

France they call it criminal, and send the men who practice it to jail.

"WHAT is the first thing to be done in case of a fire?" asked a teacher. "Collect the money of an insurance company," promptly answered a boy at the foot of the class, whose father had suffered loss by fire several times.

THE neat appearance of our new dress has elicited more than one enquiry as to who are our tailors. The paper is from the mills of the Toronto Paper Company at Cornwall, and the type was furnished by Messrs. Gwatkin & Son of this city.

THE Bell telephone company has completed a trunk line, east from Kingston as far as Prescott, connecting also Gananoque, Brockville and Maitland in Ontario as well as Ogdensburg, Canton, Hewelton, Richville, Potsdam and other points in the state of New York.

THE Health Commissioner of Brooklyn has discovered, it is said, that nearly all of the pickle manufacturers of that city color their goods with a solution of copper. He gave them a warning, and then issued an order forbidding the sale in Brooklyn of pickles colored in this way.

JAS. ROBINSON, the St. John, N.B. merchant whose forgeries startled the business community of that city some weeks ago, has been arrested in Mexico. There is no extradition treaty between Mexico and Great Britain but it is, nevertheless, not improbable that the culprit will be surrendered.

MOUNT FOREST is evidently a very liberal town. On the 25th ult. the ratepayers granted a bonus of \$5,000 to R. Kilgour & Sons to assist them in reopening their foundry. It is only a couple of weeks since \$7,000 was voted to Messrs. Falk, Morlack & Wagenest for the purpose of starting an industry.

THE present year, says the *St. John Telegraph*, is memorable for the great run of salmon in Maritime waters. While the catch has not been phenomenal in any particular section, it has been much larger than usual down the bay as well as at the North Shore. The price in St. John is lower than for many years.

UPON the invitation of the president and directors of the Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Company a large number of prominent citizens was present at the formal opening of the works at Parkdale in Toronto yesterday. We hope to be able to give a description of the building and their contents at an early date.

"THE Canadian Textile Directory" is the title of a neat 318 page volume which Mr. E. B. Biggar, the publisher of Montreal, intends to issue yearly. Besides containing a very complete list of those engaged in the various branches of the textile industry, it gives much valuable information relating to the woollen and cotton trades. The price of the directory is \$2.

AT St Henedine, Que., J. O. Gagne, a store-keeper in a moderate way, and who has only been two or three years in business, makes an assignment. Liabilities said to be about \$2,500. —V. Langelier, a saddler, at St. Cesaire, Que., has failed with liabilities of about \$1,200, and assets amounting to half this sum. He has been in a like predicament on more than one occasion.

THE Union Strawboard Company, comprising 90 per cent. of all the straw-board makers of the United States, has perfected an organization. The combination is a gigantic one, representing a product of over \$4,000,000 an-

nually, with main offices in Akron, O. Its first step was to raise the price of straw-board \$10 per ton, but it is understood that present orders will be filled at old prices.

"It is amusing," says an exchange "when soliciting to hear a man say it doesn't pay to advertise. Why does this man put out a sign? That is advertising. Why does he obstruct the pavement in front of his store with samples of goods he sells? This is advertising too. Why does he daub the head of a mackerel barrel or dry goods boxes with the words: 'ALR oUR gOoDs cheAp' and stick it up in a keg of beans or a bale of calico in his store?"

MR. EDGAR A. WILLS has been appointed secretary and treasurer of the Institute of Chartered Accountants for Ontario. A committee has been selected to arrange for a course of lectures during the winter months by prominent gentlemen. An office has been taken for the Institute in the rotunda of the Board of Trade, Wellington street east, room 24. It is to be suitably furnished and kept open daily for members from 9 to 5, Saturdays 9 to 2.

THE Cunard and French steamship lines have received permission from the authorities at New York to land passengers at their piers instead of transferring them at quarantine and elsewhere, for the purpose of having the baggage transported to and examined at the Barge office. Thus an unnecessary and vexatious annoyance to travellers on these vessels will be dispensed with. It is not unlikely that the other ocean lines running into New York will have the same privileges granted them.

