

THE co-partnership between Fennell & Anthes, Berlin, hardware merchants, expired on the 1st inst. by lapse of time, and was dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. Fennell will collect the outstanding debts and pay the liabilities of the firm.

THE Board of Underwriters has decided to increase the Fire Insurance rates 20 per cent. in Charlottetown, in consequence of the action of the Council, last summer, on the water question. A local paper hopes that as a civic election is soon coming off, the progressive councillors will be in a majority, in which case the rates may not be increased.

THE lumber firm of Wm. Cane & Sons at Newmarket has been dissolved and the business merged into a joint stock Co. Wm. Smith has sold out his furniture business at Otterville to John W. Murray; the style of Thos. McDonald's tin works at Galt is changed to McDonald, Kemp & Co.; Macfarlane & Smith, auctioneers, Toronto, have dissolved, R. A. Smith retiring.

AMONG business items in Manitoba and beyond we observe the following: Nicol Erskine, general dealer, is removing from Desford to Cherry Creek. J. D. Higginbotham & Co., of Fort MacLeod, are opening a branch drug store at Lethbridge, and E. Walton, of Medicine Hat, opens one also at Lethbridge. Alfred Ashdown of Stonewall, has removed to Cherry Creek; Chas. A. Shofield, of Winnipeg, is giving up his millinery business.

IT is a not unfavorable indication of the financial situation in Winnipeg, or its civic administration, or both, that the proportion of taxes collected, up to the 12th January, is larger in 1884-5 than during any previous year, according to the *Free Press*. The figures for the two preceding years were as follows: 1883, total collections during the months in which a rebate was allowed, in round figures, \$150,000; 1884, do. December and January, \$225,364.57; 1885, say December and January, \$250,059.44.

NOTICE is given of application for letters patent incorporating the New Success Oil St ve Co. of Yarmouth, N.S., with a capital of \$10,000. Also, the Goldsmiths' Co. of Toronto, with a capital of \$100,000, H. Smith, H. H. Fudger and W. J. Barr, corporate members. The Dominion Cartridge Co. seeks incorporation, with a capital of \$100,000, and headquarters at Brownsburg, Que.; corporate members, Hon. John Hamilton, Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, Andrew Allan, Jonathan Hodgson and T. C. Brainerd.

IN the Province of Quebec we note the following failures: Lavvie & Co., contractors, Levis, have assigned.—A. St. Jean & Co., manufacturers of shoes in a small way in Montreal, have compromised at 40c. cash.—B. A. Benoit, cabinetmaker, St. Hyacinthe, has been served with notice to assign.—At Three Rivers, J. E. Trotten & Son, axe factory, have failed.—L. E. Morin, jun., commission merchant, Montreal, has assigned.—Mrs. E. Demers, general store, Vercheres, has, upon demand, made an assignment.

IN addition to the list of firm changes in Montreal and Quebec given last week, we note the following: In Quebec the wholesale dry goods firm of Joseph Hamel & Frere has been dissolved by the retirement of Mr. Adolphe Hamel. The business is continued by the remaining partners under the old style.—In Montreal, Mr. Samuel Finley has retired from the well known wholesale dry goods house of Gault Bros. & Co.—Mr. Alex. Grasset has become a partner in the jobbing stationery house of Bennett & Co.—Dupuis Freres, retail dry goods men, have dissolved, Mr. L. N. Dupuis retiring.

MR. W. C. VAN HORNE, Vice-President of the Canadian Pacific, says the *Star*, was waited upon last week by two deputations in connection with the proposed railway from Smith's Falls to Montreal and to connect with the Lachine Bridge. Mr. Van Horne promised that the line would be built though no dates were mentioned. Three routes have been surveyed, and the right of way is not so easily obtained on the northern route. He seemed rather to favor the route urged by the deputation—through Kemptville, West Winchester and Alexandria.

THERE have been some changes in well-known Prince Edward Island firms: Beer & Sons, general merchants in Charlottetown, and W. A. Weeks & Co., dry-goods merchants in the same city, have dissolved partnership. W. A. Weeks and L. L. Beer have formed a new firm to engage in dry-goods business at wholesale. J. H. Cole & Brother, in the store business at County Line, have dissolved.

AMONG Nova Scotia traders and their movements we note the assignment of Wm. E. Barry, carriage-maker, Great Village; C. H. Dentor, Rossway, general dealer; Chas. Desbarres, general merchant at Joggins. Miss Chubbock, at River Philip, has sold out her general stock of merchandise. Mrs. Gaston, dealer in dry goods at Dartmouth, is dead, and H. S. Sutherland, lumberman at Clyde River, is dead.

