

BELLEVILLE's exports for May were of the value of \$72,421, an increase of \$16,758 over those of the same month last year.

At a meeting of representatives of the U. S. railway trunk lines on Thursday of last week, it was decided not to reduce rates on east-bound freight at present.

MR. J. E. PENNOCK, a general dealer in Castleton, Ont., is in difficulties, and reported to have assigned. About six years ago this gentleman succeeded to the business of his father and was supposed to be worth about \$3000, but this is all gone now.

H. GLOBENSKY, a general storekeeper in Kerry, Ont., has assigned for the second time. The first failure was just a year ago, when he settled liabilities of \$2,400 for half that amount. Liabilities now \$2,500, nominal assets \$1,800.

THE assessed value of real estate this year in Gananoque is \$627,505 against \$603,680 in 1879. Personal property last year stood at \$35,500. This year it is \$22,000. The population has increased, being 2,781 against 2,650.

A STOREKEEPER of River Hebert, N. S., Mr. Wm. Moffatt, is in difficulties and reported to be offering his creditors from 25 to 30 per cent. for a clearance. He gives, as a reason for his proposition, that some of his Halifax creditors are pressing him, but his statements are not received with general favour. Doubts are expressed of his being able to effect a settlement.

THE Toronto boot and shoe manufacturing house of Sessions, Cooper & Smith, have resolved to abandon the well-known trade name which has clung to the firm under so many changes of style for nearly 30 years. The firm name will henceforth be Cooper & Smith.

FIFTY years ago last week, Mr. John Winer began business as a druggist in Hamilton. The anniversary was celebrated by closing the warehouse and giving the employees a holiday. The growth of the business of John Winer & Co., and its success from 1830 till to-day, is creditable to the city of Hamilton, and to the careful supervision of the estimable principal.

THE St. John grocery firm of Messrs. Logan, Lindsay & Co., who last year found it necessary to ask an extension of time from their creditors, completed the sixth and last payment. The sum to be met was about \$125,000. This firm well deserve to be congratulated on the success which has crowned their efforts.

HARRIS & Co., a Bridgetown, N. S. firm of general storekeepers, are in difficulty, and have trustees for benefit of creditors. Their position has been considered dubious for some time past, and several judgments obtained lately for comparatively small amounts, seem to have precipitated matters. Their affairs are in poor shape, and the assignee professes little real knowledge as to liabilities or assets. Prospects are poor for more than a 30 per cent. dividend.

Messrs. J. Blair & Co. hardware dealers in Walkerton, are in difficulty. Mr. Brocelbank, one of the firm, was at one time a well-to-do farmer, but got into difficulties through his brother's failure. Blair is said to have put the

little property he had out of his hands some time ago. The liabilities are \$4,000 assets nominally nearly double that sum. The firm has assigned to the Merchants' Bank in trust.

ALEX. KELSO, a shoe dealer in Haliburton, has gone to Chicago, leaving a workman in the place who pretends to own what is left, but unfortunately for him he has nothing to show for it. Another man who has gone to join the Canadian colony in Chicago is a Seaforth grain dealer, James Pringle, who failed some years ago. This time he appears to have forged warehouse receipts and has "skedaddled" to Chicago.

AN effort is being made in St. John N. B., to increase the tax on the poor commercial traveller from some other place who sells goods in that city, from its present rate of \$40, to \$100. It sounds queerly to read this of St. John, an enterprising, modern town, with a large sprinkling of American merchants and residents. It would be much less remarkable if we heard it of Quebec or Halifax, for those old-fashioned cities have hitherto been 'sufficient unto themselves, and jealous of peripatetic salesman. Probably it is, in the present case, a plan to get revenue rather than a desire to exclude travelling agents, which drives St. John to such an expedient to hamper trade.

