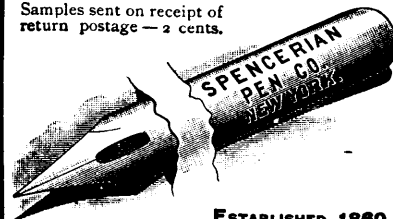


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 MONTREAL AND TORONTO

Mercantile Summary.

ONE hundred refrigerator cars of 60,000 lbs. capacity, and 400 box cars, are being built at the Canadian Pacific shops at Perth.

THE assistant city engineer of Toronto, Mr. Charles E. Rust, has been appointed on the council of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, in place of the late Alan McDougall.

THE Mayor of Rat Portage, Mr. Young, resigned his post at the last council meeting. He has accepted an appointment from the Ontario Government as Police Magistrate for the mining districts outside of Rat Portage.

A GENTLEMAN who was in Newfoundland last month tells us that the people of that island are more friendly to union with Canada. And Sir Donald Smith tells the London *Graphic* that such a union is only a matter of time.

It was stated in Dun's daily bulletin that a Montreal trader named Jacob Silverstone was financially embarrassed, and Jacob sued the agency. On Friday last Judge Taschereau heard the case and condemned R. G. Dun & Co. to pay Silver stone \$150 damages.

THE House at Ottawa passed the following private bills on Friday afternoon last: Trail Creek and Columbia Railway Company, fathered by Mr. Gibson; Columbia and Kootenay Railway and Navigation Company, Mr. Gibson; Great Eastern Railway Company, Mr. Prefontaine.

AN English gentleman named Edmund R. White left Winnipeg last week with Capt. Bell, of Selkirk, for Prince Albert, where they set out on an extended canoe trip over northern lakes and rivers. The trip is taken for the purpose of ascertaining the character of the country, and will occupy about three months.

THE pure food law in Great Britain is having the effect of reducing the proportion of adulterated food-stuffs in that country. The 46,692 samples of food examined during 1896, showed that only 4,093 were adulterated. Of these 2,030 were samples of milk, 702 spirits and 158 drugs. Milk and spirits were probably adulterated with water.

THE Government of New Brunswick has, according to a despatch of 11th, passed an order-in-council guaranteeing the bonds of the New Brunswick Cold Storage Company for seven years to the extent of \$150,000. The central storage house is to be built at St. John, and there are to be branch houses in Halifax, Sussex, Chatham and Moncton.

COUNTRY failures in the Province of Quebec for the last week or so are rather more frequent than during May. Here following are the latest: C. L. Begin, a grocer at Levis, who succeeded his father, has assigned, owing about \$2,000.—J. B. Laforest started a general store business at St. Perpetue de Nicolet last year, removing from St. Cyrille de Wendover, and has already assigned. He proposes to pay 50 cents on liabilities of about \$2,500.—James Gillies, general dealer, Matapedia, who suffered considerable damage from spring floods, and has been trying to compromise, has now assigned. He is said to owe about \$5,000.—R. Stafford, of Joliette, who has been doing a business to the extent of about \$25,000 a year, in groceries and flour, is reported an absentee, and is said to leave liabilities behind him of some \$8,000.—J. H. Wright, dealer in fancy goods at Sorel, lately reported as seeking an extension, has since assigned, and shows liabilities of \$2,785.—James Dewyea, peddler and trader at Stanbridge, owing \$2,380, and Miss M. L. Aubry, milliner of Three Rivers, with liabilities of \$2,785, have both assigned.

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