

THE works on the Trent Valley Canal are progressing. The contractors for the locks at Fenelon Falls and Buckhorn are proceeding with the masonry work for the lock walls, and have a large force of men employed.

THE superintendent of the C. P. R. commercial telegraph department has made arrangements, says the *Commercial*, to open offices for the commercial telegraphic business at the following points west of Calgary, viz.:—The 22nd, 24th, 26th, 27th, 29th and 31st sidings. The last mentioned siding will be a division station. Bahama, Cassils, Culley, Farrar, Gull Lake, Irvine, Langevin, Shepard and Shackmore have been closed for the winter.

"ALL-WOOL" blankets, according to a contemporary, are often composed mainly of hair that once pranced over the prairies on the scarred flanks of a long-horned Texas steer. The hair having been taken from the hides and thoroughly cleaned, is then mixed with enough wool of a low grade to enable the manufacturer to card it and work it into blankets and rough cloth. The test, it is said, is very simple: When short hairs can pulled be out of an "all-wool" blanket, probably three-fourths of it is cow's wool.

THE telegraph has just appeared at another important commercial region in the Orient. The new line between Samarkand and Bokhara, which is the first constructed in Central Asia, and which has been made by the Russian Government it is announced will be opened to the public next month. Communication will thus be opened between the silk merchants and manufacturers of Europe and the principal markets of Central Asia for cocoons and silk. Bokhara already contains 27 silk mills and 564 silk merchants. At present there is not even a regular postal service with that city.

It is announced that the Agricultural Insurance company of Watertown, N.Y. proposes to increase the capital from \$300,000, the present figure, to a round \$500,000. This can be done, and still enable the company to report a net surplus of about \$200,000. So that, upon even a \$500,000 capital, the company's shares will have a book value of not less than \$140 for every \$100 of stock. This move will place the Agricultural in the proud position of leading all the "country" companies of the United States in point of capital, as it is, already, and, for years, has led them in volume of business and managerial enterprise.

A DEALER in staves at Port Rowan, named J. A. Dease, has compromised with his creditors at 30 cents in the dollar. It is thought that he will now get along.—John France, a hardware dealer in this city, is stated to have more than one wife. Recently, number two appeared on the scene and John is reported to have left Canada.—Geo. Lucas, Jr., a saddler, at Sarnia, who had been endorsing for his father, a farmer, has assigned in consequence. This certainly is an exception to the general rule.—Messrs. Booth & Son, coppersmiths, in this city have assigned.

At Aylmer, Ont. Black Bros. grocers have assigned in trust. One of the partners is reported to have sadly neglected his business, which is said to be the real cause of all their trouble.—In the same place, S. L. Doolittle & Co., furniture dealers, have managed their business badly and have been obliged to assign.—In Fenelon Falls John St. Lawrence, began business "in the mild September," and now, "in the bleak November," he has assigned.—In October last John Habbick, dry goods dealer in Galt, assigned and compromised with all his creditors but one, at 40 per cent. The sheriff is in possession and a sale is advertised for to-day.

MR. DAVID PLEWES, an enterprising and extensive miller for over twenty years at Brantford and elsewhere, is in difficulties. At one time he was undoubtedly worth a considerable sum of money and has always borne an excellent reputation. Being somewhat speculative, he invested in a number of mills and also put about \$15,000 into lumber in Winnipeg; the result of this is heavy losses owing to the great reduction in prices in that commodity. A statement of his affairs is being prepared. It appears that Mr. Plewes is associated with Mr. Snider, in the Hamilton Steam Flouring mills. He also carried on business in Winnipeg in partnership with John Mann. He owned and operated the Holmedale mill, and also owned the Kirby mills, but leased them to Sloan, handling the output. Mr. Plewes handled the products of several other mills, so that his operations were on an extensive scale.

THE Hespeler Woolen and Cotton Manufacturing Co., at Hespeler, Ont., is stated to have a paid capital of \$170,000 and an excellent mill; but although it has been in operation more than a year, making flannels and other goods, its working has not yielded a profit. This is largely owing to unfortunate management. One circumstance more agreeable, however, is that its outside liabilities are comparatively small. The chief supplies of wool were from one of the directors who has secured a judgment of \$80,000 against the company. Another judgment for half this sum has been obtained by the president to secure personal endorsements. Floating debts of some \$5,000 or \$6,000 are current. Operations were suspended about ten days ago, and an inventory of the company's effects is being prepared.

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—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher made a speech at the New York Chamber of Commerce banquet on Evacuation Day, on the topic "Then and Now." "The spirit of the American people" he said "had changed. The period of now teaches a more liberal lesson than the period of 100 years ago. We are not supposed to regard with distrust or vindictiveness any person coming from the mother land. England's sons and daughters are as free to come to us as we are to go to them." After referring to the Scientists, the *Litterateurs* and the actors who had come over on visits, he goes on: "Now what shall I say of the investors, the railroad constructors, and the manufacturers that have invaded our shores from Great Britain? What can be said save welcome, every one? What shall I say the multitude of young English lords and noodles no told enough to know how to take care of themselves? What of the Cockneys and bumptious fops that swarm across the Atlantic? Well, I think that we send over to England just as many bumptious Yankee noodles and ignoramus as we get of the same material from there. [Laughter.] Great Britain can't play any such game on us."

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