

### "LA COMPAGNIE GENERALE DES BAZARS."

On Friday last was held in Montreal a meeting of the creditors of the dry goods firm of Boisseau & Poliniere, proprietors of "Cie Generale des Bazars," in that city, a large dry goods retail concern. They assembled to discuss the situation and find out what had been the result of the stock taking and the investigation into the accounts. The curators, Messrs. Kent & Turcotte, submitted a statement that shows there is a surplus in the estate if the goods could be sold for 100 cents on the dollar, but even at a reduction the loss will not be a heavy one from present appearance.

The statement shows the liabilities to be: Direct, \$147,912.20; preferred, \$1,760, making the total liability \$149,672.51.

The assets are as follows:—Stock of dry goods in store, corner St. Catherine and St. Lawrence streets, \$109,517.46; fixtures, \$7,144.10; stock of dry goods in store, corner Dorchester and St. Lawrence, \$24,717.90; fixtures, \$584.48; book debts, good, \$17,490.47; doubtful, \$11,250.87; bad, \$11,270.56; cash on hand, \$3,001.65; book debts of L. H. Boisseau & Co., doubtful, \$130.40; bad, \$14,922.15; one-eighth share in Alley syndicate, \$2,500; amount invested by Poliniere in Phoenix Printing Company, \$2,000, making the total of the assets of all kinds about \$204,000. It need not be expected that the estate, which will be sold to the highest bidder, will realize this sum, for \$26,000 of book debts shown is already admitted to be a bad asset.

A list of the creditors shows about twenty Montreal houses into whose books the firm had got to an aggregate closely approaching \$100,000. Nine Toronto firms figure for \$28,746 in all. Quebec, London, Berlin (Ont.), Glasgow and Paris houses are represented, though not for very heavy amounts.

### BRITISH MARKETS.

The report of Messrs. S. W. Royse & Co., dated Manchester, June 23rd, says: With respect to chemicals, with the exception of the tar products branch, in which we note some improvement, there has latterly been little of special interest occurring in the general chemical trade; prices indeed are in general well maintained, but business only moderate. In the tar products, however, pitch has received attention, and has advanced strongly; naphtha is quite steady, with fair business doing; crude carbolic acid has been selling better and is dearer, but business is stopped for the present, as buyers do not see their way to the higher prices now asked; creosote also is firm, but benzoles are only quiet. In alkalis the prices are nominally unchanged; caustic soda has just a fair enquiry, but has perhaps a slightly easing tendency; ammonia soda is moving slowly, and soda crystals and bicarbonate of soda are quiet. The demand for bleaching powder is well up to the supply, and prices are quite firm. The Board of Trade returns continue, however, to be unsatisfactory; there is a further decline in the exports in May, and during the five months ended May 31st last, as compared with the corresponding period of 1893, they show in bleaching materials a decrease in weight of 7,829 tons, and in value of £73,886, and in alkalis a decrease in weight of 31,683 tons, and in value of £280,438.

**MINERALS.**—There is little change to report in this branch of trade. Iron ore has latterly been receiving rather less attention, but prices are, however, fairly steady. The imports have further improved, the returns for the five months ended May 31st last, as compared with the corresponding period of 1893, showing an increase in weight of 54,124 tons, and in value of £51,232. Chrome ore of good quality is enquired for, but is by no means plentiful on the spot, and commands full prices. Manganese ore of the higher strengths is also selling well at good figures. Foreign brimstone is rather stronger, and imports are again heavier, the returns for the five months ended May 31st last showing an increase in weight of 1,146 tons, and in value of £1,464, as compared with those for the corresponding period of 1893. Phosphates of lime are quiet for early delivery, but have more enquiry for forward shipment. Sulphates of barytes are only moving slowly. China clay, of all qualities, has only quite a moderate outlet in the home trade; shipments abroad are, however, fairly good.

### MINING ENGINEERS' OUTING.

The summer meeting of the General Mining Association of the Province of Quebec, which takes place in conjunction with that of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, is to be held at Sydney, Cape Breton, during the week commencing 10th July. About 150 Canadian mining men will then visit an island which possesses much interest for those associated with mining, besides exceptional natural and historical attractions. The steamer "Bonavista" will take a party of about forty ladies and gentlemen from Montreal, and many will go by the Intercolonial Railway. During their stay the visitors will be the guests of the Dominion Coal Company, limited, and the General Mining Association, of London, limited.

The new International pier, at Sydney, now equipped with one of the best coal handling plants on the continent, will be visited. Also the Caledonia and other collieries at Glace Bay, operated by the Dominion Coal Company. These mines use the large compound air and compound condensing steam Rand compressor, shown at the World's Fair, Ingersoll-Sergeant coal cutting machines, Stanley coal headers, new pit steel head frames, etc.

The engineers will hold one or more sessions at the new Sydney Hotel. At these there will be papers on the coal, gold and silver industries of Canada and methods of working, read by W. Blakemore, M.E.; John Rutherford, M.E.; F.G.S.; Hugh Fletcher, B.A.; E. D. Ingall, M.E., R.S.M.; J. S. McLennan, Boston; J. G. S. Hudson, M.E.; H. Donkin, C.E., and John Johnstone. The delegates will inspect the old Sydney mines, worked for 100 years, the oldest collieries on the continent. The workings extend some distance under the Atlantic ocean. Mr. R. H. Brown, M.E., general manager of the General Mining Association of London, Limited, will lunch the party. In the evening Mr. David McKeen, M.P., will entertain them at dinner. To C.W.P. Bay by train, and then by steamer to the historic town of Louisbourg. On Friday there will be excursions to Coxheath, visiting the copper mines worked by the Eastern Development Company, Limited, and possibly a boat sail through some of the beautiful bays of the Bras d'Or.