B. McMAHON, an hotel keeper in Belleville, failed in April last and compromised at 75 cents. It now seems that he is unable to carry out this arrangement and another person has taken charge.—At Bracebridge, F. G. Farquhar, who some years ago retired from store-keeping, launched out as a contractor. Now he has failed owing, it is said, about \$25,000.—Wolfe Simon, a clothier in this city, has assigned.—Wm. T. Vale & Co., barrel manufacturers, also of this city, have had a portion of their goods seized.

ONE day a very pious clerical friend, who had consumed an hour of his valuable time in small talk, said to James Harper, the publisher: "Brother Harper, I am curious to know how you four men distribute the duties of the establishment between you." "John," said Mr. Harper good-humoredly, "attends to the finances, Wesley to the correspondence, Fletcher to the general bargaining with authors and others, and, don't you tell anybody," he said, drawing his chair still closer and lowering the tone of his voice, "I entertain the bores."

THE San Francisco *Grocer* tells its readers that a committee of three scientific gentlemen has recently been examining into the cause of decrease, during the last two or three years, in the supply of fresh fish in that market, more particularly with reference to salmon. Two of the committee appear to think it is due largely to the destruction by the sea-lion. These gentlemen claim that "fully 400,000 pounds of fish are destroyed daily in this harbor alone, to say nothing of what is destroyed outside and at the mouths of the various rivers."

A FIRM of manufacturers agents in Montreal, Messrs. Ward & Davison, having been served with a writ of attachment at the suit of Cree, Baker & Co., shirt makers, have assigned. They claim to be solvent and there is some talk of a suit for damages. Besides their

regular agency business, Messrs. Ward & Davison recently embarked in the manufacture of bicycles under the style of John Darlington & Co., which concern has also assigned. This last venture does not seem to have been a successful one. The bulk of their liabilities is in England.

SMUGGLING on an extensive scale has been prosecuted in Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and along the North Shore of New Brunswick. About fifty vessels, including schooners, brigs, barks and ships have been seized, the heaviest seizure amounting to about \$26,000 and the total the *St. Croix Courier* thinks, must be a very considerable sum. One paper states that the seizures made by two special customs detectives amount to much more than the total of all the seizures made by all the other customs' officers throughout the whole of Canada. The contraband goods embraced those of almost all lines of trade.

THE prospect of dear sardines is by no means remote. There was a time when the catch on the coast of Morbihan, France, sufficed to provide on an average about 400,000 cases, each containing 100 quarter tins of preserved fish, representing a value of 14,000,000f. annually. But this has steadily diminished during the last five years, until at present the return does not exceed 70,000 cases, of the annual value of 3,000,000f. Where in former years there were 70 establishments in operation there are to-day only 25. This rapid decay is a serious misfortune to capitalists and has thrown thousands of persons out of employment.

A SYDENHAM (Co. Frontenac) subscriber writes as follows under date 4th July: "Business matters have been exceedingly quiet for a long time with no immediate prospect of improvement. Mining matters are also very quiet. It does not pay to dig for Phosphates at prices offered in Kingston. We want more competition. The quality would be all right if the price was satisfactory. We have a factory here for the preparation of Mica, which is of very good quality, but owing to the stagnation in trade there is not much doing at present. Crops, however, in this vicinity never looked better in the memory of the "oldest inhabitant."

IN an action brought before the Circuit Court in Charleston, S. C. for \$5,000 damages against the Southern Bell Telephone Company for cutting the telephone wire of a subscriber during the existence of a contract with the company, the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for \$1 and costs. The Judge charged the jury that under the contract the plaintiff had no right to allow non-subscribers to use his telephone, but the company had no right to cut his wire until it had forbidden such a practice in writing. If the offence continued after such a notice the company had the right to cut the wire, but if not continued it had no right to do so upon a mere threat of the plaintiff that he would continue to violate the contract.

TO GET something of value for nothing, says the *San Francisco Country Merchant*, seems to be the general desire, and reaches from the vagabond who journeys on the truck of a freight car to evade paying his fare, to the merchant who tries to increase his gains by selling short weight, fraudulently labelled or adulterated goods. The same journal asserts that were the commercial records of this branch of business (retail) in many towns and villages searched, it would be found that, while the tricksters in trade come and go, like the seasons, the industrious and honest mer-