

Mercantile Summary.

ABOUT 300 new bicycle factories, large and small, have been started in the United States within the past year.

AT Picton, Ont., real property is changing hands more actively than usual and several buildings will be put up this summer.

THE United States Treasury gold reserve, at the close of business on Monday last, stood at \$127,564,712. There remains to be paid in on account of the recent bond issue about \$9,000,000 in gold.

A SHEFFIELD steel manufacturer, who has spent some months in the Transvaal, reports that he found in Johannesburg alone, no less than thirty-two representatives of steel houses in England and Scotland, who were competing for orders in the "Golden City."

WE learn from the Montreal *Gazette* that space for some three million bushels of grain has been taken on steamers to sail from Montreal the first two or three weeks of navigation. The total grain shipments of last season from Montreal were only about eight million bushels. It looks as if 1896 would be a good year for the port.

THE Great Northern Railway of Quebec made a proposal to the city of Quebec, under which, if accepted, the company would, says the *Chronicle*, have built all their freight cars in that city. But, as the city council has been slow to move, the company has had built by the Rathbun works at Deseronto, Ont., a lot of box cars for grain, 40,000 pounds capacity each. They are painted a dark Tuscan red, lettered in French and English, in white letters, and numbered in white figures.

THE demand for gas engines as a source of motive power in the hardware trades of the Black Country of England is steadily increasing, and now that by the gradual lapse of patent rights by the effluxion of time the price of gas engines is reduced, it is, says the *Hardware Trade Journal*, of Birmingham, becoming a recognized fact that, for all industries in which motive power of enormous magnitude is required, the days of the steam engine are numbered. If any proof of this were needed, it would be supplied by the fact that when any disused steam engines and boilers are submitted for sale, they only realize "breaking-up" prices.

WATERTVILLE, QUE., intends to have a large furniture manufacturing company. The stock is nearly all taken, and a meeting is shortly to be held to organize. They intend to buy all machinery of the latest and most approved patterns. Also the new foundry of Gale & Co. is nearing completion, and is to be equipped with working material from Great Britain. The principal part of the work in this foundry will be the making of iron bedsteads, which have hitherto been largely imported from England.

A STOREKEEPER at Mattawa, Ont., P. A. Ferguson, is offering his creditors 30 cents, on liabilities of about \$6,000. He obtained indulgence from his creditors in '89 in the shape of a compromise at 50 cents.—The Plantagenet Fruit Syrup Co., of Plantagenet, Ont., incorporated a year ago with a small capital, are reported asking extension over nine months.—J. A. Larochelle, baker, Mattawa, Ont., is reported to be offering 15 cents on the dollar.—G. A. Torrance, a tinsmith at Smith's Falls, wants a settlement at 25 cents.—Wm. Angus, painter, Pembroke, has assigned.

THE Cuddy-Mullin Coal Company, of Cleveland, has bought W. H. Gatfield's interest with the Mullin-Gatfield Coal Company's docks at Amherstburg and Sandwich in the Detroit River, and has let contracts for a large addition to be built to the Sandwich dock, and for the erection of several more pockets. The Cuddy-Mullin Company has also arranged to build extensive fueling docks in the Soo River. Messrs. Cuddy and Mullin, who, by the way, are Canadians, were the first to go out in the outer harbor of Cleveland. They will have five coal docks in operation during the coming season.

INSOLVENCY proceedings have been begun against Joseph Durand, jeweller, Montreal, as an absentee.—P. Monnette, grocer, formerly of V. & P. Monnette, has assigned, and offers 10 cents on the dollar.—H. Wilson, formerly a dry goods clerk, began business for himself in the fall of 1893, at Point St. Charles. He has now assigned, owing some \$6,000.—F. M. Sowdon, agent and trader, fyles, on his assignment, a list of liabilities aggregating \$6,818, with few assets.—Joseph Vineberg, a small dealer in cheap clothing, has assigned, owing about \$700.—Mrs. C. S. Thompson, doing a small grocery business under the style of C. S. Thompson, is insolvent.—Alex. Nelson & Co., of Montreal, the firm of jobbing furriers reported last week as asking a compromise of 50 cents on the dollar, have now been served

with a demand of assignment, at the instance of M. Vineberg & Co.—A retail concern, in the same line, is also reported in difficulties, an assignment having been by made Mrs. W. V. T. Samuel, doing business under the style of Wm. Samuel. The liabilities are about \$1,700.

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