In addition to the societies above named, there is expected to be a representation from the Ontario Mining Institute and the mining industries of British Columbia.

### THE METRIC SYSTEM.

At the meeting of the Leeds Association of Engineers, last month, Mr. F. Howard Livens, in the course of a paper on "The British and Metric System for Engineers' Work," again raised the plea for the continental system of measurement. After referring to our arbitrary units, the lecturer showed the simple relations existing in the metric system between the units of length, weight, and capacity, which tend greatly to facilitate calculation necessary to engineers. Again, he contrasted the ease of minute sub-division possible by means of the millimetre, with the comparatively rough-and-ready 16ths and 32nds of an inch prevalent in this country, which, though exact enough for large work, are of no avail where any degree of minuteness is desirable. But the chief point, as it seems to us, to be urged in favor of an adoption of the metric standard, apart from any consideration of personal convenience, is that by the use of that system of measurement, our manufacturers and engineers would be able to meet continental rivals on their own ground. That we are seriously handicapped in securing orders abroad, by the employment of a style of measurement which is not known or appreciated by possible customers, needs little proof. Of late, some of our more wideawake firms, recognizing the fact, have given all dimensions in their lists in both styles, to suit both British and foreign correspondents. A general adoption of this idea, and the printing of the letterpress in the language of the country to which the list is despatched, would undoubtedly have some considerable effect upon our continental trade. Having got thus far, however, it may naturally be asked, Why not adopt the metric system altogether? And echo answers, why not? Already, it is employed almost exclusively for scientific purposes, and the rest would be a comparatively easy step. And its adoption by England and her dependencies would leave but a seventh of our

export trade with countries outside the metrical system. This is a point worth consideration. —*Hardware Trade Journal.*

### THE POSITION OF THE CUMBERLAND, N.S., COLLIERIES.

The Cumberland collieries are generally considered as the remoter collieries of Nova Scotia. This, however, does not weaken their importance. The mines at Springhill and the Joggins, with an outlet to the sea, are known to be most formidable Canadian competitors of the collieries on the east side of Sydney Harbor. Parrsboro as a port is yet in its infancy. On the other hand, the collieries are not. Nevertheless, we do not anticipate the decay of the coal industry in Cumberland—as the Springhill Progressive Association does. The active prosecution of coal mining at Springhill and the Joggins will long be an important feature of the Nova Scotian coal trade, and the pending expansion of their markets into the northern States of New England through the reduction of the coal duty to a degree which will permit Cumberland to get into Maine, must be regarded as important factors in the creation of an increased prosperity in Western Nova Scotia. A care of Cumberland should be the capture of those points of consumption which lie along the route of the Grand Trunk Railway from Portland, Maine, up to the Canadian frontier, and so on into the Dominion by the back door. There is both the railway and the industrial consumption to be won by energetic ambition in these localities. Cumberland must, however, remember that it is the object of the mines on the east side of Sydney Harbor to push her as far into the rear as possible, and to obtain, among others, these identical markets.

No time should then be lost by Springhill and Joggins to put themselves in readiness to severely compete with the Dominion Coal Co. in Maine, etc. Down in Massachusetts and New York the chances of Cumberland getting any considerable market are remote, much more remote than up in Maine, and along the lines of rail into Canada. The Massachusetts and New York markets are the express specialties of the Dominion Coal Co. Every gun they can fire, so to speak, will be fired into these points, and Cumberland will find that any effort to get a good share of the more southern markets will prove largely abortive for this reason, that the struggle between Cape Breton, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia will result in prices with which she will not be able to compete. It is clear that the operators of the Cumberland mines understand all this, and it is very gratifying to notice that they are carefully outlining a policy of catering for the western maritime markets, with preparations for the exploitation of the others alluded to, which, if carefully carried out, must continue and increase the importance of Cumberland for many a long year.—*Pictou Advocate.*

### HANDSOME DONATIONS.

A despatch of last week from Quebec to the *Montreal Star* gave it as reported that a scheme for the settlement of all litigation concerning the will of the late Senator J. G. Ross has been agreed upon, and that the following are to be given out:

To charitable and educational institutions, Charities in Carlisle, Scotland, \$50,000.  
Jeffrey Hale Hospital, Quebec, \$150,000.  
Morrin College, \$50,000.  
High School, Quebec, \$50,000.  
French Canadian Missions, \$30,000.  
Finlay and Male Orphan Asylums, Quebec, \$70,000.  
Ladies' Protestant Home, Quebec, \$40,000.  
Women's Christian Association, \$10,000.  
Women's Foreign Mission, \$5,000.  
Other amounts are also, it appears, to be paid over to relatives.

—The ideal way, announces *Hardware*, to hang a hammock is to place it six and a quarter feet from the ground at the head, and three and three-quarters at the foot. The rope that secures the head should measure about one foot—it is better to be less—and at the foot about five times that. The object of this is to keep the head comfortable by being nearly stationary, while the lower part of the hammock will swing freely.