

The oldest druggist in Ottawa, John Roberts, died a few days ago. Mr. Roberts had been in business nearly half a century, and had acquired a very handsome fortune.

At the steel company's works, Trenton, N.S., the new machine shop approaches completion. Another large building is soon to be erected for the reeling machine, likewise a spacious heating furnace.

LENOIR & FRERE, of Montreal, manufacturing hand-made shoes in a moderate way, have been asked to assign. They have been supplied mainly by one house, who are liquidating, and who have made a good many settlements of their own liabilities with paper of Lenoir & Frere.

THE Alpha Iron Works Co., of Montreal, a concern organized about three years ago, with an authorized capital of \$50,000, has not been a success, and a petition has been made to have a liquidator appointed. The creditors meet on the 31st inst.

H. PREVOST & Co., a Montreal dry goods concern, having stores on St. Catharine and Notre Dame streets, are in difficulties, and have asked creditors for some delay in order to make an offer of compromise. They owe some \$19,000, and show a deficiency.

AN English civil engineer, named W. E. Gower, who came to this country several years ago, and engaged in contracting for asphalt paving, etc., in Montreal, has assigned. Liabilities, \$11,208, and assets are noticeable by their absence. Insolvency proceedings were instituted by the Valde Travers' Asphalt Co., of London, Eng.

MONTREAL has an encouraging number of American tourist visitors this summer. We are told that on Saturday evening last 540 persons dined at the Windsor Hotel in that city; while the "Upper Canada boat," which was late in arriving, had 180 passengers booked for the Windsor. What mine host Swett did with these—his hotel being already full—we are not informed.

The first numbers have been sent us of *The Maritime Grocer*, published in Halifax. It contains original and selected matter appropriate to its name. Surely the grocers of Canada are worried by so many journals professing to represent their particular interests. There are two in Montreal, two in Toronto, one each in Victoria and Vancouver, and now one in Halifax.

We note the following recent failures in Quebec city: The firm of Guimont & Dupont,

handling sewing machines, &c., have suspended payment.—A. A. Sansfacon, a shoe dealer, is seeking a compromise.—A demand of assignment has been made upon J. E. Allain, dealer in furniture, who compromised last December at 40 cents.—Joseph Boiteau, a builder and contractor, has assigned.

W. H. ELFORD, dealer in dry goods at Arnprior, has assigned. The business was only started in 1890, under the style of Elford & Monteith, who dissolved a year ago.—D. E. Fraser, of the same town, doing a small business as the Arnprior Fruit Co., has been closed up by the landlord.—Duncan McDonald, a hotel-keeper in Arnprior, is asking his creditors to accept 30 cents on the dollar for their claims.

WRITING of patent medicine profits the New York *Herald* says the manufacturer's friend is the man who buys the second bottle. "A patent medicine that is retailed at \$1 a bottle must not cost the manufacturer more than 10 cents a bottle," declared the inventor of a medicine at a secret meeting of the druggists the other day. If it does, the manufacturer won't make enough to maintain his family on. The druggist pays 60 cents for the preparation. That leaves an apparent margin of 50 cents a bottle to the producer. But at the start the advertising will cost him 75 cents a bottle, leaving a deficit of 25 cents. In other words, it costs about 75 cents to induce one man to buy his first bottle of patent medicine. So it seems that the profit lies in the fact that the man doesn't stop at the first bottle, but keeps on buying it and advising his friends to buy it.

A TELEGRAM of Tuesday last from Ottawa states that the well-known lumber firm of Mossom Boyd & Co. seeks, in the Exchequer Court, to recover the sum of \$10,000 from Mr. E. T. Smith, collector of slides and booms for the Public Works' Department, personally, and also ask an injunction restraining him from selling lumber seized for arrearage of slide dues. The firm say they should not pay the Fenelon Falls slide dues, for which the lumber in question was seized. They also ask a petition of right to sue the department for a similar sum, an injunction to restrain the Government from selling and to prevent further seizures. The slide dues claimed amount to \$2,241; the value of lumber seized \$5,000. This, the plaintiffs claim, was already sold. They allege that their trade has been paralysed, and they have been prevented from fulfilling orders and contracts.

THE John Doty Engine Company, which

was long an active and lately a very promising concern, is now practically out of existence. For some time past its business has been continued by the liquidator in order to complete contracts, and if possible sell the works as a running concern. In the meantime the property was offered for sale by auction, but there were no bids. Subsequently Mr. Bertram, the principal creditor, made an offer to the Court, which has been nominally accepted. This offer was the amount of his claim of \$52,536, plus advances made by the liquidators, and all liens and costs of the Court. It will be remembered that the nominal assets of the Doty Company were \$136,491, and the total liabilities \$79,335. Of the latter sum \$52,000 were direct. As is now generally known, losses on contract work, together with inadequate capital for the large business undertaken by the management, are the chief causes of the company's trouble.

RECENT failures in the Province of Quebec, outside the cities of Montreal and Quebec, are as follows: The firm of Campbell & Cinqmars, carrying on a small dry goods business at Louisville, have suspended, and will likely be wound up. Liabilities are \$1,400.—Courchaine & Co., dealers in groceries and liquors, have assigned. Mr. C. failed some years ago, and of late has been plodding along in a somewhat precarious way.—George Morin, a small general dealer at St. Francois Xavier de Brompton, has assigned to a firm of Sherbrooke accountants. He has only been in business about two years, and his prospects were always dubious.—Robillard & Co., general dealers at Beauharnois, Que., have assigned on demand, with liabilities of \$4,023. Mr. W. Robillard, who carried on business under the above style, was at one time a prominent local merchant, but has been unfortunate in the past, having failed twice in years gone by, and has lately been carrying on in quite a moderate way.—A tinsmith at Longueuil named Auguste Jolivet is reported away, and a meeting of his creditors is called for the 30th inst. He had been in business some twenty years on a small scale, without previous hitch.—John Cochrane, a trader at New Richmond, in the Gaspé district, has assigned.—We note the assignment of Brodeur & Frere, plumbers, at St. Hyacinthe. This step is at the demand of Thomas Robertson & Co. The Brodeurs have been sued several times lately, and owe \$2,784, while their assets are small.—David Durocher, a small trader at St. Timothee, called his creditors together for the 24th inst..

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