

THE N. Y. *Commercial Bulletin* learns that olive stones from Leghorn are now used, especially in England, as a mixture for black pepper to increase the weight. When ground they closely resemble pepper.

A TRADE sale of teas and general groceries is announced to take place in Montreal, by Messrs. Jas. Stewart & Co., on behalf of the wholesale firm of Tees, Wilson & Co. Four thousand packages of teas are on the catalogue.

A BOARD OF TRADE has been formed at Medicine Hat, N.W.T. The following officers were appointed: president, Thos. Tweed; secretary-treasurer, H. S. Scatterd; executive committee, W. Finley, W. Cousins and G. McCuaig.

UPWARDS of 100,000 barrels of Nova Scotia apples have been shipped to England this season. A lower province exchange says that about 20,000 barrels have yet to go forward. Prices continue on a paying basis, and the demand is active.

A LATE despatch from Canning, N.S. to the *Halifax Herald* states that the potato trade with the United States is still booming to quite an extent. The price now paid is 40c. Large quantities are also being shipped to Ontario, and it is hoped this is only the beginning of a large trade in potatoes with the upper provinces.

THE creditors of Alfred J. Jex, carriage-maker, at Brantford, met on Monday last, when the trustee, Mr. W. E. Ainge, submitted a statement showing liabilities, \$2,107.89; assets, \$2,839.99; less preferences, rent and wages, \$436.87, \$2,403.09; surplus assets, \$295.20. The business will be carried on for a time under the management of the trustee and a committee of inspection, to finish up the contracts on hand.

REMEMBER, says the *American Grocer*, to its readers, that a consumer is always quicker to complain of poor quality than high prices. If the grocer always furnishes articles above average quality, the palate is pleased, and then the element of self-gratification comes in as an ally, with the result that the patron is wedded to the purveyor, and simply because he is always suited. What is true as between the consumer and the retailer is equally true as between the jobber and retailer.

SPEAKING of the late terrible accident to a company of miners at Nanaimo, the *Philadelphia Record* says:—When men are engaged in extra hazardous occupations they are usually paid for the risks taken. Not so with the miner. Those unfortunates who were stifled like homeless curs last week in a British Columbia coal mine worked for the barest pittance that would sustain life. A vocation so hard and so dangerous can offer but few incentives to those who follow it; yet its ranks are kept filled by the pressure of poverty.

THE editor of the *Christian Union* has evolved a new labor platform, with three planks, to wit:—

- Postal Savings' Banks;
- Public School Banks;
- Industrial Education;

Every man can organize his own savings' institutions, advises the *Record*. Let him give his whiskey and beer money to his wife to keep, and his tobacco money to the children's savings' bank. The third plank is too indefinite to amount to anything. There are very few occupations for skilled labor that are not already crowded with workmen. One of the results attained by the organization of labor has been to restrict industrial education.

THE dry goods stock of John Falconer, Winnipeg, has been sold at 50½ cents in the dollar.

IT is stated by the *Bobcaygeon Independent* that the late lingering of the ice in streams and lakes is spoiling the spring trapping of the Indians. A number of muskrats have been taken, but their fur is low in the market. The price of otter, beaver and bear has gone up slightly. A greater number of foxes has been killed than usual. It was a hard winter for them in the woods and they were compelled to come around the farm buildings, and when they were caught their skins were exchanged for a dollar and a half worth of groceries.

THE annual general meeting of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company was held in Montreal, on the 11th instant, at the company's office, Sir George Stephen, Bart., in the chair. The annual report was discussed, and directors elected for the ensuing year as follows:—Sir George Stephen, Bart., W. C. VanHorne, Sir Donald Smith, Richard B. Angus, Edmund B. Osler, Sandford Fleming, Hon. George A. Kirkpatrick, R. V. Martinsen, Hon. W. L. Scott, George R. Harris, Hon. Levi P. Morton, Richard J. Cross. The executive committee was then elected as under:—Sir George Stephen, Bart., Mr. VanHorne, Sir Donald Smith, Mr. Angus. At a subsequent meeting of the board Sir George Stephen, Bart., was re-elected president and Mr. VanHorne vice-president.

