

THE Pictou Board of Trade, at its meeting on the 8th inst. discussed the new tariff. A resolution moved by Mr. Ives, seconded by Mr. McCurdy, was carried, disapproving of the tariff as being "cumbrous and inconsistent." This is the most outspoken objection we have heard from any commercial body. But the *Mail's* correspondent declares that there was not a quorum of the Board present, and that the "Grit" members packed the meeting.

A PORT HOPE store keeper, Fred Lockwood, is missing, and a writ of attachment has been issued against his estate. Besides his indebtedness to Montreal and other houses for crockery, groceries &c., he owes Mr. Thos. Watson, school teacher, \$1,500 for borrowed money.

OF the numerous enterprises which have been undertaken in Canada, few have shown such discouraging results as the preserved or canned meat trade. Out of the number of companies that have been started in Montreal and Quebec Province from time to time within the past few years, we don't know of one of them left to-day. A writ of attachment has just been issued against the Canadian Meat and Produce Company of Sherbrooke, a concern which started some five or six years ago with a large capital and brilliant prospects, which, however, were never realized. In 1876 this factory was burned down with a heavy loss, after which preferential stock was issued, and the company got into operation again, but has never been able to hold its own, and will be wound up in bankruptcy. The canned meat trade is a considerable one in the States, and canned fruits and vegetables still more important.

A COMPANY has been formed in Fredericton, named the New Brunswick Sugar Company, to cultivate the early amber sugar cane, and to erect a factory to make sugar and syrups; capital, \$5,000, in ten shares. Some \$1,400 were subscribed at once. Farmers have already bought cane seed to plant.

THE Royal Insurance Company has purchased for \$50,000 cash the property and stone building on the corner of Notre Dame Street and Place d'Armes square in Montreal, owned and formerly occupied by the Merchants Bank. This property was considered worth, in 1874, over \$80,000.

SENATOR Jeremiah Northup died in Halifax a week ago. The hon. gentleman was a member of the first provincial parliament of Nova Scotia, and held that seat for a period of 25 years. He was a member of the firm of J. Northup & Sons, merchants and ship-owners, which he founded, and possessed, as a contemporary says, the needful qualities for a successful business man, viz., shrewdness, caution, promptitude, industry and enterprise; was Vice-president of the Merchants' Bank of Halifax, a director of the Ocean Marine Insurance Association, &c. He leaves an estate valued at \$400,000.

WINNIPEG residents have petitioned that a sum of \$50,000 shall be placed in the estimates for the building of a bridge over the Red river between that city and St. Boniface.

COMPLAINT is made by the Sarnia Observer that that town forms the only exception to the prevailing fashions of towns and villages in Western Ontario endeavoring to secure the establishment of manufactories in their midst. Bonusses, we would remark in passing, do not always bring benefits corresponding to their amount. It is quite possible, in this as in other matters, that towns may pay too dear for their whistle.

WHY is a merchant who does a strictly cash business never at rest? asks the Boston *Traveler*. Because his work is never done, is the reply.

A country man produced a cheque for \$150, duly certified, at the bank, and the cashier asked him "in what denominations" he wanted the money. Well, sir, my wife is Church of England, I'm a Presbyterian, myself. Its all one to me; but I guess you better give me the left of it in Church of England bills, it'll please the old woman better.

THIRTY six, cases, all told, of assignment, attachment, or failure during the week, among them Mr. Paul Couture, shoe manufacturer, Quebec, who has failed before, but now again owes \$75,000 of which probably \$40,000 is indirect. W. C. Mountain, jeweller, Montreal, who was capiased and held for trial on a charge of secreting his goods; Thos. Vincent, fancy goods, Ottawa; McLeish & Co., groceries, and Wm. Latch, lumber, Toronto, while R. B. Butland, Music, P. C. Allan, stationer, and Jas. Gibson, printer in this city are heavy losers by being burned out. Eight traders have sold out or gone out of business, two general dealers, three grocers, two hotel keepers.

