

About fifty of the employes of the Barbed Wire Company, at Lachine, struck on Monday for an increase of fifteen per cent. The demand was not complied with, their places were immediately filled by new men and the works are running as usual.

We read in the *Herald* that nearly all the Montreal pawnbrokers threaten to retire from business on account of the extra tax imposed upon them by the city and Government. At present they pay \$125 to the city and \$100 to the Government. The tax has been raised \$100 by the former and \$125 by the latter, making a total tax of \$450.

In making editorial comment upon the defalcation of a trusted bank official of Philadelphia, the *Record* says: The public loss on account of such acts cannot be computed in dollars and cents. Knavery of this sort sends men to be wanderers and exiles, leaves an undeserved stain on innocent persons, and tends to destroy confidence between employers and trusted employes.

HERE is an illustration, furnished by the *St. John Globe*, of the working of the Interstate Commerce law. A short time ago two South Wharf merchants shipped one thousand boxes of herring to Milwaukee. Under the old arrangement the cost of freight between Portland, Me., and Milwaukee was \$15. Under the Interstate law the freight charges amounted to \$57—a difference of \$42.

THE *N. Y. Commercial Bulletin* learns that the catch of salmon on the Sacramento River this season has been a failure, and so no spring fish from this stream will be available. This is disappointing to the trade, as early shipments of new pack were counted upon from this river. The fish will probably run during August, and as the law of the State permits fishing to September 1st, the canners are now looking forward to that time.

At Rat Portage, Jas. McCracken has been in business for some time, but not succeeding he has compromised at 50 per cent.—Andrew Grier, insurance agent at Thornbury, has got into trouble and made an assignment. It has been difficult to get anything from him for some time.—After being in the dry goods business about eight years, in this city, John H. Kenny did not make progress and has assigned.—Thos. E. Miller, small grocer, also in this city, has assigned.—The creditors of W. R. Kent, millers, of Wendigo, who has failed, will not get a large dividend, if any.

A NUMBER of leading business men met on Saturday evening in Brantford, and presented Mr. W. Roberts, late manager of the Bank of Commerce there, with a gold watch, a purse containing \$300, and an illuminated address, as a mark of the regard in which he was held by the patrons of the bank. The gathering of Mr. Roberts' friends was held at the Kirby House, with Mr. W. E. Welding, manufacturer, in the chair. The Mayor, Mr. Robert Henry, made the presentation, while the address, which spoke in warm terms of Mr. Roberts' character, was read by Mr. H. M. Wilson, Q.C.

MR. CHAS. RICHARDSON retires from the London wholesale grocery firm of Edward Adams & Co.—G. W. Wally, Ingersoll, has disposed of his crockery business and his name is now associated with O. E. Robinson in the grocery trade in the same place.—Anderson & Buck are going out of general groceries in London, and giving more attention to teas, which is generally supposed to be the more profitable part of the trade.—Wm. Elliott, general storekeeper, Wingham, failed in September last, compromising at that time

liabilities of \$35,000 at 40c. in the dollar. This arrangement has not been carried out by him and he has recently assigned.

THE partnership existing between Messrs. Pratt & Watkins and A. S. Vail & Co. in the clothing business in Hamilton is dissolved. The business will be continued by T. H. Pratt and Fred Watkins.—Wallace Millichamp, manufacturer of show cases in Toronto, has admitted two of his sons into partnership. The style of the firm will be W. Millichamp & Co.—The style of the shoe firm of R. Stinson & Son, Peterboro, is changed to Stinson Bros. A similar change has been made in the grocery firm of J. H. Clark & Sons, Toronto, whose style is now Clark Bros.—The clothing firm of Isaac Smith & Son, Chatham, changed style to Smith & Richardson.

ADVICES from Nova Scotia remark an increasing demand in that province for potatoes for Ontario, where they are scarce and dear, and even Manitoba is calling for them. Sufficient cars cannot be obtained to transport all that are asked for, and the management of the Intercolonial Railway is censured in Halifax and thereabout for not having a proper supply of rolling stock available. As this demand for potatoes in the spring seems increasing year by year, the Nova Scotia farmers are laying themselves out to meet it and they look to the railway authorities to aid them. Heavy shipments of potatoes are also going on from Bay of Fundy ports to New York and Boston.

