

Steps are being taken towards the organization of the Montreal Electric Light Company. The names of the Hon. John Hamilton, J. C. Abbott, and C. J. Brydges appear in connection with the enterprise.

The machinery for the new paper and pulp mill at Chambly, Que., being built by Mr. Yale, is being bought, and it is expected that the mill will shortly be in operation.

An application will be made at the next session of the Quebec Legislature for the incorporation of the Montreal Distilling Company.

A new gold mining company has been organized in Quebec, to be called the Quebec Mining Company, and will operate several locations in the Beauce district. The capital is to be half a million dollars in five dollar shares. We notice several names of well-known standing among the directors, such as Hon. P. Garneau, E. Beaudet, Hon. J. A. Chapleau and others.

Mr. M. McGill, a grocer, etc., in this city, who was formerly in partnership with one Kyle, had been, it appears, selling liquor without license, several hundred dollars' worth was therefore seized, confiscated and destroyed according to the requirements of the new Act. After this Kyle retired from the firm. Since then the bailiff has taken possession of the premises for rent.

Mr. John S. Cowan, an insurance agent in Stratford, has not of late been very attentive to business; consequently he has fallen into difficulties. He, it is said, got behind in remitting the amount of premiums collected to the companies he represented. Some of them have sued him and the sheriff has been put in possession of his premises. We understand that his sureties have also been pressed for payment.

THE "Knights of the Maccabees of the World"—which is the imposing name of a secret co-operative life "insurance" organization in Canada—met at London, Ont., last week, says the *New York Insurance Chronicle*, and expelled W. D. McCloghlan, the Mac who invented the Maccabees; and he now proposes to expel all the other Macs.

SOME damaging revelations regarding the Silver Plume Mining Company, to which we alluded recently, are being made through evidence given in the case of *Crowley vs. Chretien* lately heard in Montreal. The action is to recover a property given to Chretien as a director of the company, in exchange for stock, on what are claimed to be false representations. One witness swore he was offered \$400,000 of the million dollar stock, if he would help to form the company, and they would then sell the stock for goods or anything they could get. Other evidence of an unfavorable character was also given.

PROSPECTS for the seal fishery are improved since a despatch from Harbor Grace, Nfld., reports the arrival of the steamers *Mastiff* with 20,000 seals, and *Greenland* with 24,000; also the schooners *Escort* and *Sisters*, with 3000 each, making the total catch, so far as known, 112,000 seals, with 22 out of the 27 steam sealers to hear from. As an average season's haul is about 400,000 of the soft-eyed creatures, an average haul, or more, is now expected.

THE ranks of the Montreal wholesale trade are to be swelled by the addition of a new millinery firm, just formed which intends to open out in course of a few weeks. The style of the new firm will be Graham, Briggs, Barber & Co., and, we are told, the combination will be strong in capital as well as in ability. Messrs. Graham and Barber hail from Belleville, where they have been prominent as successful retailers while Mr. Briggs brings the advantage of an extensive experience and connection, having filled a leading position with Messrs. Thos. May & Co. for the last twelve years. Messrs. Briggs and Barber leave for Europe this week to buy stock.

THE cable announces the sudden death, in London, Eng., of Mr. R. J. Reekie, well known in Canada as an extensive contractor in connection with many of our larger public works. He first came to Canada in the employ of Messrs. Peto, Brassey & Peto, and built the Richmond to Levis section of the Grand Trunk, subsequently building the Riviere du Loup section as well. We believe he built the Northern Railway line also. Mr. Reekie had made Montreal his residence for a number of years and was actively interested in a number of public enterprises, having held the position of director in the City Gas Company, City Passenger R. R. Co., besides insurance companies, etc.

THE boot and shoe manufacturing interest at Montreal is evidently on the whole a thriving industry if we are to judge from the number of leading houses that have lately been improving and increasing their facilities for manufacture. Messrs. Ames, Holden & Co., James Linton & Co., J. Popham & Co., and others have had new premises built for them within the last year or two, and now Messrs. Cochrane, Cassils & Co., are about erecting a fine new factory and warehouse on Craig street, an excellent site. The building will be of six storeys high, and measure 110 feet by 50.

