

THOMPSON & Co., spool and bobbin manufacturers, are putting a factory at Sherbrooke.

Work on the construction of the St. John street railway has commenced, and the road will be completed through Portland this fall.

A PROVISIONAL guardian of the estate of Oliver Seguin, merchant tailor, Montreal, has been named, assigned on Wednesday; liabilities, \$1,200.

THE by-law prohibiting members of the Montreal Stock Exchange from dealing with bucket shops came into force on Tuesday, and there was an increase in business.

THE assessed valuation of the city of Sherbrooke is \$2,795,760, an increase over last year of \$78,815. There are 880 proprietors on the roll, and the population is given at 8,861.

RECEIPTS at the Montreal custom house for the month of August were \$762,337, against \$735,305 for the same month last year, showing an increase of \$27,031 for last month.

THE Moncton refinery is importing quite a stock of raw sugar via St. John just now about a thousand tons having been forwarded per the I. C. R. within a few days of last week.

A NUMBER of cotton operatives from Lancashire arrived last week in St. John, and are now at work in Parks' cotton factories. Several of them bring families. There are a number of other operatives and their families on the way. More looms and spinning machinery are being put in the new factory of Courtenay Bay which will considerably increase its capacity.

THE British men-of-war "Emerald," "Lily," and "Bullfrog," which have been in St. John's, Newfoundland, awaiting instructions, left last week to enter the fishery protection service. Meanwhile the American men-of-war have been called home, and the American fishermen are departing for the same place evidently under the opinion that poaching is not a profitable calling.

THE tendency of the Boston rubber market is easy, according to advices of Saturday last. The new crop receipts are coming in fairly at Para, and buyers are holding off as much as possible in hopes of lower prices. Importers are making an effort to sustain prices by withholding stock. Central American grades are held with considerable firmness, as stocks are not large.

If a press telegram of yesterday be well founded, an adolescent banker in Maine, named Frank McNulty, clerk in the Saco & Biddeford Savings' Bank, being left in charge of the institution while the treasurer went to Kennebunk, opened the safe, by means of the combination confided to him, took out \$250,000 in bonds and a lot of money, went to Boston, and from thence took boat, probably for Yarmouth where he has friends. The young man must be either the confederate of some experienced thieves or must be very green. To dispose of bonds to such an amount must arouse suspicion and result in his capture.

AN Ottawa despatch of 29th ult., states that the lumbermen of that district expect to cut about as much in the woods this year as was cut last year if nothing interferes with the season's operations. It is estimated that the buzz saws at the Chaudiere will cut this summer about the following figures, which are somewhat less than last year's figures, which were very large. J. R. Booth & Co., 90,000,000 feet; Brown & Weston, 75,000,000 feet; E. B. Eddy & Co., 80,000,000 feet; Perley & Patte, 70,000,000; Hurdman & Co., 50,000,000 feet; Grier & Co., about 30,000,000; James McLaren will probably cut over 50,000,000 feet this season.

THE meetings of two railway companies, the Montreal & Sorel and Great Eastern, which were to have taken place this week, have been postponed till the 15th September, when it will be proposed to amalgamate the two companies.

AN electric light company has been formed in Yarmouth, N. S. with a capital of \$15,000. All the stock has been taken up in thirty shares of \$500 each, and the old knitting factory has been leased by the company, which goes into operation at once.

A REPORT upon the condition of the crops in Nova Scotia has been issued by the local government. The heat and drought have burned up the grass in many districts. The belt along the Atlantic has suffered most from drought. Thunder showers have refreshed the counties on the Bay of Fundy. Bush fires have done much harm. The hay crop last year was 20 per cent. short of the average. This year it is still shorter. The loss to the farmers last year was \$1,250,000. It will not be less this year. Colchester is short from 3 to 25 per cent.; Antigonish, 40; Guysborough 33; Halifax, 10; the Cape Breton counties at least 25 per cent. Dr. Lawson warns farmers of the danger of neglecting the proper cultivation and manuring of the fields. It is neglect that renders drouth so disastrous. Pastures are poor. Potatoes have done well. Apple crop tolerably good.

