The Owen Sound Iron Works Company, Limited, has been granted Ontario letters patent; capital, $20,000; parties James M. Wilson and Margaret Wilson, George Menzies and Lora Menzies, and Edward Todd. Another limited liability company is the Ottawa Building Company, of which Edward Wallace, T. Ahearn and W. Y. Soper are leading lights, to buy land and buildings; capital, $200,000.

Four years ago, J. R. Stewart purchased the general stock of J. H. Hartney, at Souris, Man. Owing to lack of capital he could not prosper, and is now compelled to assign.——Thomas Barton, hotel keeper, Clinton, B.C., is said to have been too fond of the contents of his bar. At any rate, the business has been sadly neglected, and creditors have been asked to accept 50 per cent. of their claims, which amount to $4,400 or more.

By a late Ontario Gazette, the Frost & Wood Company, Limited, is incorporated to take over the well-known implement manufacturing business of Messrs. Frost & Wood, at Smith's Falls. The provisional directors are Charles B. Frost, Francis T. Frost, Charles H. Frost, Maria E. Frost, and Caroline L. Frost. The Thomas Birkett & Son Company, Limited, share capital, $150,000, is to take over the business of Thomas Birkett & Son, hardware merchants, Ottawa.

It is hardly more than a year since B. M. Foster, confectioner, at Brantford, assigned, and paid his creditors a small dividend. Afterward he resumed business under cover of his wife's name, and mortgaged the stock. This mortgage has been foreclosed, and a bailiff is in possession. ——Last October J. A. Halpany left Toronto and opened a small stock of men's furnishing goods in Goderich. Already we hear of his assignment. Certainly a short business career.

Five years ago Wm. G. Simpson purchased the hardware stock of his father at Moorefield, but unfortunately did not give the business the attention it deserved. Owing mainly to this neglect, he is now compelled to assign.——Ten years ago S. S. Clutton, woolen manufacturer, Aylmer, was burned out. He then moved to Vienna, where he had a similar experience in 1893, which resulted in a loss of $2,000. Ever since that fire he has been cramped for lack of capital, and made an assignment the other day. We are also told of the assignment of J. D. Ewan, Hamilton.

Stephen H. Griffis opened a boot and shoe store in Newmarket in 1889, with but little capital. A year ago he got behind with his creditors, and they were kind enough to write 50 per cent. off their claims of $3,000. Some time last month he sold the business for $731, and handed the proceeds to his solicitors to be distributed among creditors, who will receive about 20 per cent. of what is due to them. ——In the fall of 1888, Dan. Webster succeeded to the stove and tin business of his father, in Fergus, and did well for a considerable time. Lately, however, he has not prospered, and a meeting of creditors has been called.

The importance of Halifax as a winter port is illustrated by the following figures of January ocean business: During the month forty-one ocean steamers arrived from transatlantic and West Indies ports. This does not include the French steamer "Pro Patria" from St. Pierre; the Plant steamer "Halifax" from Boston; the Dominion Coal Company's fleet of coal carriers from Louisburg, nor the coasting steamers "Bridgewater," "Lunenburg" and "Alpha." Of this number of ocean vessels, twenty-three were regular liners, which loaded, wholly or partly, cargoes at Halifax, carrying away to the markets of Europe a large quantity of Canadian produce. The remaining seventeen steamers were mainly large trans-Atlantic freighters, bound to American from English ports.

TORONTO STOCK TRANSACTIONS.

Candian securities, with the exception of mining stocks, have been dull and featureless. Among bank shares Ontario, which sold at 128 at the beginning of the week, dropped to 123; Toronto shows an advance of 3½ points, selling at the close at 254; Dominion has lost part of last week's advance, being now quoted 171. Assurance stocks continue dull.. C.P.R., although showing only a fractional advance during the week, closed strong at 86⅞. Electric stocks have been steady, General Electric advancing 2 points. Commercial Cable has been freely dealt in, and is now quoted at 192⅞. Both War Eagle and Cariboo mines made good advances, the former selling from 344 to 352, but closed weaker at 346. Cariboo has made steady gains from 148 to 169. Loan companies continue dull. Following are the transactions:

Ontario Bank, 56 at 123-128; Bank of Toronto, 29 at 250½-254; Bank of Commerce, 187 at 150-151; Dominion Bank, 444 at 270¾-274; Traders' Bank, 9 at 119; British America Assurance Co., 91 at 128-128½; Western Assurance Co., 378 at 166⅞-167½; Consumers' Gas Co., 1 at 232; Dominion Telegraph Co., 34 at 135½; Ontario & Qu'Appelle Land Co., 7 at 63; Canada N.W. Land Co., pref., 60 at 56¼; C.P.R. Stock, 2,085 at 85¾-86⅞; Toronto Electric Light Co., 350 at 141-142¼; Canadian General Electric Co., 441 at 147½-152; Commercial Cable Co., 1,560 at 192-193½; Commercial Cable, reg. bonds, $30,500 at 104⅞-105; Bell Telephone Co., 74 at 173-174; Bell Telephone Co., new, 1 at 171½; Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Co., 535 at 106-107¼; Toronto Railway Co., 150 at 113¼-114; Hamilton Electric Light Co., 1 at 80; London Electric Light Co., 30 at 129½-130; War Eagle Mining Co., 47,050 at 342-352; Cariboo Consolidated Mining Co., 49,500 at 148-169; Canada Landed & National Investment Co., 44 at 97½-99½; Canada Permanent Loan Co., 20 per cent., 73 at 104½; Canadian Savings & Loan Co., 26 at 114; Imperial Loan & Investment Co., 10 at 80; Manitoba & North-West Loan Co., 16 at 35½; Western Canada Loan Co., 4 at 118; Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Railway, 100 at 11-11¼.