In our last issue, we expressed our gratification that Messrs. Sanford, Vail & Co., of Hamilton, were not interested in the failure of Oppenheimer Bros., of Yale, British Columbia, but stated that this house had large transactions out in Yale, and had supplied Oppenheimer with goods. We have since found that our information was incorrect, our informant having confused names. We learn, positively, that Sanford, Vail & Co. never sold Oppenheimer. They have had transactions equal in amount to the figures named in our former issue, with British Columbia concerns, but received immediate payment of the same. We regret having inadvertently given currency to a misstatement. Our innocent paragraph of the 8th inst. has developed the fact, however, that the firm of Sanford, Vail & Co., whose operations in the older provinces are well known, are doing a large and profitable trade on the Pacific slope.

THE maple sugar crop throughout the Province of Quebec generally, will prove an unusually large one. The season has been very favorable in several particulars, the snow in the bush not being excessively deep, the weather on the

whole favorable and the run of sap much beyond the average. In some localities the trees have run so freely that all available receptacles have been filled to repletion, and notwithstanding the use of fast-boiling appliances, such as patent evaporators, &c., it has been necessary to sit up all night boiling in, Sunday making no break in the securing of the sweet harvest. Farmers tapping bushes of one thousand trees, expect to secure a return of from 2,000 to 2,500 lbs, which would mean a big average yield per tree.

WE ARE pleased that the list of business disasters or difficulties is unimportant this week. There are not a few changes going on, however, and a good many selling out, among these last J. P. Foley, of Brechin; T. G. Eaton, of Dewittville, Que.; D. G. Dickson, of Sackville, N. B., general dealers; M. R. German & Co., dry-goods, Colborne; W. A. Stewart, St. John, Jno. Mable, of Dunville, grocers; Babbitt Bros. of Woodstock, N. B. and Miss M. T. McAllen of Ottawa, confectioners. Mr. Philip Taylor of Oshawa, jeweller, has sold his Whitby business; James Patterson has sold his sash factory in Galt; Messrs. Cameron & Co., grocers, of Winnipeg are closing up their business. The wholesale shoe firm of C. S. Hyman & Co., of London, has dissolved and Messrs. Hyndman Brothers, commission merchants in Charlottetown, P. E. I. have separated.

In the autumn of 1878, Mr. F. J. Hall began business in Walkerton, buying the hardware stock of Thos. Whitehead. At that time, Mr. Hall says, his former partner Mr. Thos. Jeffrey was owing him \$2500 for his interest in a business in Cobourg. With this and some assistance from his father he managed to pay \$5000 on his purchase and got a year's credit on the balance. He has kept a heavy stock, had a branch store at Mildmay, and employed quite a staff of clerks; apparently his expenses have been too heavy for the business done. Some days ago he sent a circular to his creditors, stating that his brother-in-law, Mr. Sanford Fleming, had sued him for \$17,000, also that having taken stock—for the first time apparently—he finds himself \$12,000 deficient, and asking indulgence from some impatient creditors. The statements he now makes about his affairs are alleged to be at variance with those formerly made.

A SOMEWHAT unusual action was tried at the Guelph Assizes the other day. Mr. M. C. Potts, hardware merchant and tinsmith, Palmerston, brought suit to recover damages from Mr. John Proctor, wholesale hardware dealer, Hamilton. The plaintiff claimed \$2,000 damages on the ground that defendant had broken a written agreement dated 11th May, 1880, by which he had agreed to supply Potts from time to time on six months credit, with such goods as the latter should require for the proper carrying on of his business, provided plaintiff kept his account in a satisfactory shape. While his account was in this shape, Potts declares, the defendant without just excuse refused to supply him with further goods, and in consequence he was compelled to make an assignment for the benefit of creditors, and was in fact ruined. The plea of Mr. Proctor was that he had not authorized his agent to