

—Exports of leather from New York to England and the continent were of the value of \$1,306,000 in the year 1882, which is about a tenth greater than the average of the past eight years.

THE Dominion Barbed Wire Co. is seeking incorporation, capital to be \$150,000 in one hundred dollar shares. First directors to be James Cooper, Frederick Fairman, Angus Thom, G. A. Warren, and Thomas Fairman.

A FANCY goods dealer of Montreal, Mrs. Lusier, is in difficulty and offers to make an assignment if her creditors will grant her a discharge. She owes about \$4,000, represented by some twenty-five creditors, no insignificant list of liabilities for a little store.

THE work of rebuilding the shops of the Montreal Rolling Mills Co., burned a fortnight ago, is actively going on, a large force of men being engaged both night and day. It is hoped that a couple of months will find the works again in active operation.

A RATHER important failure in the leather trade is that of P. H. Matte, of Stanfold, with liabilities of \$47,763, assets given at \$26,614. Two banks are understood to be largely interested. Mr. Matte claims to have lost some \$20,000 of late, and has proposed an arrangement at the rate of 25 cents to the dollar, but creditors have not decided upon any plan of action as yet.

A MEETING of the creditors of Alex. McGibbon, was held in Montreal on Friday last, when a detailed statement was submitted, showing general liabilities of \$28,893, salaries, rent, &c. \$1,757, assets, stock \$7,426, book debts \$12,914, and other items to foot up \$26,395; deficiency \$4,255. No definite action was decided upon at the meeting, and creditors seem disposed to deal reasonably in the matter. It would appear that the Co-operative Store has cut very largely into his sales.

THE question of the validity of the various seizures in the case of the failure of A. & C. J. Hope & Co., Montreal, which was by consent submitted to a court of barristers, composed of five prominent commercial lawyers, has been decided, the majority of the court holding that the seizures are not sound in law. The offers of the Messrs. Hope of 40 cents in the dollar, conditional upon these seizures being released, has been accepted and the firm resumes business, we will be glad to hear, with better results.

At the first anniversary of the Kingston Knitting mills Mr. W. Harty briefly referred to the manufactures that have recently sprung up in Kingston. He said that the Locomotive Works had 400 hands, with a pay sheet of \$3,000 per week; the Cotton Mills, with 170 hands, had a pay list of \$1,200 per week; the Car Works paid out \$500 per week; and the Knitting Mill \$500 per week. These pay sheets aggregate over \$5,000 per week, or about \$270,000 per year, all of which is spent in the city.

STILL another dry goods store the less in St. Johns P. Q., where the trade has been much overdone for some time past. Bennett & Co., are the latest unfortunates, and have assigned to Messrs. Thibadeau Bros. & Co. with liabilities of about \$8,000. The principal of the firm is a French Canadian who opened in that place a couple of years ago under an anglicized name, and the success of the firm has always been regarded as dubious. It appears they have also been interested latterly in a store in Montreal as well, which doubtless has hastened the end.

THERE has been more than the usual proportion of failures in the leather trade this past week. Besides the two important failures noted elsewhere in our columns, we have to report two failures in the Quebec tanning trade; the first

being that of O. Begin with liabilities of about \$12,000. It is not expected that more than twenty-five cents in the dollar will be realized. Mr. Begin failed once before in 1882, principally through the suspension of the Woodleys, on which occasion he paid, indeed, only ten p. c. The second is that of A. Turgeon, owing some \$5,000 mostly local.

FROM Minnedosa, Manitoba, we have the pleasant and appreciative letter of Messrs. Griffith & Denison, general merchants, dated December 29th. They say: "We were among the first merchants here, having come in 1880. Our town is growing very rapidly, being in the midst of a fine and well-settled district, and being also the county town of Minnedosa County. We find business increasing steadily; our turn-over in 1882 was about a third better than in 1881."

"THE MONETARY TIMES is a welcome visitor," writes Mr. J. B. Rutherford, a store-keeper at Stonewall, Man. And he adds: "I would say as to business during the year, that it has far exceeded my expectations, and I am now in a position to still increase it during the coming year. Farmers here are a little slow in settling up their accounts, but they will come all right in the course of a month or so. Times are good, crops good, prices fair, and the country is prospering."

REPORTS come from Winnipeg of the formation of gold-mining companies, to work mines in Keewatin. Three are spoken of with a capital of \$1,000,000 each, and another with a capital of twice that amount. These figures are far too large and seem to imply a great deal of premeditated speculation. \$300,000 is enough to set a gold-mining company on its feet. We doubt very much that the millions so glibly talked about will be found.

