

A SWEDISH shoemaker, says *La Halle aux Cuirs*, has invented a spring, which, placed immediately under the heel, gives an elasticity which facilitates walking. This spring is fastened at one end by the aid of a bit of metal, while the other penetrates the sole of the shoe. There is considerable commendation of the new invention.

THREE American jewelry peddlers have been fleeing a number of farmers in the townships of Gosfield and Mersea, Ont. The peddlers offered for sale cheap what they termed "solid gold Waltham watches," and the Patrons of Industry snapped at the bait. The watches sold were cheaply-plated articles, which can be purchased for \$2 a piece.

In 1884 the wholesale grocery and liquor firm of Bannatyne & Co., Winnipeg, was granted an extension of ten months. Then A. J. R. Bannatyne retired, and Andrew Strang continued under the style of Strang & Co. He did a good, and it was thought a successful, business, although he was heavily handicapped at the start. His present assignment is a matter of regret, as he was generally highly esteemed by the trade. We have not learned the extent of his assets and liabilities.

Among the business happenings of the week in this city is the assignment of James Cunningham, grocer. His liabilities and assets are about \$1,000 each.—During the past six months the Eureka Knitting Co. has become involved. Several judgments are recorded against it, and now the sheriff is in possession.—Wm. Mitchell, carpenter, has assigned.—Timms & Co., printers, who failed last week, have found their creditors very lenient, agreeing to a compromise of 70 per cent. discount.—J. G. Dixon is retiring from the Colonial Manufacturing Co.

LAST week a meeting of the creditors of George Doering, general storekeeper and egg dealer at Wellesley, was held, and an assignment was made to Henry Barber. In 1884 he left the firm of Doering Bros., at Waterloo, and started in Wellesley. He had plenty of energy, but sometimes a slight tendency to be reckless in his ventures. Lately he has been shipping to Liverpool large quantities of poultry, eggs, etc., and the result has proved unsatisfactory. His liabilities and assets will probably be about \$15,000 each.—T. B. Rosenarne, a small manufacturer at Olinda, has assigned.

H. H. STEVENSON, doing a small grocery business in Hamilton, has assigned with assets and liabilities about equal.—In Norman,

Ont., H. F. Atwell & Co., general storekeepers, are in trouble after being in business two years. Atwell is a minor, and was assisted by his parents to begin as a merchant.—Hugh Ward, a cigar dealer in St. Thomas, had no experience in this business and has probably lost the \$500 he invested in it. An assignment has been made.—Another cigar man is George Grube, Walkerton. For years he has been making cigars without adding anything to his capital. He, too, has failed.

LONG BROS., manufacturers of spring mattresses, Brantford, have been attempting too much on their slender capital. For some time past a chattel mortgage has been hanging over the contents of their premises, which are now closed in consequence.—The premises of Mrs. S. A. Fould, fancy goods dealer, Aylmer, have also been closed in the same way.—There are two furniture dealers in trouble this week. They are R. Savage, of Coldwater, who has been in business eight years, most of the time under chattel mortgages, and Adous & Co., Georgetown. The latter was supposed at one time to be in easy circumstances. Now he makes an assignment.

It is understood that the idea of towing large quantities of logs in cigar-shaped rafts is becoming very popular on the Pacific coast, and is giving, generally, success. The inventor of the Joggins system, H. H. Robinson, of St. John, N. B., is constructing a large raft of timber at Fort Bragg, for the Fort Bragg Redwood Company, and which, when completed, will be transported to San Francisco. The raft will carry a crew, and will consequently be equipped with rudder and steering gear, besides a complete code of signals for night and day use, anchors, chain, etc. The affair will be 360x36 feet at the centre, and will contain 3,000 piling sticks.—*Manufacturers' Gazette*.

We noted in last issue the embarrassment of Messrs. A. E. Hall & Co., of Grenville, Que., The firm is offering 40 cents in the dollar on time, which compromise creditors do not seem disposed to accept.—J. E. Desgagnier & Son, of Les Eboulements, on the remote Lower St. Lawrence, a trading concern dating back some 35 or 40 years, are asking an extension. They owe \$6,800, and show apparent assets of \$15,071. They were burned out in 1889, and have sunk some money in a blueberry canning venture.—A. Currihan, a Montreal saloon keeper, has obtained an extension of 12 months on liabilities of about \$2,000.—Joseph Poirier, a small general trader on the Metapedia River, has assigned.

COUNTERFEIT Canadian half dollars have recently been passed on storekeepers in Kentville, N.S. The counterfeits, says the *Chronicle*, are easily detected, being very dark "greasy," and of course without a ring when thrown on the counter. In the dark, however, they would be readily accepted by any one not on the look-out for them. They are counterfeits of the issues of 1881 and 1888. The man who passed them is described as of medium size, about five feet nine inches in height, 35 years of age; sandy complexion, light moustache face somewhat ruddy; dressed in dark plaid suit, with a broad dark stripe, and a short light drab summer overcoat. Look out for him.

YET another failure among the farmer-trader class. H. Dessurault & Co., general traders of St. Narcisse, Que., have assigned to a Montreal firm of accountants. Mr. Dessurault was a farmer who began storekeeping in 1884, but failing at it in 1889, he resumed business in his wife's name under the above style. His liabilities then were about \$3,000. What they are now we do not know.—A. E. Hall & Co., a peripatetic firm handling bankrupt stocks, and of late located at Grenville, Que., have called their creditors together. They owe \$3,300.—Demers & Co., of Montreal, dealers in Indian goods, are asking an extension.—A demand of assignment has been made upon Louis Veronneau, a Montreal contractor.

WITH few exceptions during the past ten years, it has been the custom of the president of the Toronto Board of Trade, for the time being, to address the students of the British American Business College in this city. On Wednesday of this week Mr. H. N. Baird, president of that body, gave an address full of sound and practical advice to the young men. As marking the interest which he takes in their business education, he stated at the close of his remarks that it afforded him much pleasure to donate a gold medal for general proficiency. This is in addition to the other gold and silver medals given by the faculty of the college. While Mr. Baird was not at liberty to speak officially for the Board of Trade, he expressed the hope that it would, at some future time, offer similar encouragement to the students to excel in those branches that were intended to fit them for mercantile life. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Baird for his valuable advice, and the generous, and quite unexpected, donation.

At a recent sale in the Fifth Avenue Auction Rooms, New York, Mr. R. G. Dun paid \$750 for a painting said to have been done by Hen-

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