

THE case of Huber *vs.* Crookall for libel, which we described a few weeks ago, came up for trial before Mr. Justice Cameron at the Berlin assizes yesterday, and was dismissed with costs.

"THE railroads will use us all up," said a Williamsport lumber manufacturer to the reporter of the *Banner*; "they are shipping lumber from Chicago to the Eastern markets for a two-dollar rate, which is the same we have to pay from Williamsport to Philadelphia. Trade would be brisk enough only for this."

GIMLET pointed screws have been regarded as an invention of the present generation, but the Worcester (Mass.) *Gazette* has found half a dozen of them bearing every mark of age, and evidently manufactured before screws were made by machinery, in a piano made at London in 1755.

THE Dominion Department of Agriculture will shortly begin work on a cattle quarantine station at Halifax, the first east of Quebec. The site selected is on the Dartmouth side of the Narrows, just a little south of the new railway bridge. Nine acres has been purchased for the purpose.

WE congratulate Mr. A. A. Trottier, manager of La Banque du Peuple, on having been tendered a trip to Europe for a couple of months by the directors of that institution in recognition of his long and faithful services. The holiday is deserved, for this will be the first outing taken by Mr. Trottier since he entered the bank, now some twenty-eight years.

THE Westmorland Mining Co. is intended to be formed in Dorchester, N. B. by Messrs. Marquis F. Dickenson, and Grenville D. Braman, of Boston, D. L. Hanington, M. G. Teed and A. N. Charters, of Dorchester. Capital \$500,000. The object of the company is the mining and reducing of copper, gold and silver ores and minerals.

FOUR brothers, who have been in business ever since 1850, without keeping elaborate books, or any accurate account of the moneys each has drawn from the enterprise, have filed a deed in San Joaquin county, Cal., providing that, as it is impossible to straighten out their accounts, their heirs shall never ask for an accounting, but divide the property share and share alike.

GENERAL regret is felt in insurance circles at the death, in this city, on the 1st inst., from typhoid fever, of Mr. C. F. Russell, general agent of the Travelers' Insurance Company, of Hartford. The deceased, who formerly resided in Napanee, was greatly esteemed. Since coming to Toronto he had made many friends and had made for himself a deservedly good reputation as an insurance agent.

BANKRUPT stocks of merchandise were sold on Tuesday last by Messrs. Suckling, Cassidy, & Co., Front street as under:—Messrs. Husband & Co., bought the stock of A. Cameron Queen street, for 50 cents on the dollar. J. W. Fenner, Toronto, bought the stock of Mrs. P. Arnett, Yonge street, for 41 cents, and A. Morell, of this city, bought that of Mrs. J. E. Salter, of Alliston, for 43 cents on the dollar.

ON Thursday, 24th September, says the *Halifax Herald*, an order was received by the Bell company for a telephone at the water service works, three miles distant from the city. Men were at once set to work and after putting in forty poles and stringing the wire, they had the instrument in and working on Saturday evening the 26th. This is about the quickest piece of telephone work yet done in Halifax.

A NUMBER of writs have been issued of late against, Bowman & Co. of Barrie, grocers. Mr. B. has recently shown an apparent disposition to get out of his liabilities by selling his stock, as he has done, to Dutton of Barrie at 67½ cents in the dollar. There are, we believe, several Toronto houses interested, and they may be trusted to look after Mr. Bowman and see that he does not get the start of them.

THE National Confectioners' Association of the U. S. is composed of upward of one hundred of the most reliable manufacturers of confectionery, and they are determined to use their united efforts to prevent the adulteration of candies with any hurtful ingredient or color. The Executive Committee met recently in Cincinnati, the main object of which was to procure the passage of laws punishing the adulteration of confectionery.

MERCANTILE failures in the Dominion for the three months ended with September, number 254, with liabilities amounting to \$1,911,000, compared with 227 failures, showing liabilities of \$4,112,000, for the corresponding quarter of last year. For the nine months of this year the failures aggregate 944, with a trifle over seven million dollars of liabilities, against 979 with liabilities of over fourteen millions in the same period last year.

AT Great Village, N. S., there is to be launched to-day by Messrs. McLelan and Blaikie, a four-masted ship of 1,795 tons net register, called the "John M. Blaikie." She is 231 feet keel, 43 feet beam and 24 feet deep. Three of the four masts are square rigged. She is said to be the first four-masted sailing ship in the Dominion and the second in North America. She will probably go to St. John, N. B., to load deals for the United Kingdom.

