Mercantile Summary.

It is announced that the New Vancouver Coal Co. is about to start operations on the Harewood and Southfield coal mines, near Nanaimo, which have been abandoned for some years.

It is announced that Quebec will soon have another grain elevator of even larger capacity than the one now being completed, if the harbor commissioners can grant the request of the western trade for the necessary accommodation on the Louise embankment.

The assignment, on demand, is reported of Arthur Matte, a retail hardware dealer, of Quebec. He only began business in 1898 with the assistance of his father.——Archibald Brown, a wrecker, of the same city, has been asked to assign, by J. McNider & Co., bankers.

It is reported that the War Eagle and Centre Star companies, operating near Rossland, are about to build a smelter for the treatment of their own ores. The mines are being steadily developed, though shipments are not going forward for the present.

J. M. Cassidy, of Chatham, N.B., a painter by trade, after working for some years in the United States, returned several years ago, and started a grocery business, which has proved unsuccessful, and he has assigned to the sheriff. Liabilities are estimated at about $5,000.

G. F. Beverly, a hardware retailer, of St. John, N.B., who began business three years ago, has made an assignment of his estate. He was burned out last May, and the insurance companies have been contesting a settlement, owing, it is said, to his carrying a stock of explosives without a permit.

A special to the Mail and Empire states that on the 17th inst., the Mayor of Brockville delivered the bonds for the purchase of the plant of the Light and Power Co. to W. H. Comstock, ex-M.P., and received a cheque for $101,082. Of this, $85,000 was forthwith paid over to the company for the plant. The value of the stock, tools, fuel, etc., still remains to be settled.

Business troubles are reported from Ottawa, as follows: John Roos, a well known tobacconist, established for many years, has assigned, owing, it is reported, to accommodation given to the lately insolvent cigar manufacturing firm of Smith, Fischel & Co., of St. Jerome, Que. He has had much bitter experience from this same cause in the past, unwise endorsations having wrought his failure in 1878, and it is said he was also a sufferer through accommodation to H. Swain & Son, cigar manufacturers, who failed three or four years ago.——The assignment is also reported of the Wm. Lamb Manufacturing Co., biscuits, etc., who were burned out at the late great fire, and who never resumed business. Their insurance of $12,000 is said to have mostly gone to their bankers, who held the policies as security.——A. Gervais, a laundryman, whose plant, etc., was under chattel mortgage, is reported insolvent.