A FRIEND sends us a specimen of "how some assignees manage an insolvent's affairs," in a printed list of receipts and disbursements in an estate, bearing no date, giving no domicile for the debtor, not naming the creditors or amount of claims. The estate is that of H. J. Vivian & Alex. McDonald, termed absconding insolvents of Thunder Bay. The stock of \$1,642 sold for \$850, and \$708 more was collected. Lawyers and Sheriffs' fees absorbed \$461, witnesses \$240, assignee's and interim assignee's, including expenses to Toronto, \$290 and there is actually a balance of \$69, in the bank, to pay two or three cents in the dollar to creditors.

NORWICH, Ont., was to have an oatmeal mill, and voted \$1000 towards it, but the duty on oats has spoiled the project, and Mr. Palmer has refunded the bonus.

THE total quantity of salt sold in the United States during 1878 was 7,662,658 barrels, of which 3,075,533 were imported. About 1,856,000 were made in the Saginaw district of Michigan, about 1,434,000 in the Syracuse district of New York, 850,000 in Ohio and Virginia, and the rest of the 4,587,000 bbls. at other points.

"BOOK-DEBTS, bad, dead and out of date, \$18,863," are so classified among the assets of the estate of Mr. A. Mackay, a merchant of North Sydney, C. B., who is offering 50 cents in the \$ in 20 months. He has \$3,729 good debts and \$3,858 stock. Probably Mr. Mackay is now

alive to the need of writing off bad debts year by year, and doing less credit business.—Three more young men are about to try the dry goods business in Halifax, Messrs. Matheson, Harley and G. H. Bayne, succeeding to the stand of P. Grant & Co.—Longworth & Co., ship builders and shippers, Charlottetown, P.E.I., met their creditors lately. The firm has built 35 vessels in the last eight years, but finds the shrinkage and dullness in that sort of property hamper them greatly. Another Island shipbuilder, Mr. J. Ramsay, of Summerside is in financial trouble.—R. McGee, hatter at St. John, has made an assignment. Jos. Townsend, trader, Louisburg, C.B., is in difficulty. W. M. Bond, St. Marys Bay, N.S., meets his creditors.

In Moncton, N.B. a brig is being built by W. Cochrane, also a schooner for the Anticosti fishing trade, by Mr. Jardine, part owned by employes in the railroad machine shops there. In Albert County, a vessel of 1,340 tons is building for B. Smith, of Windsor, and a vessel of 1,000 tons is to be ready for launching in August.

THE annual report of the Minister of Mines of British Columbia, for the year ending Dec. 31, 1878, states the total yield of gold from all parts of the province at \$1,275,204. The number of Miners employed in extracting this amount was 1,883, of whom 1,085 were Chinese."

It is reported in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, though we have not heard of it before, that "an excursion of leading Ontario business men will be organized in Toronto to visit Manitoba during May or June."

ORDERS have been issued to the managers of the fast freight lines, signed by the Presidents of the New York Central, Grand Trunk, Erie, Pennsylvania, and Baltimore & Ohio railroads, one paragraph of which reads as follows: "You are not permitted, nor will you permit the agents of your line, to become a party to any transaction, directly or indirectly, or to be instrumental in any way, openly or secretly, in securing to any shipper reduced rates of transportation below the regular tariff rates, * * * either by change in the classification or incorrect weights, or by giving passes, or in purchasing tickets or in any other way in which preference may be given to one shipper over another." This is designed to prevent "cutting" rates.

THE tack and nail factory of Messrs. R. Foster & Son, St. John, which had been closed during the winter, has resumed operations, with numerous orders.

THE Napanee Paper Mills Company has received an order for 400 reams of paper from an American patent medicine proprietor, for the printing of circulars, etc., for his Canadian trade.

While, from the report of the Registrar-General of Ontario, the death rate per 1,000 in Toronto is given at 23.6, Kingston's citizens only die at the rate of 17.2 per 1,000, which puts the lime-stone city amongst the very healthiest places in the Dominion.

It is well for our newest province to make an effort in the direction of retail cash trade.