

MR. E. M. COLFORD, tobacconist, Halifax, has absconded after having "by hook or crook" realized all the money he could out of his stock and debts. Some of our Toronto friends have reason to remember this man. Colford failed, in 1873, and many of his transactions in connection with that failure were highly discreditable to him. His stock is covered by a bill of sale to Almon & Mackintosh, so that there is nothing left for other creditors who have been foolish enough to trust him.

SUNDRY small failures are reported from Halifax, viz., MacKasey & Co., ship chandlers whose liabilities are about \$3000, and assets nominally about \$4000. G. W. Stuart, produce dealer, liabilities about \$4000 and assets \$5000. J. B. Neilly & Co., grocers, who are trying to effect a compromise at 25c, have assigned.

THE farmers of Lucknow, Ont, have resolved to establish a butter factory, similar to the one in the adjoining village of Teeswater. At a meeting held for this purpose, it was shown that a good factory could be established for about \$1,000—that it takes 22 pounds of milk to make one pound of butter—that the farmer selling milk at 8c. per gallon receives exactly 18c. per pound for his butter, and is at no trouble or expense in either its manufacture or sale—that he receives cash for the product of his dairy monthly or quarterly. Arrangements are also nearly completed for the establishment of a creamery at St. Jacobs. The milk of 400 cows is to be guaranteed and the farmers are promised eight cents a gallon for their milk. The product is to be shipped to England, where it is supposed that extra high prices will be obtained. There will be a cheese factory in connection, which will make cheese of the skim milk variety.

ACCORDING to a plan suggested for running the State Government, books of coupons would be sold by the Mississippi State Auditors to all liquor dealers. When the drink is sold, the consumer receives a coupon which, entitles him to receive from the State in payment of his taxes one cent. If two drinks are to be paid for, he receives an orange colored coupon good for two cents. If five drinks a blue paper, good for five cents. This plan of taxing thirsty people for the benefit of those who do not thirst is one of the strangest vagaries of legislation. The principle says the Philadelphia Record may be indefinitely extended, but it is certainly inequitable.

THE Strathroy Knitting Company Works have been closed on account of financial difficulties. This concern started with a bonus of \$10,000; and \$15,000 was expended in putting the mill in working order. Its assets are now small and the liabilities are over \$100,000.

AMONG the smaller traders there is a disposition to sometimes complain of harsh treatment from the wholesale houses. An English firm calls our attention to the extraordinary conduct of Mr. W. F. Ross, jeweller of this city, who has no reason to complain on this ground, as he found at a meeting of his creditors held some time ago, that an offer of 15 cents was listened to with some favor, until a party was found

to make a considerable advance on this sum, and relieve him of his impoverished estate. After the bids were increased several times, the insolvent offered 55 cents, which was accepted. To put it mildly, this was certainly a very unbusiness like proceeding, on the part of the insolvent, and the query is how did the estate increase in value so rapidly.

THE bill introduced by Mr. Bourassa to extend the provisions of the Insolvent Act to farmers, was properly rejected, by a narrow majority, on its second reading.

L. N. CASTONGUAY, a general dealer of some ten years standing in St. Jerome, Que., is in difficulty; and although, having as he claims more than sufficient assets to pay all he owes, is unable to meet pressing claims, owing to his inability to collect. At a meeting of his creditors held in Montreal, on the 2nd inst., he presented a very favourable statement, showing \$29,000 of indebtedness, a large portion of which it will doubtless be impossible to collect; his stock on hand being not more than \$2,000. He made an offer of fifty cents in the dollar which creditors did not see fit to accept, and unless he will come forward more handsomely the estate will be put into insolvency.

A WRIT of attachment has been served on Messrs. A. Benn & Co., of Lachute, a firm which was started some six or seven years ago under the name of Fetherstone & Benn, and since then has undergone several transformations evidently without improving its circumstances. Mr. Benn has struggled hard to gain popularity in this thriving little village; but his efforts have not been crowned with success. His slackness in meeting payments for some time back, has no doubt been due to his being unable to collect. This firm's liabilities amount to about \$14,000, distributed among about forty creditors.

