

THE Customs' receipts at the port of Halifax for August were \$143,675, which is an increase of \$14,299 over the receipts for August, 1889.

A FIRE at Point Levis, on Wednesday, burned Duplessis' tannery and six other buildings. Total loss \$27,000; D. loses \$12,000 on stock; Mrs. Carrier \$7,000 over insurance.

D. S. DYSON & Co., late of the firm of Gorman, Dyson & Co., of London, Ont., have purchased, says the *Free Press*, the business of the Manitoba coffee and spice mills.

THE St. John *Globe* is informed that Mr. Racey, the Woodstock agent of the Merchants Bank of Halifax, to-day took charge of the agency at Fredericton, and Mr. H. Schofield will act as cashier. Mr. John Trainor, who has been at Fredericton, has been promoted to the management of the Woodstock agency.

ON Monday last the Joggins coal mine in Nova Scotia passed into the hands of the English capitalists. Part of the purchase money, \$230,000, has been paid, and the remainder is to be paid in March next. The new company will be styled the Canada Coal Company, and, it is understood, some extensive improvements will be made and new operations begun. The managers will be Messrs. O. L. Spencer, R. G. Leckie and R. Cruikshank. Mr. Henry Duffell, jr., will continue as secretary of the corporation.

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A CONTRACT to supply the city of Toronto with 4,000 feet of its well-known brand of "Baker" hose has been awarded to the Toronto Gutta Percha and Rubber Mfg Co.

THE staple character of the boot and shoe dealer or maker's business may be inferred from the experience of a certain householder who kept strict account of family expenses for a period of 26 years. He says that the most annoying thing about it is the rapidity with which children wear out shoes. "For ten years," he asserts, "it has taken on an average one pair of shoes per week for the family (of four children), including myself and wife." Customs receipts at Montreal for August show a very considerable increase over those for the same month last year.

LAST summer, Mr. G. F. S. Bentley arrived in Brockville from Brooklyn, N. Y., and opened a fancy goods business. He gave a chattel mortgage for \$500 on his effects some months ago, and now he has made an assignment. At Winchester, Ont., in January last, a firm named Summers & Routh began store-keeping. They had very little capital and there was no prospect of their doing business enough to support two partners. As a very natural consequence they have had to assign. In this paragraph are two illustrations that would-be merchants do not always look before they leap.

ALTHOUGH showing a considerable surplus not longer ago than April last, the general store firm of Sanderson & Hobbs, at Mount Elgin, finds it necessary to assign. Their venture dates from October, 1889. At a recent meeting held by the creditors of Petty-piece Bros, dealers in hardware, at Amherstburg, it was found that the estate might realize 80 cents on the dollar, and a few days were given the firm to submit an offer. Failing to do this an assignment is announced. Seven years ago R. H. Menzies opened a general store at Burk's Falls. His capital was small, and in 1888 he obtained an extension. He has now failed.

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WYLD, GASETT & DARLING,

Dry Goods & Woollen Merchants,

TORONTO.

MANCHESTER AND HUDDERSFIELD, ENG.

THE numerous customers and friends of the Cobban Manufacturing Co., in this city, will be pleased to learn that the recent fire in their large premises on Hayter street has not interrupted the business of the concern.

THE twentieth annual report of the Deputy Master of the Mint, lately presented to Parliament, shows that during the past year five and ten cent pieces of the nominal value of \$120,000 were coined for Canada. It appears that twenty cent pieces to the nominal value of \$16,585 were re-coined into twenty-five cent pieces. And an exchange says, "It will be a good thing when the last twenty cent piece is re-coined." Commenting upon this the *Halifax Herald* says: "What is the use of re-coining the Canadian twenty cent pieces, so long as Newfoundland twenty cent pieces are allowed free circulation? Down this way, nine of every ten of the twenty cent pieces in circulation are importations from Newfoundland. Could not our sister colony be induced to cease coining them?"

STRANGE, that while we are constantly hearing of the hard work undergone by the farmer, "the sweat of his brow," the decay of his prosperity in this country, the gloom of his future, and such like nonsense, nobody seems to have a word to say about the hard work that store-keepers do. The retail merchant may not lose as much bodily sweat as the farmer, but if there is such a thing as brain-sweat, he does vastly more of that, for indeed he has a hard time, now-a-days, as a rule. There is too many of him, and his profits are often out too fine. Yet people will not be warned that it is folly to leave farming and go into store-keeping. Here are two recent instances: Charles Lemire, a farmer, began a store business early in 1889 at L'Assomption, Que. He did not understand the business, dropped what means he had, and now assigns, owing \$1,900. The other case is that of Alderic Seguin, of St. Marthe. He sold his farm to begin as a merchant, and managed to exist for several years, probably by getting credit more widely every season. He now owes \$4,000, and his estate is so depleted that he thinks he can only pay 25 per cent.

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