

Leading Wholesale Trade of Montreal

FINE JOB PRINTING.

We have added to our establishment a Job Printing Department. Contracts undertaken for

BANK,
RAILWAY,
INSURANCE,
 And General **COMMERCIAL PRINTING!**

Newest Type, Presses and other appointments as required in a first-class Printing Office.

MORTON, PHILLIPS & BULMER,

Manufacturing Stationers and Steam Job Printers,

375 Notre Dame Street,

MONTREAL.

despatch, has passed a bill prohibiting the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine butter. As oleomargarine has neither been proved nor is it ordinarily accounted injurious in any respect it is difficult to surmise on what grounds its manufacture is prohibited. Judges of butter state that they decidedly prefer oleomargarine to much of the regularly made butter sold in market, and claim that oftentimes experts alone can tell the difference. Probably the telegraph is in error, and the manufacture has been prohibited only of oleomargarine as butter.

The failure of Claggett & Tait, of this city, retail dry goods, is announced. The insolvents were under heavy expenditure relatively with the volume of business, and this is perhaps the chief cause of their misfortune. The firm has been established only about nine months, and is an off-shoot from the house of Brown & Claggett, well known as the *Recollet House*, the senior member of which has also failed since the dissolution, which took place last year. Claggett & Tait's liabilities are authoritatively stated at about \$26,000, and it is thought the assets will bear a valuation almost equal thereto. Efforts are making by the insolvents to secure a composition.

The strictly cash and one price system is ever to be commended, and we are pleased to have advices from a subscriber firm in Chatham, Ontario, to the effect that they find the system approved by the public through the incontestible evidence of largely increased and still increasing sales. Some of the advantages of the system may be concisely stated as cheaper goods, independence of the storekeeper, freedom from the annoyance of bills, correct or incorrect, and escape from the possible necessity of having to make sacrifices to meet the demands of an importunate creditor. Those who buy and those who sell on time, it can hardly be too often said, must between them in some way pay the accounts entire of all defaulters.

A new patent frog is claiming the attention of railroad managers as possessing many advantages over the ones now in use, the chief of which are greater safety, elasticity, durability and cheapness. The new frog is constructed largely of wood, there being but a single solid plate as a base instead of three as ordinarily. Its mechanism is such that the point of the V is held securely in place even if broken, so

Leading Wholesale Trade of Montreal

JOHN McARTHUR & SON,

Importers of and Dealers in

White Lead & Colors,

DRY AND GROUND IN OIL.

Varnishes, Oils, Window Glass, Star, Diamond Star and Double Diamond Star Brands English 16, 21 and 28 oz Sheet, Rolled, Rough and Polished Plate Glass, Colored, Plain and stained Enamelled Sheet Glass.

Paints and Artists' Materials.
 Chemicals, Dye Stuffs.
 Naval Stores, &c., &c., &c.

OFFICES AND WAREHOUSES:

310, 312, 314 and 316 St. Paul Street
AND

253, 255 and 257 Commissioners Street

MONTREAL.

that serious consequences to accidents are rendered less probable. The V is made of solid metal, and claims on this account superior strength to all others. The wing-rails are made square cut instead of with flanges like the ordinary rail, and have therefore greater durability, while they offer less opportunity for the wedging in of obstacles that might occasion disaster. The Dominion authorities have recently given orders for a number of frogs of another description, and, as we are informed, are withholding further orders pending developments as to the supposed merits of the new invention.

An experiment with electric and gas light has been making on two of the principal thoroughfares of Paris for some months past and the honors are said to be in favor of electricity for mere scenic effects, and in favor of gas for practical utility. The regulations were that the gas was to be provided in any volume and manner the Company might choose, but not to exceed in cost the expense of the electric light. The locality of the trial, namely, Avenue de l'Opera for electricity and Rue Quatre Septembre for gas, was admirably adapted for such a test, both streets presenting a vista of their entire length to the spectator at the Place de l'Opera. The chief objections to the electric light are stated by a newspaper correspondent to be uncertainty as to its steadiness and the casting of dense shadows, rendering discrimination in wares and goods and recognition of individuals difficult. These defects are grave, affording the criminal classes facilities for eluding the police. It should be stated that gas in Paris is very cheap relatively with other cities, and that for this purpose of competition an extraordinary volume of flame was supplied, assuredly at the very minimum of expense.

ORDINARILY it would appear a very simple matter to determine whether or not any given party were insolvent, but the case of Mr. T. F. O'Brien, of this city, a large dealer in real estate, demonstrates that even this plain question of fact may be so covered up with legal proceedings as to become practically

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SPRING SEASON, 1880.

**OSTRICH and VULTURE
PLUMES.**

The stock of Ostrich and Vulture Feathers will be assorted in all its departments on the 12th inst. All orders received by letter will command personal attention.

J. H. LEBLANC,
 517 CRAIG STREET,
 MONTREAL.

Batty's Pickles,

(FULL STOCK JUST ARRIVED.)

**C. H. BINKS & CO.,
MONTREAL.**

unanswerable. O'Brien is stated to have considerable property, heavy liabilities, and not much available cash, and from his frequent appearance in Court it is evident that maturing obligations keep him in financial straits, but thus far decisions of Court have been in the main in his favor. An effort to place the embarrassed but unvanquished land operator in insolvency came up under review before Mr. Justice Johnson last week and again met with adverse judgment. The four reasons alleged for seeking to place O'Brien in insolvency are clearly and tersely stated in the Judge's decision, and are as follows: 1st. The defendant had given plaintiff a check on the Consolidated Bank for amount of claim, and the check had been dishonored. 2nd. Defendant had acknowledged to deponent his inability to pay his liabilities in cash. 3rd. Defendant had allowed several final judgments to remain unsatisfied. 4th. Writs of capias have issued, and demand of assignment has been made. The Judge set aside all but the allegation of admission of insolvency as having nothing in them, and on reference to that admission finally disposed of it as inconclusive, since "it must be taken to mean that he could not pay all his liabilities with money ready in hand. He was only liable to pay his liabilities as they matured. If he had said he would be unable to meet his liabilities as they matured the case would be different." Surely a business man passing through such an ordeal of alleged insolvency is entitled to congratulations.

CUSTOM is a great tyrant, and that which would appear to be an innocent transaction in one line of business might present itself in the light of a grave offence in another. A case in point is that of an operation in fish recently transpiring in this city. A certain dealer having, it may be assumed, scanned the situation and counted the cost, bought up the entire visible supply of herring with a view to compel a good price from consumers. All went well for a time, and the speculation promised to be quite a success, the calculations as to supply and demand gradually unfolding themselves as well founded and correct, when, most unac-