ACCORDING to Halifax letters, the old and prominent fish houses of Chas. Robin & Co., and Philip Robin & Co., Jersey, Eng., have suspended payment. The first-named has long had extensive establishments on the north shore of New Brunswick, and the latter possess large concerns at Arichat and Cheticamp, Cape Breton, and at Gaspé. It is said that, with the exception of the Halifax agent of Philip Robin & Co., who loses a few thousand dollars, there will be no great losses here. The business has been in existence since about 1770.

A DESPATCH to the Montreal *Star* says that unusual activity in phosphate mining exists in phosphate limits on the Lievre and Blanche Rivers. The recent rise in the price of phosphate, both on the American and European markets accounts for this. American capitalists are endeavoring to secure an interest in the industry, and it is expected that this year will witness a larger output than any year in the history of phosphate mining. Mr. W. H. Fuller has just returned from New York, where he has organized a company, which will work extensive limits in the Wakefield and Lievre districts. Eleven other mines are in full blast.

AT the fourth annual meeting of the Quebec Dairymen's Association, held at St. Hyacinthe last week, it was stated that during the year ending June, 1885, the export of cheese amounted to 69,756,433 pounds representing a value of \$7,251,989, or an increase of 63,927,641 pounds, or \$6,577,508 on the export of 1870. In 1870 the export of butter was 12,259,981 pounds, while in 1885 it was 8,075,537. The decrease was due to a bad system of manufacture. Prof. Arnold said that Canada lost \$5,000,000 yearly owing to her bad butter makers. The United States take in annually \$500,000,000 from milk, butter and cheese, and \$700,000,000 was invested in dairies.

THE annual meeting of the Northwest Fire Insurance Company was held in Winnipeg on the 13th inst. A dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the paid up capital was declared. The following directors were elected for the ensuing year: Messrs. D. MacArthur

G. W. Girdlestone, Senator Sutherland, A. H. Whitcher, H. S. Westbrook, Jos. Mulholland, Alex. Logan, Sheriff Inkster, G. H. Balfour, J. A. Smart, (of Brandon) D. S. Curry, H. E. Crawford, Thos. Gilroy, G. W. Baker, J. W. Horne, (of Brandon). Mr. MacArthur was elected president, and Senator Sutherland vice president. Votes of thanks were passed to the officers mentioned and to the secretary, Mr. G. W. Girdlestone, for their administration of the company's affairs during the year past.

THE retirement of Mr. Samuel Finley from the Montreal wholesale firm of Messrs. Gault Brothers & Co. is an event that will attract attention wherever the firm is known. The general conclusion will be, we think, that Mr. Finley has, by continued and consistent devotion to commercial life in Australia and Canada, fairly earned the repose which his retirement from active business will now give him. An interesting reunion marked the occasion. Mr. Finley entertained at his residence in Montreal last week, his late partners, as well as the senior employees of the firm and their wives. The employees presented Mr. Finley with an exquisite clock and ornaments, also an illuminated address, expressive of the happy relations that had ever existed between that gentleman and his employees, extending over twenty years, marking their esteem for him and closing with best wishes for him and his. On the following evening, the junior employees of the house were also in turn entertained.

THE annual meeting of the London and Port Stanley Railway Co. was held in London, Ont., on the 15th instant. The report recited that "the quarterly rentals under the lease had been promptly paid by the Grand Trunk Railway Company and applied as provided in paying the interest on the first mortgage bonds held by the municipalities of London and St. Thomas. The steps taken by citizens of London recently in the direction of securing a new road to connect the city of London with the Canada Southern Railways, were deprecated thus: "The construction of such a road, we consider, would seriously depreciate the value of your property, and consequently demands your serious consideration." The report was adopted, and the following board of directors for 1886 chosen: Messrs. Joseph Hickson, Chas. Stiff, Joseph Hobson, James Egan, Robt. Pritchard, Geo. S. Birrell, A. Cleghorn, John McClary and W. P. R. Street. Mr. James Magee was re-elected president, Mayor Smith, of St. Thomas, vice-president, and Mr. James Bowman, secretary.

IT WILL be grateful to the feelings of many to know that even clever men, such as popular novelists, have been puzzled by the machinery of banking, and probably overawed by the haughty stare and snappish questioning of the snobbish bank-clerk of the present day. Many an intelligent man, who had been accustomed to pay his debts, hold his head erect and love his neighbor as himself, has been made to feel his ignorance and insignificance when first he ventured alone into a bank to draw money. Nay, has not many a sweet and virtuous soul suddenly sworn fierce vengeance against all men behind brass railings, by reason of his first unpleasant experience in a bank. It is related by an exchange that while W. D. Howells was a young man living in Columbus, he wrote a poem which was published in the *Atlantic Monthly*. In time came a check in payment for the poem, which was among the earliest literary productions of Mr. Howells, before he had turned his thoughts toward the