

skeleton and hide of the giant pachyderm are separated, the one doing duty in the museum of a small New England college, and the other posing elsewhere as the former receptacle of greatness.

It was generally supposed, especially in their own district, that M. J. Woodward & Co., oil refiners at Petrolia, were in a good position financially. Their failure was consequently a surprise in that town. Some weeks ago Samuel Rogers & Co., of this city, who supplied the refinery for a year or more, took possession of the property under power of a mortgage of \$15,000; then an assignment followed. Their liabilities are stated to be \$110,000, with nominal assets slightly in excess of this sum. A meeting of creditors was held, but we have been unable to learn what transpired.

ORDERS have been received from England for the suspension of the work on the Chignecto Ship Railway. The explanation given is that, owing to the state of the money market, the company is unable to float its bonds without a sacrifice, but that as soon as the market improves work will be resumed. "The work is far advanced," the *Chignecto Post* says, "machinery all there, rails laid twelve miles, and line half ballasted. A few months' work will complete it. The contractor's liabilities are all paid, and no one loses anything." At the same time it is learned that a mortgage of £700,000 has just been placed on the railway.

One of Brantford's oldest merchants is Thos. McLean, dealer in dry goods. He has been in business for about thirty-five years, but it cannot be said always with success. In 1871 and 1879 he was obliged to seek the indulgence of his creditors, with whom, in the latter year, he compromised liabilities of \$54,000 at 55 per cent. Since then he has never been able to make headway. About a year ago he was obliged to ask an extension of a year or more. In six months time he claimed a surplus of \$11,500 over liabilities of \$21,000. It is evident that this surplus was nominal, as he has now assigned to S. E. Townsend, with liabilities of about \$18,000.

A NOTEWORTHY event in the lumber industry of Canada was the commencement, on Monday last, of operations in J. R. Booth's big saw mill on the Chaudiere. A large number of men were on hand—fully 800, the *Journal* says,—looking for employment. About 400 were taken on. It is claimed that the mill is the largest and best equipped in Canada, per-

haps in the world. It has a sawing capacity of 900,000 feet daily, or 153,000,000 feet in a season of seven months. There are five Stern band saws made in Erie, Pa., and four of the Prescott make from Peterboro. Seven "log jacks" take the logs from an immense flume to the mill. Work is expected to go on briskly to the end of the season.

ONE of the most extensive and best known of New York's money-lenders and note-brokers, Abraham Backer, has failed for \$4,000,000, the half of which is due to the banks. They are said to be fully secured. Mr. Backer was engaged in several other ventures, being the managed man of the dry goods and commission firm of A. Backer & Co. He also owned and operated a mill at Glastonbury, Conn., the product of which was sold through this firm. His interests in the South were large, being composed of railroad and state securities which the unfavorable condition of the market rendered unsaleable. It is thought, however, that under improved conditions the assets will realize sufficient to pay creditors in full.

—Writing under date of 6th August, our Montreal correspondent says: The weather in the Montreal district has been of a decidedly "catchy" character for the last ten days or so, being marked by many sudden and heavy showers, which have interfered seriously with haying operations. In certain districts there is still considerable hay standing, which must suffer to some extent, but the general results will be in excess of the first calculations. Grain is doing well, and from all outside points favorable reports continue to be received. A gentleman who has just returned from a trip in Eastern Ontario says that crop prospects for grain have seldom been so good. Apples will be short in this section, but roots will be plentiful, unless the rot strikes in.

BEN. MILLINBACKER, doing a small jewellery business in Jarvis, is offering to compromise. Creditors need not expect a large dividend.—At Newmarket, J. Mader & Co., general store-keepers, failed about a year ago, after which they moved to Clarksburg. Then Mrs. Mader's father gave her \$1,000, with which she began business in the former place. She does not, however, appear to have been more prosperous than her husband, for her failure is now announced after a six months' trial. Next week a meeting of creditors will be held, and it is thought that a surplus may be shown.—Joseph Reid, cattle dealer at Orangeville, assigns.—In Sudbury, W. J. Perkins, hotel-keeper, does likewise.—G. W. Ferrier, who

was doing a small business in fruit in this city, is in similar straits.

It is related by the *Montreal Witness* that a few days ago a commercial traveller who was leaving the city on business invited two friends to see him off. On the way they met the traveller's employer, who saw the three in the carriage. As the two friends were returning from the station they again met the head of the firm, who remarked that his employee would no doubt charge him with that cab fare, which would have been only twenty-five cents instead of forty cents, if they had not been with him. The two men said nothing, but the next morning one of them wrote to his friend's employer telling him that he would be very sorry if any extra expense should be incurred by the firm on his account, and enclosing fifteen cents, difference in the fare.

"FIRE RESISTING" WOOD.

How far the following interesting paragraph copied from the *Philadelphia Telegraph*, is to be regarded as serious, and how far it is to be regarded as what the daily papers slangily call "guff," we shall not at present say. But we have our own opinion in the matter.

"In a recent fire in Humboldt, Cal., it was again demonstrated in the clearest manner possible that California redwood, as a building material, comes nearer being fireproof than almost any other material of which buildings are constructed. In this instance a fire broke out in the upper part of a one-story building while the wind was blowing a gale that was recorded at the United States signal station here as moving at the average rate of thirty miles an hour. But, notwithstanding this and the fact that it was several minutes before water was got to the building, the fir laths under the plaster were burned downward nearly to the floor, and whole squares of the side plastering were thus loosened, and fell in before the fire had burned through the thin redwood shingle roof. It was a most wonderful illustration of the fire-resisting qualities of redwood. Had the whole building been as combustible as the laths nothing could have saved the city. The roof was old and as thoroughly ready for the flames as redwood ever becomes, yet the fact remains that it resisted ignition, and bystanders could see a seething furnace of flames through the apertures under the eaves, while nothing but smoke issued through the roof. The peculiar manner in which redwood smothered flame and prevents its flashing forth is an important fact in suppressing conflagrations, as fires are communicated to neighboring buildings by means of the external flames and sparks which they send up."

Is there not some one among our Pacific coast insurance men, familiar with the character of redwood, who will tell us where this romancer should have begun, and how soon been choked off? We don't want the boys fooled.

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