It has been stated that the new Prairie City of Regina, or Wascana, is destitute of water, save such as the C. P. R. chooses or can afford to give the citizens out of its ample supply from a well 201 feet deep, and having for 100 feet downward, a diameter of ten feet. We are told, by a gentleman lately from the spot, that although no public supply can be depended on from the C. P. R. well, the town authorities are putting down other wells, from which good water is likely to be obtained. Three miles from the town, it seems, there is a flowing well, which was "struck" when only seven feet in depth had been dug through, hard clay with gravel intermixed. Our informant states that the Wascana, or Pile O'Bones river never dries up; there is running constantly in its bed a stream of water eight inches square in volume. The river is dammed up now by the railroad for further water-supply purposes. As to the stories circulated about the fabulous prices of water there, he tells us that it is to be had for fifty cents per barrel, drawn from the river.

SOME years ago, the firm of Damer, King & Brown did a large shoe trade in this city. In 1873 the senior member retired and began business on his own account. For some years he seemed to prosper but not being satisfied he greatly extended the business. He purchased what would now seem an unfortunate block, for three failures have taken place therein, at a price of some \$22,000 and manufactured boots and shoes on quite an extensive scale. In order to obtain the profit of the retail as well as the wholesale trade he opened branch stores in London, Guelph and Stratford, having in the last named place once done a snug little business and made some money. But as in most cases these branch stores were badly managed and became a great source of weakness to the parent house, which has assigned. The liabilities are not yet known and it may be somewhat difficult to arrive at them, as the books have been badly

kept. A little parsimony in this respect may yet be found to be the cause of much annoyance and trouble to the insolvent as well as the creditors. It is but fair to state that Mr. Damer estimates that he has a surplus of nearly \$30,000.

MESSRS. F. B. SCHOFIELD & SONS, who have a planing mill in Woodstock, rather surprised a number of people by assigning lately, with liabilities of \$26,000 and assets some \$10,000 less. A couple of years ago the senior was mayor of the town, much respected, and believed to have a surplus of about \$7,000. People do not understand why he is now trying to compromise with creditors.

THE fire in the Toronto Safe Works this week was a heavy one. The proprietors have however, made arrangements to rebuild, and in the meantime have secured temporary premises, where they will be in operation next week. They were insured to the extent of \$20,000.

MR. A. E. BELCHER, a well known commercial traveller, whose recovery from frightful injuries at the time of the burning of the St James Hotel in Montreal some years ago was a marvel, writes to the London *Free Press* with respect to the loss of life at the Newhall Hotel fire in Milwaukee and asks: whether it is within the province of Parliament to pass an Act compelling our hotels to provide suitable means of escape from them in case of fire. We should think it clearly within their province, and a very needful matter for them to regulate. Mr. Belcher says:

"Each time that a calamity has occurred, like that of the late Milwaukee horror, I have written a letter to the press suggesting that ropes be provided in each room of the higher flats in hotels, sufficiently strong and long enough to reach the ground. My own experience of being in a burning hotel, five stories from the ground and all means of escape cut off by fire, without ladders or ropes, and having very little time to manufacture a rope, out of the bedding, which when made proved insufficient to sustain my weight, causing me to fall the entire distance to the pavement, breaking thirteen bones and marring me for life, causes me to feel an interest in this matter which few understand. Being a commercial traveller, and living for the most part in hotels, I claim it is the duty of the hotel people to provide all reasonable safety and security for their guests."

THE rise and progress of Moncton, N. B. as a manufacturing place is set forth in a supplement to the *Times* of that town. In 1871 it is averred the population did not exceed 1,300; it is now close upon 7,000. The trade of the port keeps pace with the industrial and general progress, and has been of even more recent growth. "In 1878-9 the total exports were less than one thousand dollars; the imports amounted to \$110,103, and the duty to \$19,455. The fiscal year, 1880-81, showed the exports to have amounted in value to \$10,645, while the imports for consumption had reached the respectable total of \$327,320. During the year 1881-2 the imports as shown by the monthly statement must have reached nearly \$750,000, while the duties were upward of a quarter of a million." About a hundred buildings have been erected during the year 1882. The Intercolonial Railway workshops employ 400 men; the sugar refinery nearly 100; the brass foundry or Peters' Combination Lock Co. 100; the cotton factory, to be in operation in March will have 200 looms and 11,000 spindles; the Record Foundry has about 40 hands; Peters Brothers planing mill and Strumbert & Johnson's furniture concern, about 50 hands each. Then there are the knitting factory, iron works, clothing factories, soap factory, and carriage factories. The Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Nova Scotia have each an agency in the town: gas and water works have been provided, and there are two daily papers, the *Times* and the *Transcript*. During the year just closed 116