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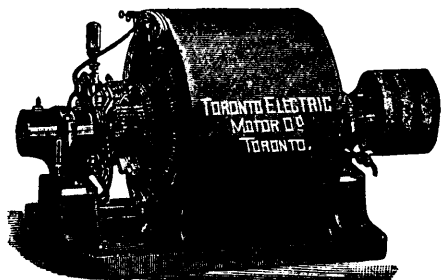
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Mercantile Summary.

THE Bank of Hamilton will open a branch in Winnipeg, on August 1st. The new manager will be Benjamin Wilson, Esq., late of Wingham, Ont., branch.

AFTER doing a small business harness-making for three years at Chesley, Nelson Rivers has assigned.—Another assignment is that of W. A. Hendershot, dealer in dry goods, etc., Welland. Since 1894 his father managed the business.

LAST March, E. A. Pocock, formerly a cigar-maker, started a small grocery in London West. Already we hear of his assignment. — In December last, W. H. Ashdown succeeded George Hewart, as a confectioner, in Guelph. Now we hear that the bailiff has sold his stock. — A. S. Russell, a Hamilton jeweler, has been in business seven years, and making no money, he assigns.

SOME friends of J. S. Murray assisted him in opening a tailoring shop, in Oshawa, two years ago, securing themselves by a chattel mortgage. Most of this has been paid, but not being able to make anything he is now obliged to assign.—Charles Lawlor, painter, Watford, also assigns.—Last February, Mrs. Frances Lloyd, Toronto, dealer in toys, gave a chattel mortgage, which has been foreclosed.

F. H. & J. W. Ross, dealers in wall paper and painters, Victoria, B.C., have assigned after being in business five years. About six months ago they claimed assets of \$1,000 and liabilities of \$190.—In the same place the mortgagees have foreclosed their mortgage of \$225,000 and interest on the Sayward Mill and Timber Co. (limited). The property and business will be sold.—J. D. Hoey, grocer, Vancouver, has assigned; his liabilities will not be large.—A trustee is in possession of the saw-mill premises of George Cassidy Co. (limited), in the same city. A banker holds a judgment for \$20,000 against the estate.

A VOLUNTARY assignment has been made by H. M. Loranger, a dry goods man at Sherbrooke, Que. He was in business some years ago, and failing in 1888, went clerking for a time. Three years ago he became one of the firm of Chamberlain & Loranger, who dissolved a year or so ago, and he started business in Granby, but removed here last spring.—An extension is asked by H. Gagnon, who has been in business a considerable time at St. Felicite, Que., but whose capital has lately become spread out in a steam saw mill and a creamery at Matane. He has shown signs of financial strain for some time. Liabilities are stated at \$13,000.

TOLL-GATES on the public roads have long been considered a burden. In Essex Co. the people have evidently decidedly strong objections to these relics of early settlement, and last spring one of the gates was burned. A few nights ago the inmates of four of the toll-houses near Windsor were driven out and the buildings saturated with coal oil and fired. About the same time a toll-house near Kingston was also burned. About Toronto the farmers have been trying to use the power of the law to accomplish what they want. Still "the toll-gate does not go." It is much to their credit that they quietly submit to the law. Canada does not want people who will burn and destroy because they cannot have their own way. In Essex the taxpayers, as a whole, as a result of their failure to organize lawful means to get rid of the gates, will have to pay heavily for the lawlessness now reported.

THE Montreal Rolling Mills, which were closed down for some time, have been reopened. Some four hundred men, many of whom never save anything, and were beginning to feel the pinch of want, have been rejoiced. At present, however, the work being done represents actual orders, as the company is not willing to make stock, in the uncertainty which prevails touching the tariff. The C.P.R. is a good customer of the rolling mills, and there is a good deal of work being done for the company at present.

A GOOD deal of trouble has been experienced by the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company of recent years on account of low water in the channel of the St. Lawrence River, particularly so near what is called Split Rock, which lies between Coteau and Beauharnois, and is one of the most dangerous waterways in the St. Lawrence River. Recently two pilots of the company have taken soundings at this point, with the result that the channel to the north of the one now in use was found practicable for steamers.

AT a meeting of the council of the Belleville Board of Trade held a week ago, after considerable discussion a committee was appointed to look into the matter of the preserving the flow of water of the river Moira, to collect data relating to it and the right of the property holders on and adjoining the river, and to report to the board. This and other local affairs were disposed of, when the matter of the formation of a Dominion Board of Trade composed of representatives of local boards was discussed and approved, and it was arranged that the secretary obtain the necessary information as to the formation and objects of the proposed board, and report to a final meeting of the council.

A MEETING of the creditors of Holmes, Moore & Courtright, Inwood, was held at Sarnia last Saturday. There were present creditors representing an indebtedness of \$27,000. Mr. J. Atkinson was confirmed as assignee, and J. Cowan, Sarnia, W. Lees, Hamilton, P. Mulhern, London, and J. B. Davidson, were appointed assignees. It was decided to wind up the estate. The unsecured liabilities are about \$34,000, and if the mortgages and securities are good there will be little or nothing to pay it with. The creditors are puzzled over a knotty legal question in the case. It appears that Van Tuyl & Fairbanks, of Petrolia, had an execution against the firm in the sheriff's hands, and application was made to the court for power to seize the goods. The court adjourned the matter for two weeks to allow of an assignment being made. Mr. Courtright, one of the partners, refused to sign the assignment, and Van Tuyl & Fairbanks have seized the goods to satisfy their execution, holding that no legal assignment has been made.

IMPORTANT SEALING DECISION.

A case of the greatest importance to sealing men—an action of the Crown vs. the schooner "Beatrice"—has been decided in the Exchequer Court of Canada by Chief Justice Davie, sitting as a Local Judge in Admiralty. The "Beatrice," of which Charles Doering was owner and master, was seized by the American cutter "Richard Rush," on the 20th of August last, just as it had commenced work among the seals in Behring Sea. It was sent back to Victoria under arrest, and was tried on a formal motion to confiscate the vessel and contents to the Crown. In this action the preponderance of evidence was with the vessel, the court deciding that the seizure was wholly unjustifiable and restoring the schooner, stores, and 203