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PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

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Coal, Iron, Tin, Salt, &c.

Mercantile Summary.

The correspondence signed "Insurer," is unavoidably crowded out this week,

PRIZE ESSAY.-Fifty dollars will be paid by the proprietors of the Montreal Journal of Com-MERCE for the best article on the Causes of the depression affecting the Mercantile and Industrial interests of Canada; having reference also to prospects of improvement. There must be at least ten competitors. Time given, till 1st March.

The Bank Statement for December appears in the Canada Gazette of the 15th, but, as it is lacking in many important particulars, we defer publishing it till next week,

In our last issue, referring to the lumber firm of Finlay & Brosseau, it should have been stated that Mr. Finlay of the firm is interested only in the yards appertaining to the firm in Montreal, and has never had any interest in the yard at Chambly.

G. R. Marler & Co., wholesale dealers in millinery goods, have been obliged to assign. This is surprising to most parties, though it was reported last spring that they had to get an extension from British creditors, with whom their liabilities mainly lie.

The wholesale boot and shoe business dues not seem to find congenial soil in Ottawa. The Ottawa Boot and Shoe Co. was inaugurated less than a year ago by Messrs. Erskine & Thurston with a great flourish of trumpets, but theirs has been a butterfly existence. They were served with a writ of attachment last week.

In the dry goods business, N. Arsenault, a leading merchant of Sorel has failed to the surprise of his creditors. In business for some years, he has done an active trade and has always been regarded as prosperous; his stoppage is yet unexplained. Hamilton & Papineau. of Montreal, are also reported in trouble and unexpectedly, are asking creditors for indulgence; what shape the settlement will take is not yet decided.