CREDITORS are looking into the affairs of Geo. Gordon, dry goods dealer at Merritton, who is offering them a compromise of 50 per cent. on his liabilities.—The sheriff has taken possession of the grocery stock of F. Weatherall, at Woodstock, who is supposed to have been in Detroit nearly two weeks. The impression is that creditors will not lose much.—M. J. Sheppard, doing a small tin business in Dundas, has assigned.—A good surplus is shown in the assets of A. & J. Edgar, at Lefroy. The former died a short time ago and at a meeting of creditors a statement showing liabilities of \$13,000 and nominal assets of \$20,000 was submitted. The firm had one or two branch stores.

INSURANCE NOTES.

We shall miss, as every reader interested in underwriting and desirous of finding intelligence and ideas in his mental pabulum will miss, the insurance articles of Frank W. Ballard, in the *New York Daily Bulletin*. That gentleman died, last week, of pneumonia. The insurance journalists of New York met and passed resolutions in honor of his memory. We can readily believe that "Mr. Ballard was a journalist of large experience and rare culture, who, for fifteen years past, had devoted his abilities almost exclusively to the subject of insurance. Possessed of rare ability, he was persistent, earnest and conscientious in the performance of his duties. In his death every honest insurance company and every honest representative of the same has lost a zealous friend."

"We have a case of incendiarism in this city to report," says the *Cincinnati Price Current*, "which, we feel sure, will not be charged to the Howland law. A servant girl had a fireman for a beau. He grew negligent in his attentions, and finally entirely quit visiting her. She wrote to him through the mails and also sent letters by special messengers requesting him to call and see her, but he would not call. Finally she started a fire in the elevator shaft

leading up from the kitchen, which brought out the company of which the negligent beau was a member. The interview has not been reported."

A step has been taken by the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company which is likely to make life assurance among women more popular. Hitherto most companies have been reluctant to issue policies to women, because of the hesitancy felt by most women to submit to a medical examination by the regular physicians employed by the companies. Certificates of family doctors are not received by life companies. There is a large class of women dependent upon their own exertions for their livelihood, who are either left widows with children to support, care for and educate, or who are desirous of putting by money for their future maintenance, to whom life insurance offers the most secure and available method of making such provision. Doctors Anna Broomall and Clara Marshall, well-known physicians of the Women's Medical College, have been chosen by the Philadelphia company named as assistant examiners. The *Record* considers the proceeding a meritorious one, and its advantages will be eagerly grasped by hundreds of women who have failed hitherto to insure their lives only from a sense of delicacy.

The tenth annual session of the Supreme Council of the order of Royal Templars was held at Buffalo last month, and was a memorable one on account of the fitting of the Royal Supreme Secretary to Canada with drafts for \$13,000 in his hands which ought to have gone to widows and orphans. At Toronto \$9,000 of the money was recovered, and the sureties are supposed to be good for the balance. The membership of the order is now 17,295, apart from Canada, which provides for its own losses. The average age of the 17,295 is given as 44, and the assessments collected were 14. But a circular from the supreme councillor's office shews the assessments in 1886 should have been 18 for \$250,000 instead of 14 for \$226,873, and that therefore, owing to the absconder's mismanagement, there will be a number of double assessments called in 1887. If the calls had been properly made, he says, they would have been for the three years 15, 16 and 17 each. This shews a pretty rapid increase of mortality in the 8th, 9th and 10th years of the order.

—Out of a total importation by Canada during the fiscal year, 1886, of goods amounting in value to one hundred and four millions of dollars, 27.6 per cent was free goods, such as raw materials, etc., and the remaining 72.4 per cent. dutiable goods. The following table shows the amounts by provinces:

IMPORTS DUTIABLE AND FREE.		
PROVINCE.	DUTIABLE GOODS.	FREE GOODS.
Ontario	\$29,359,284	\$9,710,191
Quebec	32,461,101	12,540,593
Nova Scotia....	4,829,202	3,011,042
New Brunswick.	3,943,743	1,905,777
British Columbia	2,884,793	1,068,506
Manitoba	1,533,933	361,434
P. E. Island....	430,660	201,511
N. W. Territories	94,042	88,749
	\$75,536,758	\$28,887,803

Of Ontario's imports 25 per cent. was free goods and 75 dutiable; Quebec 28 per cent. free, 72 per cent. dutiable; Nova Scotia 38 per cent. free, 62 per cent. dutiable; New Brunswick, 32 per cent. free, 68 per cent. dutiable; Prince Edward Island, the same proportion; Manitoba and the North-West, 36 per cent. free, 64 per cent. dutiable.