

THE total amount of claims against Archbishop Purcell of Cincinnati and his brother Edward reaches \$3,677,151.49; their total assets are \$1,181,569.47; of which \$418,536.28; is classed as doubtful or worthless—showing a deficit of over \$2,500,000.

THE mine of Anthracite coal at Point Lepreaux, N. S., is attracting the attention of American capitalists. Mr. H. L. Fuller, lately manager of the Jeddo colliery, Pennsylvania, has been instructed by Mr. Belloni, of New York, proprietor of the Block House Mines, Cape Breton, to proceed at once to Lepreaux and make a careful examination of the nature and extent of the coal deposit there.

ALBERTITE coal from Albert County, New Brunswick, is being actively got out and sent per Albert Railway to wharves for shipment abroad. A vessel has been chartered to take a cargo this week from Hillsboro wharf.

THE success of the Newfoundland seal fishery, for which fears were entertained, is pronounced by letters of 6th and 10th May to be assured. It appears that up to the 6th inst. 38 steamers and sailing vessels had arrived at St. John's, N.F., with 257,055 seals, in all weighing 114,200 cwt. Among the largest cargoes were the S. S. "Greenland," with 24,022; the "Eagle" and "Falcon," with 20,391 and 22,030 respectively. The average load of each vessel would be about 3,005 seals.

A COMMITTEE of citizens of Dartmouth, N.S., consisting of Messrs. John F. Stairs, Dr. W. H. Weeks (Warden of the town), and D. Falconer, visited Ottawa last week, to interview Sir Chas. Tupper in advocacy of the scheme to build a branch of the Intercolonial Railway from Grand Lake into Dartmouth.

MORE disappointment and rage over shoddy goods bought from peddlers. Mr. McIntosh, a yeoman of Erin township, was approached, we are told, by a tall, red-whiskered, talkative pedlar, who offered to sell him "first class cloths at 20 cents a yard." The farmer said he did not want to purchase, but was finally persuaded to look at the goods, and to purchase five pieces, for which he gave a note of \$48. It was not till after he had given the note that he examined the texture of the stuff, and found it rubbishy shoddy, not worth the trouble of making up.

MR. George Massey, who has for years been favorably known as connected with the drug warehouse of Messrs. Lyman Bros. & Co., of Montreal and Toronto, being more lately their manager here, has left this city to connect himself with a prominent firm of manufacturing druggists in New York, Messrs. Lanman & Kemp. Mr. Massey was the recipient at his leaving of a marble clock, and bronze side pieces, from the Toronto Lacrosse Club, of which he was the founder.

THE Magdalen Islands, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, are now visited by a weekly steamer from Pictou, which makes a trip also thence to Gaspé every month, a recent arrangement. A letter from the Islands states that 14 vessels have just arrived at Amherst with 8,000 seals,

making the total catch this season, reporting there, 25,000. Herring had also "struck in."

IT is agreed by some city retailers, that to do a cash business in cities is impossible, but that in the country goods should never be sold except for cash or produce. In our simplicity we have considered it easier to adhere to the cash system in cities, for the money is supposed to be more readily at command of customers. We put it to our city merchants, however, whether it is not just a little too easy-going a credit system which permits a man to run, as W. C. Morrison, a recently insolvent jeweller did, 66 accounts, amounting at his failure to \$12,651—of which \$6,389 was to the banks—in this city alone, out of total liabilities of \$18,574? Of his 90 creditors, 54 were for sums under \$100; and the list includes 11 jewellers or platers, 6 dry goods dealers, wholesale and retail, 6 stationers or printers, 2 butchers, 2 bakers, 2 hatters, several carpenters and machinists, 3 house furnishers, while the carpet dealer, the tailor, and even the confectioner have claims to file, ranging from \$2.00 upwards. He owed even for his insurance, France, Germany, New York, New England and Montreal each has a little bill against the estate, and all they get out of it is 5½ cents in the dollar; \$975 realized to pay \$18,574, after expenses are deducted. Let us hope that out of the 90 creditors, there will be at least 60 (we cannot hope for more) who will help this trader to recommence business aright by refusing to sell him except for cash.