THE employees of the great milling firm of Pillsbury & Co., of Minneapolis, have had a very pleasing testimony of the fact that labor and capital may have identical interests. The company has just made its annual distribution to the hands of a share of the profits specially set aside for the purpose, the sum in this instance amounting to \$27,000. Last year \$20,000 was allotted, every man who has been in the mills for five years getting something.

CLERK (to proprietor)—"What is the selling price of that new lot of black silk opened this morning? Mrs. S— wants to know." Proprietor—"Mrs. S— is a nuisance; she always complains about the price of goods and yet never buys; tell her \$1.50 a yard; it cost \$2." Clerk (to Mrs. S—)—"One dollar and a half a yard, madame." Mrs. S— (feeling the silk)—"It seems high at \$1.50; however, you may cut me off twenty-two yards.—*New York Times.*"

AT WINNIPEG on the 2nd inst., a meeting of business men was held in the Board of Trade rooms to consider the question of building an elevator in the city. It was decided to form a joint stock company to build an elevator having a capacity of 100,000 bushels, and the following were elected as provisional directors: J. H. Ashdown (convener), Kenneth MacKenzie, D. MacArthur, R. J. Whitla, Alex. McIntyre, E. L. Drewry, F. L. Brydges, S. Nairn, N. Bawlf, D. G. McBean, D. H. McMillan and D. L. MacKenzie.

Cook's Metallurgy says that the quality of coal can be judged by these appearances: A full black color, lively lustre, and great hardness, indicate the presence of much oxygen, while pitch-like lustre shows a small, and a glassy lustre, a somewhat larger amount of carbon. A black color, strong lustre, slight

coherence, and little tenacity, denote a large amount of carbon with more hydrogen than oxygen. A brownish black color, dull appearance, strong coherence, and a certain hardness, show little carbon with more oxygen than hydrogen.

THE Province of Quebec furnishes the following list of recent failures, none of them of a heavy character. J. A. Bouthillier, general dealer of Longueuil, has failed and assigned; L. A. Piche, T. H. Malette and John Marcell & Co. all Montreal grocers of moderate calibre have assigned. D. Dupuis, carriage maker of St. Chrysostome, whose failure we have noted, is offering his creditors 20c. on the dollar. G. W. Coderre, a Montreal shoe dealer has assigned. At St. Joachim de Shefford, E. Bayer, general store has assigned.

AMONG the recent assignments is that of Mr. G. A. Gamsby, general dealer in Perth. It is over twenty years since Mr. Gamsby began business in the drug line, but he became a general dealer and failed as such in 1876. He was understood to deal most largely with one particular dry goods house in Montreal. A year ago, or perhaps more, he made a pretty fair showing, thus: Stock, \$11,500; book debts, \$800, and only \$6,700 liabilities. But "things are not what they seem," as this trader may have found, and neither his outstandings nor his stock have "panned out" in any such proportion.

A BOOKSELLER in Berlin named Isaac Huber, who has been in business there for between one and two years, has made an assignment this week to W. J. Gage. He was a knitter by trade and had some capital on which to begin this business. He had formerly lived, we are told, at Bracebridge, where he made a little money in the same line. His selling out there and removal was perhaps a mistake. William Brown of Walkerton, also a bookseller, has sold out his stock. At Ingersoll, J. C. Campbell has sold his stock of books to W. C. Holland, at Calgary, Manitoba. Bannerman & Co. are about to dispose of their stationery business.

Nor a few dissolutions or changes in business firms are noted during the past few days. In Guelph Mr. Herbert E. Fox retires from the well-known organ firm of Wm. Bell & Co., and the remaining partners continue.—Barton, Thompson & Co., spice mills, Toronto, dissolved.—There is a change in the style of R. C. Struthers & Co.'s wholesale fancy goods business in London, Mr. J. D. Anderson is admitted, and the style becomes Struthers, Anderson & Co.—In Dundas, the boiler-making firm of Shaw & Wilson is dissolved; James Shaw continuing.—Stricker Brothers, Berlin, tailors, have dissolved partnership.—Learoyd & Reid, dry goods dealers in Strathroy, advertise a dissolution, the former continues.

THE "Valued Policy" bill before the Legislature reminds the *Americus Recorder* of the experience of a Dutchman with the insurance companies. He had a barn burned down which was insured, and when he went to get his insurance money the agent told him that his barn was not worth the money, and the company would put him up a new barn rather than pay the amount of the policy. Our German friend thought this a queer proceeding, but finally concluded to take the new barn. Sometime after a life insurance agent tried to get him to insure his life, but the man said the money would do him no good after he was dead. He was then urged to insure his wife's life, and to this he replied: "I get no money then, for you say, 'Oh, she no good, no worth the money, we get you new one.'"