THE employees in the book-binding department of Messrs. W. J. Gage & Co.'s stationery business have made a presentation of silver plate and a beautifully illuminated address to Mr. E. W. Blackhall, hitherto foreman of the bindery in that establishment, upon his leaving the employ of the firm (formerly Adam Miller & Co.), with which he had been for the past nine years. The inventions and patents of Mr. Blackhall, among which are a water-governor for boilers, a rotary lifting perforator, and a duplicating ruling-machine attachment, have proved so successful in the United States as to require the whole time and attention of the inventor for their manufacture and sale. Furthermore, the abilities of this gentleman in other directions have attracted the attention of American capitalists, and a company has been formed in New York, with Mr. Erastus Wiman as President, for the practical working out of his original process of imitating steel plate engraving and lithography. Canadian mechanical ingenuity thus, again, finds its most substantial reward at the hands of our appreciative neighbors across the lines.

THE American Union Telegraph Company, the new concern founded as a competitor of the huge Western Union, advertises that it will transmit telegrams at rates from 15 to 20 per cent below those now charged by other companies. So that, although the Americans were in former years made to pay pretty dearly for their telegraphing, there is a likelihood that they will get it done cheaply enough, for the Western Union, which sometime ago reduced rates between the principal points, now proposes to cut below even its new rival. Its stock declined on Saturday to go in view of the proposed reduction; it does not seem therefore, as if investors believed that cutting rates could be afforded even in telegraphy. Cable rates are now reduced to 12½ cents per word.

JAMES MILLER & SON of West River, N. S., who carried on quite an extensive woollen manufactory in that place, are interested to the extent of \$6,000 or \$7,000 in the estate of Daniel Chisholm, a harness and trunk maker who failed in New Glasgow. This, it is thought, will affect them somewhat seriously. Mr. Chisholm showed a statement of liabilities, direct and indirect of \$30,000 with nominal assets of \$36,000 these were, however, reduced by the creditors to \$20,000. It is thought that the concern will pay about 75 per cent, and is to be wound up by Mr. Chisholm and his son. Murray & Co., druggists in the same town were endorsers for some \$2,000 on Chisholm's paper.

A FAILURE which has created a ripple of excitement upon the hitherto quiet surface of matters in connection with the grocery trade in Montreal, is that of Messrs. Hendrey & Cowan, wholesale tea merchants, &c. They are understood to owe about \$16,000, nominal assets are about \$10,000. It is now apparent that the firm's affairs have been in doubtful shape for some time past, and it is impossible to believe that the partners have not been aware of it. To outsiders, however, there were no visible signs of weakness, and their credit continued fair up to almost the last moment. Availing themselves of this fact, they bought quite largely at recent trade sales, and also by regular purchase, appearing to intend, by hypothecating these goods, to provide for their immediate and pressing wants. The first meeting of creditors was held last Friday, and was of a somewhat stormy nature, but resulted in nothing definite, and was adjourned, a trustee being appointed temporarily. Two of the creditors having obtained an inkling of how matters really stood prior to the meeting being called, took out seizures *en revendication*, and another firm, creditors for some \$1,700, have had the members of the firm arrested for obtaining goods fraudulently, but they have been released on bail. As this is the first failure of any consequence in Montreal since the repeal of the Insolvent Act, the course of events is being watched with considerable interest; and the results will no doubt form some sort of precedent for future cases. The feeling at present is altogether averse to granting any settlement.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

SUFFERER, BUCKHORN.—It is unquestionably hard to see your property, which is as yet unpaid for, going to swell the Arkansas acres of so reckless and unscrupulous a trader. But it would appear that you have no recourse against the person you describe as having been the moving spirit in the business, so long as the goods were supplied to another person, or bought in the other person's name.

ENQUIRER, WESTMEATH—writes: "Many in this neighborhood are insured in a Mutual Fire Company that has hitherto always paid its losses promptly, but from a recent report I see that the company carries risks amounting to over \$8,000,000, whilst the balance of their assets, consisting principally of premium notes, is only \$40,000. No provision being made for any re-insurance. Do you consider this a sufficient security for policy holders? In the case of the "Empire Mutual" lately closed up, I understand the premium notes were only valued by the Inspector at half their face value. If the premium notes of this company were placed at