THE newest swindle in Huron County appears to be the stealing of ladies' hair; not clipping it from their heads during sleep, but getting it in the way described by the *Expositor*, which says that three men, a father and two sons, professing to dress hair, canvassed Seaforth and vicinity, and collected "combings" from the ladies which they had been saving for years, representing that they would do up the hair into switches, curls, or any other shape, and return it to the owners. Having got sufficient to satisfy them, they suddenly took their departure and cannot be traced. They will do up the hair, sell it to dealers, and make a good thing out of their rascality.

IN the rebellion days of 1837-8, says "R. V. W." in the *News*—the very time, by the way, that Rowland Hill introduced penny postage—a letter from Lacolle, Que., to Montreal, cost for postage 7½c, to Quebec, 26 cents, and to the lower provinces 45c. But even in 1848 it cost 66c (2s. 9½d.) to send a letter from Toronto to Halifax, and took twenty days to carry it. Twelve days was the time from Toronto to Quebec, and the postage on a half ounce letter from St. John to Halifax was 28 cents.

"AN ungovernable desire to become rich," was what induced Edwin Harris, book-keeper for the boot and shoe firm of Yoe Bros., Chicago, to steal from that firm, between 1871 and 1878, some \$15,000, which he invested in real estate, in bonds, and in Messrs. Yoe's own business. His embezzlement bankrupted his employers, and sent him, a ruined man, for seven years to the Joliet penitentiary. To paraphrase Hood:

"He had worked for gold, as if for his bread
And the metal had undermined him;
Gold ran in his thoughts, and filled his brain.
Gold; stolen, squandered, borrowed, doled;
Heavy to get, but light to hold;
Price of many a crime untold."

PERHAPS the most elaborate plan of a fishing establishment which has been made of late in Canada is that of the 'Duke of Beaufort,' Sir John Read, Mr. Sothern and their English party who purpose salmon fishing on the Natashquan river on the north shore of Quebec. Bedsteads, tables, chairs, tents, have been made to order for the occasion; a steamer chartered at \$1,000 to convey the party down the gulf; the yacht *Acadian* secured to take them up where the steamer puts them down early in June. It is not announced what special arrangements Mr. Sothern has made on this occasion for the perpetration of the practical jokes of which he is so fond. But it is as nearly certain as anything can be that his party will have "lots of fun," and the *eclat* of this notable pleasure trip can scarcely fail to attract further influential parties from the old countries to our shores in search of sport.

IT is stated that during the month of May 5,415 head of Canadian cattle, 1,104 sheep and 246 pigs passed "through quarantine" for the European market.

AN attachment has been issued against Geo. Murphy, boot and shoe dealer, of Ottawa, in business for twelve years. In 1877 he got behind in payments and was attached, but this he contested with success and at the time showed a surplus of \$9,000. The liabilities are placed at \$8,700, and assets at \$6,600; real estate included, but the depreciation of his assets must have been very rapid to have swamped \$11,000 within so short a period.

THE estate of Messrs. Lawless & Davidson, grocers, of Brockville, has been attached, liabilities \$12,000, and assets \$10,000. Mr. Edward Lawless, the originator of the business, compromised at sixty cents about two years ago, after which the present firm was formed; but it has struggled under too heavy a burden, the arrangement of Mr. Lawless being more than they could carry out.

MR. David Sinclair, at one time a member of the late firm of Sinclair, Jack & Co., Montreal, has been appointed one of the general appraisers for the Dominion.

THE estimates for the year's expenditure laid before the Prince Edward Island Legislature amount to \$304,795. The principal items are:—Administration of Justice, \$27,023; Education, \$85,640; Legislation, \$13,700; Lunatic Asylum, \$14,125; Provincial Exhibition, \$1,650; Paupers, \$7,000; Public Lands, \$7,350; Public Works, \$118,003.

ST. JOHN, N.B., is brewing lager beer. The influx of Yankee workmen after the fire, developed a thirst that it took 1,600 gallons of imported lager to assuage. Mr. Ready has, therefore, fitted up premises at Fairville, 50 x 40, three stories high, to brew the beverage.

THE death is announced, at the age of 64, of Mr. Michael W. Browne, of Hamilton, one of four brothers, of whom Mr. E. Browne, forward-