A WORTHY merchant and a good man is lost to this community in the death of Mr. Lewis Samuel, of the hardware and metals importing firm of M. & L. Samuel, Benjamin & Co., which took place in Victoria, B.C., on Tuesday last. After visiting a married daughter in San Francisco, where he had been attending to some export business for his firm from that point to Liverpool, Mr. Samuel was returning via Victoria. His illness was one requiring surgical treatment which, owing to the detention of the steamer, he could not obtain, and the delay proved fatal. The deceased gentleman, who was of English birth, had lived in Toronto since 1856, his firm having been established in Montreal in the previous year, with a house in Liverpool since 1860, which is at present under the charge of Mr. Jacob Samuel, formerly of Canada, as resident partner. Mr. Lewis Samuel was one of the kindest of men, methodical and shrewd as a merchant and distinguished in business as well as in private life by integrity and charity. It is not expected that any early change in the constitution of the house will result from his sudden removal. Mr. E. Samuel, one of the surviving Toronto members of the firm, is appointed an executor under his deceased uncle's will.

THE changes and chances of trade are such, in these days, as in all others, that not even the most deserving and economical of merchants can escape disaster. From small beginnings twenty years ago, the Montreal firm of Copland & McLaren had built up a large business as iron and chemicals importers and manufacturers, and enjoyed deservedly good credit, for they worked early and late, lived frugally and did the most of their own travelling. During the trying times a few years ago, when many other houses in the metals trade succumbed, they maintained their position and met their payments. But the shrinkage in values of several recent years, the narrowing margin of profit and inevitable bad debts reduced their capital, while damages to their premises and stock by the floods of last year and the present spring—when all Griffin-

town was from one to three feet under water for days—finally wiped out their surplus and they have suspended. It is stated that they owe directly \$130,000 and indirectly, on customers' paper, \$100,000 more, while the assets shown are about equal to the liabilities. We understand that they have no accommodation paper and no preferred creditors. A meeting of the Canadian houses interested was held on Wednesday last, three Canadian banks being interested, and an advisory committee was appointed. The meeting of creditors passed the following resolution unanimously:—"That this meeting having confidence in the integrity of Messrs. Copland & McLaren request them to remain in possession of their estate until they shall have had time to prepare a full statement of their affairs; said term not to exceed ten days from this date and that the meeting stand adjourned till further notice."

AFTER a store-keeping career of fifteen years, Wm. Henry, general store-keeper, Uxbridge, has made an assignment, with liabilities of \$18,000. The amount of assets is not yet ascertained.—In Brantford, Geo. E. Adams, dealer in boots and shoes has been pressed for payment, and in consequence assigned. His estate shows a surplus and he expects to pay in full.—A. G. Bedford, a shoe-dealer at Chatham, is in trouble and has assigned. His reputation having been somewhat tarnished of late may help to account for his financial difficulties.—The sheriff has possession of the effects of W. H. Derby, jeweller at Dunnville, under power of a chattel mortgage.—Mrs. Carson, keeper of a general store at Greenock; has assigned to A. T. Colter, whom she bought out a year ago.—After trying the experiment for fully two years, Jull & Stearns have not succeeded in making money by their planing mill at Port Rowan, and have, therefore, assigned.—The grocery stock of Albert Hill, who has been in business in St. Thomas since February, has been seized under power of a chattel mortgage.—In the same city, a furniture dealer, named R. D. Kilgour, has assigned.—O. C. Watson, stationer, Sarnia, we noted some weeks ago as in trouble. An assignee has charge of his affairs.—An assignment of the tailoring stock of R. Sutherland, Strathroy, has also been made to the sheriff.—A bailiff has been put into possession of the hotel premises of J. H. Riggs in this city.—F. Wetherall, grocer, at Woodstock, who was reported away, has since assigned.—R. J. Timmins, general store-keeper, Waverly, has assigned after experience in business of a little more than a year.

ST. THOMAS BOARD OF TRADE.—The executive council of this board has issued a very neat pamphlet containing the annual report of the board for 1886; a list of its members and officers and a sketch of the municipal and industrial features of the city. There are also illustrations of the principal buildings; one, worthy of the *Century*, showing the proposed Y. M. C. A. building. The figures quoted show the commercial progress of the place. Its debt is only \$287,000 while the assessment is four and a half millions. There are four loan companies with headquarters in the city, whose aggregate paid capital is \$802,000 and their deposits \$560,000. At the annual meeting the other day, Mr. M. Gilbert, who has already served four years as president, was unanimously re-elected to that post. Mr. J. B. Morford was similarly re-elected vice-president. The members of council are: Colin Macdougall, James Stewart, W. D. Idsardi, W. W. Disher, Jos. Mickleborough, Israel Morse. Mr. J. W. Stewart is again secretary-treasurer.