

been paid last week—14½ per cent. of the whole—there being \$132,421 unpaid. This is a good showing, better than is to be found in most cities. In New York, the rule is that at the end of the year scarcely any of the year's taxes have been paid.

—The total assessment for the city of Toronto for 1880 is a little over fifty millions of dollars (\$50,533,270). There has been no depreciation of real estate during the period of depression; and in one suburb real estate has gone up at least a thousand per cent. since the depression commenced.

—M. Drolet, Auditor of the Province of Quebec, reports the deficiency in the accounts of that province, for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1879, at \$672,811.64.

ONTARIO MANUFACTURES.

The Minister of Finance continues his efforts to become personally familiar with the opinions of manufacturers throughout the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. During the week he has visited the towns and cities in the western part of this province, and he can scarcely fail to get a knowledge of the condition of our various industries. The observations he has taken during his visits will be found useful on the floor of Parliament next winter, as he will have a very good idea of the effect of the new tariff upon the several departments of trade.

Among the places visited in Guelph were Messrs. Raymond's and Wilkie & Osborn's manufactories of sewing machines. Sir L. Tilley is reported as promising these gentlemen to remedy some of the objectionable features of the tariff as they affect that class of machinery. Messrs. Goldie & Co.'s flouring mill, Cossitt & Son's agricultural works and Inglis & Hunter's machine works were also inspected, after which a banquet was given in his honor.

On the next day he went to Galt, and visited the important concerns there, some of which we shall mention. After his arrival and reception by Mayor Blain and other leading gentlemen, the party proceeded first to the factory of Messrs. Cant, Gourlay & Co., makers of woodworking machinery. Thence across the bridge to the extensive steam engine works of Messrs. Goldie & McCulloch; Shirley & Dietrich's saw works; Young & Biggar's glove works, which are reported as prosperous; Turnbull's knitting factory; Warnock & Co.'s edge tool and spring establishment, where the leading member of the firm is reported as saying that "business is greatly improved with us. We are rapidly getting back to the condition of trade which prevailed about five years ago." The greater portion of the iron used in the tool works is from the Londonderry works, Nova Scotia, and is pronounced to be of excellent quality for their purposes. From this place the party next drove to Mr. D. Spiers' oatmeal mill,

where Mr. Tilley was told that the working of the tariff was not entirely satisfactory in that line of manufacturing. Among other places visited were Messrs. Cowan & Co.'s engine works, Ellis & Godfrey's woolen factory, Blain's flaring mills, and Stockwell's steam grist mill, where flour is manufactured by a new process; then to the Victoria spoke and bending factory. Some complaints were here made about the duty upon manufactured woods, but upon the whole that industry was pronounced to be in a more favorable condition than formerly.

The citizens of Brantford made extensive preparations for the reception of the Finance Minister, and a banquet of welcome given him was largely attended by both shades of politicians. Mayor Henry, with a dozen gentlemen, accompanied him to some twenty different establishments. Among these were Messrs. Harris & Son's agricultural works; the Waterous Engine works; A. Watt & Co.'s soap works; Wm. Buck's stove works; Patterson's confectionery establishment; J. Cockshutt's plough factory; the Canada starch works; Cornell's cigar factory; Ott's tannery, etc.

In London, as in other cities visited, a banquet was given and a meeting was held in the Board of Trade rooms where a number of gentlemen interested in different lines of trade were introduced to the Finance Minister. Mr. Marshall pointed out one objection he had to the tariff in the hat, cap, and fur trade. Mr. Shuff complained about the regulations affecting the pork trade and Mr. Wm. Bourman showed the unfairness of the harbor tolls at Port Stanley.

A deputation of crude oil men from Petrolia, Ont., consisting of Messrs. John D. Noble, R. D. Noble, and H. W. Lancey, waited upon the Finance Minister to invite him to pay a visit to the oil-producing wells at Petrolia, and to represent to him that the action of the present Government in relation to the oil trade of the country had met with universal satisfaction.

The pleasure of a visit to the oil regions had to be postponed by the Minister for the present. On the tour among the manufactories, Sir Leonard was accompanied by Hon. John Carling, his Worship Mayor Lewis, Isaac Waterman, President of the Board of Trade, D. Macmillan, M. P., Messrs T. Churcher, C. P. Smith, G. S. Birrell, W. J. Reid, A. M. Ross, J. Christie, and others, and the principal places visited were Messrs. C. S. Hyman & Co.'s, boot & shoe factory; John Birrell & Co.'s wholesale dry goods warehouse; D. S. Perrin & Co.'s, biscuit works; Marshall & Gouinlock's hat and cap establishment; McClary Manufacturing Co.'s Works; John Elliott's Phoenix Foundry; the Ontario Car Company's extensive shops; the Canada Chemical Works; Merritt's boot and shoe establishment, McCormick's biscuit works and W. J. Reid's crystal hall. Throughout his visits Sir Leonard is reported to have listened with great attention to what was said both for and against the working of his tariff, and promised to do what he could to redress the grievances represented to him. And we cannot help thinking that some

good will result from his trip. This, at all events has been shown, that our present Minister of Finance is not only open to suggestion upon matters affecting trade and the revenue, but he actually takes pains to seek out sources of information, and listens with intelligent patience to the experiences or complaints of business men. Complaints were often made, even by the friends of his predecessor, of the self-satisfied or repellent attitude of that gentleman towards delegations on tariff matters. And there are not wanting those who contrast this demeanor with the courtesy and openness of the present incumbent of that important office.

THE WOOLLENS TRADE.

It has been the custom to say, for the past two months, that dry goods were not sharing in the advance in prices, nor yet in the increased activity manifested by other trades. The woollens trade, however, shows unmistakable activity, many mills working over-time; and prices of late have begun to show that manufacturers are making an effort to get prices in some degree proportioned to their raw material. So busy are our leading tweed and woollens manufacturers that their agents have been instructed to take no more orders. Woolen shirts and drawers, socks, shawls, are all higher at the mills; underclothing and guernsey shirts have advanced ten per cent. An increase of 7½ cents per pound has been declared in the price of woollen yarns, and so on over the field of Canadian woollen goods. In cases where factories held stocks they are not seeking the advance, but for goods now making or for future delivery must pay the enhanced price.

The main cause of the present attitude of our makers of woollens is of course the rise in the price of wool, which amounts to thirty per cent. as compared with a few months ago. The feeling in the wool market every where is one of firmness. The latest advance took place in Great Britain some days ago which was at once reflected in Boston, and one consequence of the improved feeling there has been the sale of about 200,000 lbs by Toronto dealers, and other lots by western dealers for the Boston market. There is considerable pulled wool in the hands of dealers here, which is likely now to find its way into the store rooms of Canadian or American manufacturers, at an enhanced price. Now that the weather appears to have set in cold, brisker request for woollen goods than heretofore may be expected by the retail merchant, who is in a position, however, to get higher prices for his stock of this character.

A QUESTION OF JURISDICTION.

An important judgment was recently given by Vice-Chancellor Blake of the Court of Chancery for Ontario, affecting the winding up of insolvent insurance companies. The suit was that of McNeil vs. the Reliance Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and the bill was filed for the appointment of a Receiver by the Court of