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Mercantile Summary.

CUSTOMS revenue at St. John for last month were \$62,799, as compared with \$64,499 in November, 1895.

THE steamship "Duart Castle" reached St. John via Halifax last Saturday from the West Indies, bringing 150 tons cargo. She was to sail for the return voyage, Monday, with 4,000 barrels cargo.

WE hear of the assignment of F. W. Drake, of Halifax, N.S., who began in the jewelry business in 1893 on a small capital.—A young beginner in the harness line, J. S. Williams, of Westville, has also had to assign.

THE Customs duties collected at Montreal during November amounted to \$180,482 as compared with \$200,607 in November, 1895. Inland revenue collected at that point for last month was \$480,811, and for the previous November \$563,616.

AN important country failure is noted at St. Charles, Que., on the Richelieu River, Hebert & Co., the leading mercantile firm of the place and many years in business, having assigned to Messrs. Kent & Turcotte, accountants, Montreal. The liabilities are stated at \$45,000, but further particulars are so far wanting.

AFTER a checkered career of 63 years, 20 of them in financial trouble, the old Philadelphia & Reading Railroad passed out of existence on 1st December, and its successor, the new Philadelphia & Reading Railway, took possession of the property, which for three years has been in the receivers' hands.

ENTERPRISE is a good quality, but it does not always lead to financial success. A few years ago W. C. Binions was a prosperous farmer in Grenville county, Ontario, and reputed worth \$8,000 to \$10,000. He began to deal in agricultural implements at Iroquois, and also engaged in the manufacture of butter. He is now gazetted insolvent.

A DESPATCH of November 30th, dated Rossland, states that the Bank of British Columbia opened a branch in Sandon, B.C., one day last week, and on Friday, 27th November, a branch in Kaslo, another point in the mining country. On Monday last the Bank of British North America opened a branch in Sandon. The addition of these three therefore makes seven branches of banks in the District of West Kootenay.

THE manager at St. Stephen, N.B., of the Bank of Nova Scotia, left that place last week for St. Andrews, where his bank does business on one day each week. As he descended some slippery steps at the wharf to catch the boat he slipped, and a valise containing \$1,000 cash and some documents left his hand and fell into the water. He did not go to St. Andrews that day or the next, but employed a diver, and recovered the valise intact on Sunday last.

A YEAR ago or more, the private banking office of S. Barfoot, of Chatham, Ont., was closed. The trustees have just issued their first annual statement showing the present liabilities to be \$126,019, and assets \$186,905. On Oct. 15th, last year, when the suspension took place, the liabilities were \$178,324, assets \$245,163, showing a surplus of \$66,839, since reduced to \$6,033. During the past year, however, a reduction of \$56,000 has been made in the liabilities; some of the creditors having accepted real estate or mortgages in lieu of their cash deposits, and the reduction to the Merchants' Bank has been brought from \$44,200 to \$20,500. Depositors are to receive their interest of 3 per cent. That for the first year has just been declared payable any time after Jan. 1st, 1897.

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