

FALL SEASON, 1896

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Mercantile Summary.

THE first Canadian oyster schooner of the season, the "St. Anne," of Miramichi, N.B., has arrived in Montreale harbor. Now for the delicious Caraque bivalves!

OUR best wishes for the happiness of our confrere, Mr. J. G. Carter-Troop, editor of the *Montreal Journal of Commerce*, whose marriage to a charming lady of Toronto was one of the society events of this week.

THE assignment is reported from Quebec of George Roy & Co., tanners. The establishment is quite an old one, Mr. Roy having been in business over 25 years, but he has not accomplished much. He failed just about two years ago, and is reported to have been in trouble on a former occasion.

A COUPLE of retail grocery failures are reported in Montreal, as follows: Upon demand, R. H. C. Larose has made assignment of his estate, and owes \$3,573. He failed before in 1891. — S. Desy has also assigned, after a business career of six years, and shows an indebtedness of \$4,800.

THERE has been some unusual activity in cheese at Brockville. Buyers are understood to have got control of some 25,000 boxes in that section, A. A. Ayer & Co., of Montreal, being supposed to have got the bulk of it. A telegram states that some contracts have been made at 10 cents.

IN Ottawa we note two failures for the week. Sherwood Bros., a grocery firm of only 15 months' standing, having assigned, as also have H. W. Wilson & Co., dry goods merchants. The latter concern was in trouble before in February, 1894, and then compromised liabilities of \$21,000 at 50 cents on the dollar.

THE Fredericton and Carleton Steamboat Company has wound up its affairs, and is paying a final dividend of 73 per cent. on paid-up stock. The stock held in Fredericton and York county, New Brunswick, is \$5,118.08, and in Carleton county, \$3,540.19. This has proved an agreeable disappointment to creditors, most of whom thought their investment was valueless. It was long since they had dividends.

THE creditors of J. McPherson & Co., boot and shoe manufacturers, of Hamilton, met in Toronto on Monday. A committee composed of Messrs. J. S. King and A. R. Clarke, of Toronto, and C. K. Chapman, of Montreal, was appointed to look into the assets of the concern and report. An offer of 12½c. on the dollar has been made by a Hamilton syndicate. The total liabilities are \$188,086, and assets \$123,385.

THE sheriff has taken possession of the general stock of W. R. Crux, of Mimico, and it is to be sold to-day. Too much real estate is the cause of his difficulty. — J. R. Mader carried on a general store at Newmarket for some years, and in February, 1890, found it necessary to assign. After this he moved to Strathroy, and opened a millinery store under the style of Mader & Co., his wife being the owner. She, like her husband, was unsuccessful, and in January last was obliged to assign. The stock was then purchased by F. J. Dunnigan, who turned it over to Mrs. Mader, and the business was continued under the old style. Now she has again assigned. — An assignment was also made by C. S. Graves, dry goods dealer, Wallaceburg. Last week we noted his troubles.

WHETHER it means foolish speculation or sensible investment, it appears that Toronto is doing the lion's share of correspondence and enquiry about Kootenay mines. No other city

shows anything like the same interest. We learn from one of the telegraph companies that, for example, the September business with the Nelson and Rossland district of British Columbia was in the proportion of 3,000 or 4,000 messages to and from Toronto, as compared with less than 1,000 to and from Montreal.

ACCORDING to R. G. Dun & Co., the failures in Canada for the three months ended with September were 429 in number and \$3,924,257 in amount, being divided into 124 failures of manufacturers, owing \$1,306,039; 299 traders, owing \$2,599,717, and six other concerns, owing \$18,501. The total for the same time last year was 432 failures with obligations of \$3,390,218. In the nine months of 1896 Messrs. Dun & Co. say there were 1,559 failures, with liabilities of \$12,485,046, as compared with 1,339 failures in the nine months of 1895, owing \$9,928,203. The subdivision of these shows 406 manufacturing concerns, owing \$3,665,000 and 1,125 trading concerns owing \$8,752,000.

MESSRS J. D. IVEY & Co., wholesale milliners, Toronto, have suspended payment. J. D. Ivey commenced the wholesale millinery business in partnership with B. Mutchmore as long ago as February, 1881. In September, 1882, they dissolved partnership and the latter retired. In January, 1887, Mr. Ivey removed to Toronto and appeared to be fairly successful in the same business until the early part of the present year, when he realized that he had made some very heavy losses that financially involved him. On Monday last he found himself unable to meet his bills due on that date and resolved to suspend payment. Thus far no statement of assets and liabilities could be obtained. — F. W. Wilkes, plumber, Toronto, has assigned, with assets and liabilities nominally \$2,000.

IN 1890, Moses J. Dickie, of Bracebridge, became tired of tilling the soil, and sold his farm. Then he turned his attention to dealing in lumber, railroad ties, etc. Owing to lack of experience in business, he found this worse than farming, and is compelled to assign. — In July, 1894, George Reynolds, hotel keeper at Rosseau, assigned. Afterward the business was continued in the name of his wife. Her success being no better, she too assigns. — J. F. Spaulsbury, druggist at Warkworth, formerly of Colborne and also of Trenton, has assigned. The old adage about the rolling stone has apparently proved true in his case. — J. E. Lebel, jeweller at Palmerston, has found that it was difficult to make money. His assets have been mortgaged, and now the landlord has taken possession. — Difficulties among farmers seem more than usual this week. We notice that six of them in this province have assigned.

IN Fergus there are two tailors in difficulty. James Dass has been a resident of that town nearly forty years, and at one time he occupied a good position. Latterly his health has not been what he would desire, and his business has suffered in consequence. His establishment is now being closed by Assignee Clarkson. — An offer of 25 per cent., cash, is made to the creditors of W. A. Ross, also of Fergus; if this is not accepted an assignment will probably take place. — An assignment has been made by W. E. Farr, miller, at Cookstown. Three years ago he purchased the milling property of James Findloo, subject to a heavy mortgage. Owing to this he has been handicapped for want of capital. — A year ago, Derby & Allan, grocers in Hamilton, dissolved partnership. The latter paid the former \$650 for his interest. Evidently this has proved too large an amount, and now we hear of his assignment.