

An irreverent correspondent suggests that the arc light was first thought of when Noah put a window in his boat.

THE firm of Carrier, Laine & Co., of Levis, have begun the manufacture of steam fire-engines. A public test of one of their make was made at Levis last week.

THE Insurance Commissioner of Massachusetts declares that the cautious man, whose object is, by insurance upon his life, to secure a certain inheritance for his family, is not likely to put his trust in assessment assurance.

MR. M. S. CAMPBELL, private banker at Watford, desires us to say that he has not, as was stated, made an assignment. We have already given in last week's issue, a full statement of the action taken by creditors, which was very creditable to Mr. Campbell.

MANY Scotch ironmasters have announced at Glasgow that they intend to limit production unless the landlords agree to reduce royalties and the railway companies establish lower rates. It is said that the business is carried on at a loss, and that this cannot be wholly made good at the expense of wages.

THAT Ottawa is growing pretty fast may be inferred from the figures given as the assessment of rent and personal property and income for 1885, which amounts to \$11,545,730, an increase of \$440,705 over 1884. The present population is 30,791, an increase of 3,146 during the past year.

WE observe that Mr. Geo. K. Morton, lately manager of the Molson's Bank agency in St. Thomas, has opened an office in that city for the transaction of banking, brokerage, insurance, and loaning on mortgage. This gentleman makes the unusual declaration that he will accept no deposits, considering them "dangerous."

ABOUT twenty years ago, says the *ÆTNA*, this company commenced issuing endowments, and the experience has been that some have been paid as death claims; more have been paid to the insured themselves; while a still larger number are enjoying with their families the consciousness that if they live, or if they die, they have a certain and sure provision.

IN Winnipeg, R. Dewar, contractor, has suspended payment. The cause assigned is losses in building the city hall, etc. It is thought that his general creditors will be poorly paid. A liquor firm, Rigney & Haverly, who did a large business in the same city, are involved. The former who attended to the finances of the firm, is reported to have left the country.

ROB. M. HUME, cattle dealer, Watford, has assigned, and it is thought that creditors will not be more than half paid.—At Zurich, Ont., J. H. Roeding, shoe dealer, has given a chattel mortgage to a London leather firm a fortnight ago. This has already been foreclosed, and the stock sold. Little or nothing will, it is feared, be left for other creditors.

LAST year a number of the most prominent citizens and firms of Cincinnati contributed a sufficient sum to insure all the members of the fire department against accident in the Equitable Accident Insurance Company of that city. A number of serious accidents have occurred to members of the department, and they have received their weekly indemnities. The latest beneficiary is the widow of the lamented Chief Bunker, who acknowledges the receipt of \$1,000.

MISMANAGEMENT seems to have been the cause of trouble in the lithograph firm of Grant, Barfoot & Co., in this city. Sometime ago they added considerable new machinery to their establishment, and in April 1883 a new partner was admitted, who was to take the office man-

agement, which had been to some extent neglected. But the sequel has not demonstrated any improvement in the firm's affairs. They have assigned, with liabilities of \$13,000 and nominal assets more than double this sum.

ONE of the princes of good cheer in Norwich, who is not perfectly familiar with all the abbreviations and initials used by society people, received from a friend the other day an invitation to a reception, in the corner of which were the letter R. S. V. P. (reply, if you please). "H-m-m," he said to himself as he meditatively repeated the initials, "R—S—V—P. I know what C.O.D. means, but I'll be blamed if I know what R.S.V.P. means." "Why," said a friend who observed his perplexity, "that means Rum Served Very Plentifully." "I'll go!" said the other, decidedly.—*Norwich Bulletin*.

THE hat and cap trade seems to be overdone in London. There are evidently too many houses in that line for the business of the place. Such appears to have been the experience of Messrs. Wm. Lind & Co., London. At a stock-taking sometime ago, they found that they had been doing business at a loss; however, they resolved to continue hoping that the fall trade would be much better and that they could retrieve their loss; but in this they have been disappointed and have made an assignment for the general benefit. The estate is understood to show a surplus.

RICHARD TREMAIN, who has been secretary-treasurer of the Halifax Fire Insurance Company for many years, has been absent from the city for some weeks without leave. An examination of the books shows he has made away with a portion of the funds of the company, extended over several years. The directors say the amount taken will not affect the credit or dividends of the company. Tremain is about seventy years of age. The deficiency, it is pretty well ascertained, will not exceed \$4,000, and the company is protected by a policy of that amount in the Guarantee Co.

