United States, are reported as failed. They were owners of a fine property, and were considered to be in fair standing. Preferences exist for a large amount.—In the same town, R. W. Oliver, in business some thirteen years, has also failed and assigned. For ten years or so after starting he was considered to be doing well, but for the past two years had been getting slow, without any apparent cause. His assignment provides preferences, to parties who secured his banking account, as well as some leading creditors, to the amount of \$5,600.

AMONG business difficulties reported from Manitoba and the North West are the following: The Birtle Farming Co. at Beulah is in difficulties and the few assets that remain have been seized by the sheriff and are to be sold for the benefit of creditors.—The Birtle Lumber Co., the leading spirits of which compose the Farming Co., is in similar straits and the sheriff will sell the effects.—Chas. Wisser, who was an agent at Brandon, is reported to have left. His present whereabouts are not known.—In the debatable land of Rat Portage, a hardware firm, Chadwick & McLellan, have assigned. Their statement shows about \$7,000 assets. The liabilities amount to a like sum.—Richard Lake, a general storekeeper at Medicine Hat has assigned.

THE statement in our last that the Barter Manufacturing Company had failed is denied by Mr. Barter. It is true that, when burned out here in February last, a \$300 claim due to the Company was sued upon (in violation of an agreement, as Mr. Barter claims) and the sheriff put in possession, which possibly gave rise to the report of the failure, but this has since been paid. Settlement of another small claim due has been offered. Apart from this, he contends, they have nothing overdue, but possess a good surplus, and are recommending business in new premises. As to insurance, we find that the claim made of \$9,300 loss is not all admitted by the four insurance companies, whose policies amount to some \$6,600.

AN amusing story is told in connection with the vagaries of the telephone, which transmits with the fidelity of the human ear itself, everything it hears. The other day, says a London journal, a grocer wished to purchase a large quantity of sugar. He telephoned to a well-known firm to ask the price. "27s.," was the reply. "No; I will give 26s. 6d.," said he, and then listening he heard one of the firm say to his partner, "Shall we take it?" "Yes," said the partner, but try to screw another threepence out of him." Then loudly through the telephone: "My partner says 26s. 9d. is the lowest we can afford." "Indeed," came the answer, "why I heard him say try to screw another threepence out of me. No, no; 26s. 6d. is the price;" and so it was.

WHAT is termed a great invention was shown at Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., last week. It is a new bleaching process by paraffine soap, which is termed an event in scientific discovery. Unrotted field flax just as it is cut from the field and dried, was rendered snow white in forty minutes, by this process, while the old process of bleaching takes a week to ten days; the new one but a few hours; by the former method a loss in weight of 10 to 20 per cent., and by this method almost nothing. There is no loss of fibre by the new process, so it is claimed, the cloth never mildews. Dyed cloth retains its color. Even the root of the cotton plant can now be used for threads and cloth. All the fibrous growths, it is claimed, will show a bank of white flossy fibre ready for spinners' cards or paper makers' vats.

FROM all the facts that investigations furnish, we are inclined to believe, says the *New York World*, that butter is passing out of existence very much as wax-tapers and stage coaches did. Experts give it as their opinion that the real article is exceedingly scarce. Vast quantities of another substance have taken its place in Washington Market. Milk, which it may not be generally known to our readers is a necessary ingredient in the manufacture of butter, is no longer put to that purpose. It is mixed with water and sold for cream. Machinery and chemistry have come into the field, and it does not pay to make butter. However, let us be brave and readjust our simple beliefs to the teachings of science. Butter is a beautiful dream of youth. Let us relegate it to poetry, but in the stern, practical duties of life, let us boldly recognize the scientific factor of oleomargarine."

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AT WINNIPEG.

Some interesting and valuable tables of figures are appended to the consular report, dated November 26th, 1883, of Mr. Taylor, the United States Consul at Winnipeg, referring to business matters in Manitoba. There is much solid information in the report itself. First we take the table which exhibits the total commerce recorded at Winnipeg during the twelve years ending with 1883:

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1872.....	\$ 1,413,585	\$ 295,452	\$ 1,709,037
1873.....	1,288,257	256,324	1,544,581
1874.....	2,423,990	565,328	2,989,318
1875.....	1,865,679	587,547	2,453,126
1876.....	2,318,391	672,666	2,991,057
1877.....	1,876,753	695,970	2,572,728
1878.....	2,545,421	849,725	3,395,145
1879.....	3,422,375	587,574	3,999,947
1880.....	4,337,668	518,665	5,356,333
1881.....	7,362,640	636,197	7,998,837
1882.....	16,191,772	871,614	17,071,386
1883.....	24,291,767	1,843,481	26,135,248

The next table gives the yearly amount in value of imports for the years beginning with 1872. It is to be noted that the extraordinary importation of 1874 was caused by the change in the following year from the old tariff of the colony of Assini-