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Mercantile Summary.

A BRIEF business career has been that of H. C. Martin, hardware, Kingston, Ont., a young man, who after several years clerking experience began for himself only last fall.

N. E. SEDERQUEST, furniture dealer, St. Stephen, N.B., is reported failed. He has only been in business a year, and was previously a foreman in a furniture factory. He gave a bill of sale for \$2,849 within a fortnight or so.

THE embarrassment is reported of George McGarry, Montreal, a curer of hams and bacon, and general dealer in provisions. He has been over-liberal in the matter of credit, and has been evidently cramped financially for some time past. He will lay his affairs before creditors shortly.

AT Albion, P.E.I., J. Skerry, dealing in groceries, stationery, etc., has become insolvent. He was burned out last December, with only \$600 insurance, and his loss could not be readily calculated, as he kept no books of any kind. He has assigned, giving a bill of sale on lobster factory, etc., for \$800, before doing so.

A CHANGE has taken place in the important sole leather tanning firm of Shaw Bros. & Cassils, whose headquarters are at Montreal, but who have also a business in Quebec, and several large tanneries in different parts of the Dominion. Mr. Henry B. Cassils has been admitted to an interest in the business, dating from June 30th last.

COLLECTOR of Customs Milne at Victoria, B.C., has been advised that the British ambassador at St. Petersburg is pressing the claims of the sealing schooners "Willie McGowan" and "Ariel," and an early settlement is looked forward to in the matter, as it is understood that a Russian commission has decided that the schooners were illegally seized, and that the owners and crew are entitled to compensation. The vessels named were of the sealing fleet sailing from Victoria in 1892, and both vessels were seized during the month of July in that year, within ten days of each other, by the Russian cruiser "Zabiaka," on the charge of being within the three-mile limit from the Copper Islands.

THE assignment on demand is reported of Renfret & Marcotte, wholesalers in small wares and fancy goods, Quebec, Irene Marcotte being the only proprietor. The liabilities are put at about \$25,000, of which some \$17,000 is said to be due to a friend, who aided Mr. Marcotte with money as well as endorsements. Other failures are reported from the ancient capital, as follows: P. C. Dauteuil, clothier, has assigned, owing about \$12,000 direct, and \$1,800 indirect, with assets nominally \$15,000. Mr. D. was once unsuccessful in the dry goods trade, and later a broker and assignee—Mrs. L. P. Vallee, milliner, has assigned on the demand of Messrs. Caverhill, Kisson & Co., Montreal, and owes about \$4,000, showing assets the same.—Joseph Magnan, shoes, who has carried on a retail business the past ten years, having married Mrs. F. Demers, the former proprietor of the business, whom he had assisted to secure a compromise, has also assigned.

TWO Nova Scotia failures are reported as follows: J. J. Campbell, for over 25 years in the grocery business at Glace Bay, has had to assign. Two years ago he built a big hotel property, at an estimated cost of about \$10,000, and has been cramped in consequence ever since.—A failure which is exciting a good deal of comment is that of B. Whitehouse, dealer in

dry goods, etc., Yarmouth, who is seeking a compromise. He has apparently made "un-friends" of the other merchants of the town, by his peculiar business methods, and they have signed a round-robin addressed to his creditors, asking that a composition be not granted to him, as it would be an injustice to other legitimate merchants who calculate to pay their debts in full. Whitehouse first started business some few years ago in a peddling way, and supplying other Hebrew peddlers, but eventually worked up quite a regular retail business, getting the name of cutting prices, etc. His liabilities are estimated at \$13,000, and he is reported to have preferred a Montreal co-religionist very recently.

"THE first corporation which has deliberately undertaken to treat money-making as an applied science" has gone out of business. It began in New York, in 1895, as the Monetary Trust, and in its advertisements, as quoted above, announced its readiness to speculate for customers on "scientific" principles. The scheme does not seem to have produced a favorable impression, says the *Shipping List*, for the Stock Exchange took exception to the methods employed. On Thursday last, the Monetary Trust threw up the sponge, and announced its intention to withdraw from business, and from existence also. As an experiment in "applied science" it was not a success.

It is not so many years since the letters "CHIMO," spoken, or written or yelled upon the field, caused a flutter in the hearts of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Torontonians, for this curious word was the club cry of a pet organization, the Toronto Lacrosse Club. In the seventies and in the eighties this body of athletes, or at least the first twelve of them, did a great deal for the national sport of Canada. They played the game with a skill and in a spirit that attracted delighted crowds; and they made the body they represented the equals of those hitherto unbeaten clubs, the Montreals and the Shamrocks. For some years past the game has languished in Toronto and the club has not shown its wonted form. Now, however, a strong and effective committee has been formed, and a really good team of players secured. We are likely, therefore, soon again to witness the attractions of genuine lacrosse played with old-time vigor. This being the case and the opposing teams being worthy ones, the club, we venture to predict, will not lack either members on its roll or crowds on its Rosedale field.

It was not all blow on the part of the reckless Westerner who said to the writer a few years ago at Revelstoke: "Why, gosh all Christ-mas! stranger, there's silver and gold any wheres within a thousand mile from here." The people around Calgary are finding gold, according to the *Herald*, which says: "Prospectors in the Calgary district are daily increasing both in number and activity. The latest discoveries are on the Elbow River. Not only has gold been washed out of the river gravel at Weasel Head crossing by the ordinary panning process, but quantities of black sand similar to that which is causing such excitement on the Saskatchewan, have been taken out. One assay of \$26 has been taken from Elbow River gravel, and old prospectors are of the opinion that the river is destined to produce large quantities of the precious metal. Fresh strikes are also reported from Sheep Creek, south of Calgary. Samples of stephanite, or black silver, have been brought in from the south fork, and the native silver is visible in small globules when the samples are subjected to the blow pipe."

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