WE take the following item from the *Montreal Witness* of Tuesday last: "Wooden houses are getting to be very precious in Montreal. Since 1851 none have been allowed to be built, but we have no law against repairs. How carefully the huiks are preserved as a basis for repairs! A house on the corner of St. Antoine and Ste. Genevieve streets, recently burned, is being repaired. One half of the shingle roof is first replaced and then, we presume, the other half will soon follow. There might, perhaps, be some legal limit set to the repairing process that would somewhat reduce the value of the decayed remnants of wooden houses."

THE discovery of natural gas in the earth in Western Pennsylvania is a singular feature of recent discovery. Hundreds of companies are being formed, says the *Philadelphia Record*, to develop leased properties: "The search for natural gas deposits is now prosecuted with as much energy as the original quest for petroleum." The gas is used for making iron, producing steam, for cooking, heating, and lighting purposes, and is thus made to take the place of coal and more costly fuel. As there is a large area of gas-producing territory, extending southwestward and north-eastward from the oil fields, there is no reason to doubt that the supply will be maintained for many years.

AT McGregor, Ont., A. E. Bisson, general storekeeper, has assigned.—Colin Luxton, hardware dealer, in Ridgetown, it is feared has been neglecting his business and thus getting behind in his payments. He now asks his creditors, after several suits have been brought, to give him an extension of time, and promises if this is granted they shall be fully paid.—

Quite an extensive door and sash manufacturer, W. F. Fawcett, is in trouble in Strathroy, and has assigned. At one time he was believed to be in a pretty good position, but lately has been losing ground, and it is thought that the stoppage of his brother's private banks has been the immediate cause of his failure.—Alex. Williams, general storekeeper, Sutton, has failed for the second time. In July, 1883, he compromised by getting a reduction of thirty per cent. on all of his debts. Now he has assigned.

THE Londonderry iron works have contracted, according to the *Guardian*, to take 100 tons iron ore per day from Bridgeville, Pictou, paying a royalty of 20 cents per ton.

THE *Quebec Chronicle* learns that Mr. Balfour, who has for several years held the position of Inspector in the Union Bank of Lower Canada has been appointed cashier of the branch of that bank at Winnipeg.

WE regret to note the reported embarrassment of Mr. Alex. Mitchell, long and favorably known in the grain trade at Montreal. His troubles are due to the general dullness in grain circles, and his liabilities are comparatively light.

UP to October 10th, the shipments of coal from the port of Pictou, N.S., thus far this season, amounted to 146,099 tons. They were apportioned as follows: From the Halifax Co., 51,946 tons; Intercolonial Co., 49,587 tons; Acadia Co., 23,406 tons; Vale Co., 21,160 tons.

If the co-operative scheme is to be called insurance at all, it is merely temporary insurance on credit, such is the view of Elizur Wright. "Just as sure as the down-hill road of life grows steeper and steeper and the demands on the living members become correspondingly heavier and heavier, this credit will prove a failure."

WE ventured the statement, a few weeks ago, that the Bell Telephone Company would likely prosecute its intended rivals. We now learn that that company has given notice to the public, that the parties now proposing to sell or lease telephones in Canada are infringing its patents, and that it is intended to sue for damages all parties using such telephones, as well as those who may offer them for sale.

THE first direct importation of molasses and sugar into Miramichi was being discharged this week from the barquentine *Vigilant* at Chatham and Newcastle. It came from Barbadoes and consists of 337 puns., 51 hds. and 51 bbls. molasses, and 14 tierces and 120 bbls. sugar. Miramichi parties will take over one-half of the cargo, and the remainder will go to Bathurst where the *Vigilant* was built and is principally owned.

SMITH BROS. & Co., of Montreal, a concern of recent origin, who started the manufacture of "Shakers' Blood Syrup," have failed, and one of the partners is reported missing. Their liabilities are stated at over \$10,000. The "Shaker" community had recently issued an action against the firm to restrain it from using their name &c., in connection with such preparations made in Montreal.

LETTERS patent incorporating "L'Union des Abattoirs de Montreal" have been granted by the Quebec Provincial Government. The capital stock is fixed at \$50,000 in shares of \$25 each, and the shares are held among the principal butchers of Montreal. The "Imprimerie Generale" has also been incorporated with a capital of \$100,000, to carry on a general printing and publishing business at Montreal. Messrs. L. A. Senecal, W. E. Blumhart, E. C. Wurtele, J. C. Dansereau, and F. X. Archaubault, are the principal parties interested.