

### Business East. ONTARIO.

Thos. Caldwell, nursery Dundas, is dead.

John Erskine, dry goods, Peterboro, is dead.

A. B. Griffin, grocer, London, is out of business.

John Illsay, tin dealer, Picton, has assigned in trust.

Wm. Rowell, hotelkeeper, London, is out of business.

M. C. Potts, tins, etc., St. Thomas, is out of business.

W. H. Rowe, printer, Hamilton, is reported to have left.

P. Callahan, shoe dealer, Toronto, has assigned in trust.

G. L. Edlestone, tins, etc., St. Thomas, is out of business.

Henry Cohen, clothing, etc., Chatham, has assigned in trust.

Knights of Labor Biscuit Co., Chatham, has assigned in trust.

Thos. J. Walters, confectioner, Chatham, has assigned in trust.

Wm. W. Bishop, carpenter, Jerseyville, —sheriff's sale advertised.

D. A. McArthur, general storekeeper, Maxville, has assigned in trust.

Ruthven & Abbett, bakers, etc., Toronto, have dissolved; Henry Ruthven continues.

The Telfer & Harold Manufacturing Co., manufacturers of corsets, Toronto, have dissolved, and style now the Telfer Manufacturing Co.

Manhard & Co., lumber, Brockville,—Thos. Doddridge admitted special partner, contributing \$10,000, from May 30th, '87 to May 30th, '90.

### QUEBEC.

Daoust & Bro., butchers, Montreal, have dissolved.

G. Mackenzie & Co., manufacturers of braces, Montreal, have dissolved.

Theodore Vigeant, jeweler, Montreal,—stock advertised for sale by tender.

Andrew B. Somerville, general storekeeper, Kinneear's Mills, has assigned in trust.

### Oil.

The petroleum deposits of the Athabasca as described by Prof. Bell cannot fail to have a great effect for good upon the future of the Northwest in general and this town and district in particular. It was formerly supposed that these deposits only existed on the Athabasca some forty or fifty miles below McMurray and about 350 north of Edmonton, and that as a stretch of unnavigable river extended from McMurray 80 miles up to the Grand Rapid there was no chance of their being utilized until a railroad was built to them, which in the natural course of events could not be very many years. It now appears that only 30 miles from Grand Rapids around the great bend in the river, only 25 miles in a direct line, and not more than 10 miles further north than the Grand Rapid, is struck the petroleum bed which visibly extends for nearly 150 miles along the river without a break—the most extensive deposit in the known world, except perhaps the similar deposit on the shores of the Caspian sea in Russia. Prof. Bell's report on the geology

of the country gives no reason to suppose that the point where the petroleum bed is first exposed by the deepening channel of the river is its southernmost extension. On the contrary there is nothing to indicate that the deposit may not extend southward to Lac la Biche or even further. At any rate there is more than a probability that a well sunk just above the Grand Rapid would strike the petroleum bed at a depth of not more than 400 feet. Prof. Bell remarks that the most likely place to strike a good flow of oil is not necessarily where there are surface indications. From Grand Rapid there is 125 miles of good steamboat navigation to Athabasca Landing, from where 90 miles of haul over the present wagon road would bring the oil to the banks of the Saskatchewan at Edmonton, the distributing point for northern Alberta. From Edmonton, at a nominal cost, it could be distributed along both banks of the Saskatchewan—good agricultural country for 500 miles—to Prince Albert, or even taken to Winnipeg by water. At present the petroleum used in the settlements of Edmonton, Battleford and Prince Albert on the Saskatchewan is brought by rail over 2,000 miles from Pennsylvania and Ontario, and then hauled in carts or wagons across country 200 or 250 miles; so that in the matter of transport over present routes the Athabasca oil would be on at least an equal footing at these points with the eastern product. Of course as soon as a railroad reached the Saskatchewan at either Battleford or Prince Albert the Athabasca oil would be at a disadvantage there; but on the other hand if the work of development were once commenced no doubt the first railroad to touch the Saskatchewan would do so at Edmonton and would not stop short of Athabasca Landing, which would at once give the Athabasca oil the advantage throughout the Northwest and British Columbia, if not all along the Pacific coast. Of course oil may, and it is to be hoped it will, be found nearer Edmonton than the rapids of the Athabasca, even in the immediate vicinity as there are good indications, but it will never be known as long as it lasts how large the supply in such a discovery is; while it would be the more valuable to well-owners on that account it would be less so to the country than the Athabasca deposit, which is plainly inexhaustible. If the oil field does not extend south to the Grand Rapids the expense of transporting the oil by pipe or otherwise over the short distance that can only intervene will not be great, but will be great enough to defer development until the demand is greater than at present; while if oil can be struck no matter how short a distance this side of the Grand Rapid there is no reason why development should not commence at once in a small way. In view of the importance of the trade awaiting development, would it be too much to ask the government to assist in sinking a test well this side of the rapids? Whether development is commenced sooner or later it is clear that as the coal fields of Alberta may be relied on to supply the Northwest with fuel for all coming ages, so the petroleum deposits of the Athabasca country may be relied on to furnish light for an equal period.—*Edmonton Bulletin.*

J. A. Honns, druggist, Pilot Mound, is building new premises at that place.

### Grape Culture.

A number of Italians have taken up 160 acres on the north side of the Inlet nearly opposite the city, and about two miles back from the shore. The intentions of the Italians is to plant a vineyard as soon as sufficient of the ground is cleared. The soil, they say, is well adapted to grape culture, and with the southern exposure they do not see any obstacle to prevent their enterprise becoming a success. If the first season realizes their expectations a large number of their countrymen will also go into the business, and grape pressing will be commenced as soon as sufficient vines are bearing.—*Vancouver B.C. News.*

### Early Closing.

The following is from *The Merchant*; by far the most ably conducted and leading general trade journals of Toronto:

"The retailers in all departments,—dry goods, groceries, drugs, boots and shoes, etc., throughout Ontario towns, are adopting the early-closing plan, and in the cities the difficulty can only be overcome by pegging away at agitation until the public are driven to act as a unit in purchasing within reasonable hours, and the merchants are forced, from the dearth of trade after certain hours, to yield to the overtures of the good cause. There is much encouragement in the fact that the number of stores now closing early is much larger than a few years ago, and that the tendency among reputable traders of all kinds is to shorten the hours of labor. The number of window-cards about the city announcing:—"This establishment closes at six o'clock," "at one o'clock on Saturdays" seems to be materially increasing."

"The life of the average merchant is a severe trial upon his character. Surrounded by selfishness and the keenest competition, his integrity is subjected to the severest tests, but this does not justify him in sacrificing health by devoting all his waking hours to business. The final success of a business man is demonstrated in the universal law—the survival of the fittest. Then, gentlemen, who shall be your exemplar? Shall it be the man who, by excess, by over-hours and by continued infractions of nature's unchanging laws, has impaired his physical being, and who, in the great army of business men, falls by the wayside a straggler? Or shall it be the man who, by the observance of these natural laws, is made strong and clear-headed, who survives the struggle and marches on with firm step in the phalanx of the successful? We leave it for you to decide."

The *Gladstone Age* says: As regards the statement that banks and loan companies are going to wind up their business and withdraw from the country on account of its unsettled state, they are not such long-eared animals as to do any such thing.

Biscuit making by Knights of Labor, in Chatham, Ont., has come to grief, after a brief experience. The company had a capital of \$30,000, about \$12,000 being subscribed and only 30 per cent. paid up. Its goods had hardly been introduced when the concern was forced to assign.