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Mercantile Summary.

THE proprietor of the Robinson House, temperance hotel, Toronto, Marshall Flick, has assigned to J. P. Langley.

THE chairman of the finance committee of the town of Galt asks for tenders for debentures to the amount of \$12,000.

CUSTOMS collections for the last quarter at Montreal amounted to \$2,499,320, as compared with \$1,745,210 for like period of 1897. September's collections were \$639,051, which is about the same as the previous September.

MR. HOPWOOD, of the British Board of Trade, London, England, who has been in Ottawa for the purpose of looking into the patent system and trade mark registration, is going to Washington on a similar mission.

AT Berlin on Tuesday last the finance committee of the council recommended that the offer of the Confederation Life Association for \$102,000 debentures for the water works, issued at 3¾ per cent, of \$103,150 be accepted, it being the highest.

THE city of Stratford continues to make considerable strides. The new Municipal Buildings, now in progress of completion there, will be quite an imposing structure. Some \$30,000 will be expended on them. The roof is to be on this autumn. Having purchased the gas works, they contend that they will be enabled to give citizens light at a considerable reduction. The Council further intimates an intention to purchase the water supply plant, and give their citizens the benefit of a reduction on that also, if they can. The Classic City is a progressive place.

JAMES KERR, at one time quite an extensive dealer in grain and feed, at Montreal, is reported an absentee. His habits have been subject to comment of late years, and his affairs have fallen into bad shape. Last week he left town, leaving a letter to his book-keeper, stating that he would not return, and upon application to the Court, a meeting of creditors has been fixed for the 13th inst., to appoint a curator. Kerr, not long ago claimed a surplus of some \$25,000, but, notwithstanding this, the estate is expected to turn out poorly.

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