THE gas and electric light deal at Halifax, which we mentioned two or three weeks ago, has come to nothing, at least for the present. A few days ago a general meeting of shareholders in the gas company was held to consider Bothwell's offer to buy out the gas works, etc. The offer finally submitted was \$500,000 cash, \$100,000 to bind offer, balance of one half within thirty days, and the other \$250,000 within sixty days. A deposit of \$50,000 to ensure good faith was promised in advance and to be forfeited if the arrangements were not carried out. This the directors had agreed to accept, but the shareholders were asked to give consent to the sale. But it was found the charter gave no powers of sale, and unless the shareholders were unanimous it could not be done without an Act of the Legislature, which cannot be obtained until next February. A resolution was passed by the shareholders authorizing the sale when advisable.

THERE have been few failures in North Bay although there are forty traders and four hotels to a population of a little over 800. The most recent one is that of B. T. Moore, furniture dealer, who has made an assignment.—Arch. W. Levy, a grocer at Ridgetown, has assigned after being about eighteen months in business. When he began he was supposed to be worth several thousand dollars.—C. W. Rowen, shoe dealer in Guelph, began business in 1883 and apparently made progress but has got into difficulty and now assigns.—For several months Chas. H. Knapp has been in trouble, although it is only about a year and a half since he began business. Several judgments have been recorded against him and he has assigned. He should have remained on the farm.—Smyth & Lee, shoe dealers in Lindsay, have made an assignment after being in business about two years. They did not make satisfactory progress.—In Mount Forest, Wm. Henderson, miller, has assigned.—In the same place, John Pilcher, grocer, has been in business five years. He is described as a person with but little energy, however, he got his courage up and offered 25 per cent. in full of all claims against him.—Among other assignments are those of John L. Dow, builder, Toronto, and John Nichols, tile maker, Southwold.

ALUMINIUM STEEL.

It appears to have been proved, by experiments at Cleveland, in August, that a small admixture of aluminium with steel improves the character of the steel in several particulars. We are told by the *Iron Trade Review*, at the Cleveland Rolling Mill Company's works, "Siemens-Martin steel was treated with small percentages of aluminium manufactured by the Cowles Electric Smelting and Aluminium Co., of this city. The result of the work proved conclusively that a small quantity of aluminium freed the steel from blowholes and increased the tensile strength somewhat without increasing the elongation, besides adding very materially to the fluidity of the bath, thereby producing much sharper castings. It has not yet been determined how small percentages of aluminium are necessary to secure the required products, but from one-tenth to one-twentieth of one per cent. gave satisfactory results. The castings made showed a tensile strength as high as 140,000 pounds to the square inch. The alloy was applied in the form of broken ferro-aluminium."

COMBINATION IN SUGAR.

A resolution, of which the text is as follows, has been passed by the Montreal Wholesale Grocers' Association:—

Resolved—That, the sugar agreement entered into by the wholesale grocers of the Dominion of Canada, having of late been the subject of certain articles in the newspapers of this city, which were unjust in spirit and inaccurate as to facts, the Montreal branch of the Dominion Wholesale Grocers' Guild hereby protests against such misrepresentations and declares that the sugar agreement is not a "tyrannical" combination for "imposition or extortion," but simply an agreement between dealers to prevent granulated sugars from being sold at or even under cost, as was done prior to its inception, the subjoined figures and statements being submitted to prove the reasonableness of the agreement.

That of over one hundred wholesale merchants in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, only two or three refuse to comply with the terms of the sugar agreement, and while those who champion that small minority applaud its action as proceeding from principle, it is known to this association that the firms composing the minority are parties to other agreements of like nature and sell various articles at combination prices. Also that owing to the cutting of prices before the existence of the sugar agreement, some of those who now oppose it then expressed a wish for such a combination; and further, that the non-signing firms benefit in many respects by the rules and regulations adopted by the association.

MEMORANDUM.

Prices of granulated sugar at refinery to wholesale grocers, per 100 lbs.	\$6 75
Cash discount in 14 days, 2½ per cent. ..	17
	\$6 58
Cartage from refinery to store	02
Actual cost in store	\$6 60
Cartage from store to retail dealer	02
	\$6 62
Price to retail dealer, in lots of 15 barrels, per 100 lbs.	\$7 00
Cash discount in 15 days, 1½ per cent. ..	10½
Cost to retail dealer	\$6 80½
Cost to wholesale dealer	6 62
Leaving profit to wholesale dealer of ..	27½
From this profit 27½ cents per 100 lbs. (about 4 per cent.) has to be deducted, cost of insurance, rent and loss in interest. An additional charge of ¼c. per lb. is made to buyers of less than 15 barrels. The price to Ontario dealers is ¼c. per lb. over foregoing quotation, but the wholesale merchants in many instances pay the freight.	