IT is sensibly said by the Shoe and Leather Reporter of N. Y., that "It is a self-evident proposition that, for a great while past, there has been an over-production or an under consumption of leather. Whichever it may be, the fact remains that the misfortunes entailed by the disparity falls exclusively upon the producers. There are ninety and nine cases of commercial calamity arising from overdoing, to every one that has had its origin in underdoing. It would be well if this historical truth were more generally remembered and profited by."

NEW ZEALAND is not to be represented at the Paris Exposition because she cannot afford the outlay. She is preparing to borrow £5,000,000 more. These British Colonies in the Pacific have mostly heavy debts, heavy certainly, when it is remembered that there are but 2,500,000 people in all Australasia.

THE ingredients of the common cigar used by the smokers of the United Kingdom, who are above sporting a pipe, are found to be curiously varied. The filling has been found to consist of cotton, wood, bread, cocoa nut fibre, small seeds, lime leaves, wheat and oat husks, yarn and tonquin bean. To make the materials adhesive, use is made of gum arabic, glycerine.

and amidine. The coloring is achieved by means of yellow ochre, red sandalwood, logwood, lampblack, venetian red; the flavor, by essential oils according to the varied taste to be pleased, and by saccharine matter, especially treacle. For those who like a decided taste, liquorice, salt, logwood, glycerine, and aniseed are used. It is in Dublin that the latter ingredient is most fashionable, while Edinburgh is fondest of treacle and sugar, and East London is addicted to licquorice.

A DEMAND of assignment has been made on F. X. Panneton, of Three Rivers, who was some years in trade as Panneton & Rocheleau. Business in this town has been so cut up and collections so backward, for some time past that he is unable to realize upon his assets. Liabilities will amount to about \$8,000.

MESSRS. Murray & Moffatt, general store keepers, of Hawkesbury, who have not yet been in business two years, have recently dissolved, and Mr. Morrow who continued the business, finding himself unable to provide for maturing indebtedness, although showing a nominal surplus, is offering his creditors a composition of fifty cents in the dollar. Liabilities \$2,500.

MR. W. G. HAY, of Listowel, who has hitherto held the title of superintendent of local Granges thereabout, has resigned the office. He considers a contract to deliver of 20,000 railway ties to the Credit Valley road to be rather "better business."

THE Grand Trunk traffic receipts for the week ending 30th of March, were \$164,531, being an increase of \$1,094 over the corresponding week of 1877. The receipts of the Toronto, Grey & Bruce were \$6,802.78 for the week ending 30th March, being an increase of \$1,759.82 over the same week last year. The Midland shows an increase of \$5,815.85 to the 21st March, over its receipts of the previous year to same date. The Toronto & Nipissing receipts for the same week were \$3,724.53. The receipts of the Whitby, Port Perry & Lindsay, for week ending 30th March, were \$1,125.37, an increase of \$782.97 over same week last year, and a total increase of \$12570.

ON Saturday last the Police Magistrate of Montreal condemned one Beriau, at the suit of Mr. Dunbar Browne, Collector of Inland Revenue, to pay \$100 and costs, with the alternative of imprisonment, for refusing to give, when asked, a sample of butter to the officers of the Department for analysis. This is the first prosecution in that district under the Adulteration of Food Act, and should act as a warning to other dealers there or elsewhere.

COMBINATIONS and "pools" appear to have a fascination for the American mind, and the effort is constantly being made to influence prices by means of them. The vessel-owners on the western lakes, in Council at Chicago, are seeking to combine and so increase freight rates. The Tribune of that city, notices that grain freights "are opening low, and will no doubt reach those of 1876, when the average rate on wheat was 2.9c, the lowest since 1861. The average rate on corn in May, 1876, was 2.7c, and