

Mercantile Summary.

A. H. WOODWORTH, in a small general store way at New Germany, N.S., has assigned making preferences of some \$800. He owes in all about \$1,600.

A HARNESSMAKER at Admaston, Ont., J. A. McEwan by name, has assigned, with small liabilities, and J. W. Crossley, a wagonmaker, at Almonte, has done likewise.

THE amount of rolling stock reported by the Canadian Pacific Railway at the end of December, 1897, was as follows: Box cars, 12,600; stock cars, 1,065; refrigerators, 4,890; oil tanks, 6; conductors' runs, 318; ventilator cars, 46; passenger coaches, 766; boarding or living cars, 497; locomotives, 619; general cars, 270—the grand total being 20,650.

PLANS have been prepared for new C.P.R. shops at Revelstoke, B.C., which are of a substantial and commodious nature and which will soon be erected for the accommodation of the Donald plant. The last engine has been jacked up at Donald, and until the Revelstoke shops are opened everything will have to go to Vancouver for repairs.

FOR thirty years or more C. E. Holliwell has been a periodical and stationery dealer, at Quebec. He is now obliged to assign.—In the same city, G. Gagnon, tobacconist, etc., has assigned to the court. He had previously had a meeting of creditors, at which he had offered 30 cents on liabilities of \$3,500.

AN assignment has been made on demand by Dame E. Maisonneuve, wife of S. Paquette, doing business as S. Paquette & Co., hotel keepers and contractors, Ahunsic, a new post office name for Sault au Recllet, Que. The liabilities reach to some \$13,500.—Henry De Witt, general dealer, at Chateaugay, Que., is reported as embarrassed and closed up, with liabilities of about \$3,000.—M. Echemberg, dry goods, lately reported failed at St. Hyacinthe, Que., is offering 20 cents cash and 10 cents on time.

VERY shortly after the death of Mr. Stanley Paterson, of Port Hope, and as a consequence of that event indeed, the Midland Trust Company of that town made an assignment to T. Dixon Craig. The company consisted of Stanley Paterson and John Paterson, his brother. For years they have done a large discount business with the farming community. The assignment was made to forestall the issuing of writs and a run on the bank, and to save the expenses of numerous individual lawsuits, which might have followed Mr. Paterson's death. The majority of the depositors reside in Port Hope and vicinity. It is supposed that the estate is quite able to pay, but time may be required in order to realize on the assets.

It has been decided that travelers' baggage and commercial samples shall be admitted free of duty into Canada, the decision in regard to the latter being as follows: "Cards, portfolios, pasteboard boxes or other coverings containing cut samples of cloth, edgings, textile fabrics, buttons of various patterns, and other articles, being representatives of goods and obviously intended for use only as samples to sell by, and having no commercial value, may be admitted free of duty." This exemption does not apply, however, to such portfolios, boxes or coverings used in displaying samples as are susceptible of being adapted to other use. Samples, such as are carried by commercial travelers usually, together with the trunks and other packages containing them, remain dutiable, excepting those, like the above mentioned, which are of "no commercial value."

Dog trains, sleds dragged by men and the traction engine over snow are not, it seems, the only practicable methods of travel to the Klondyke regions in winter. L. T. Watson, a member of the Indian Council at Suxman on the south-east coast of Alaska, writes the *Portland Oregonian* that the Stikine River affords a fine frozen highway, which he believes can easily be kept open all winter for horses. Mr. Watson is putting a lot of horses and sleds on the route to the gold fields.

FROM the activity being displayed, there is every prospect that the new town of Wabigoon, established about a year ago by the Canadian Pacific Railway land department, will become a second Rossland. A company has just been organized in London, Eng., the Rainy River and Ontario Exploration Company, with a capital of £150,000, to explore the whole country in the Wabigoon and Manitou districts with the object of securing claims and leasing desirable properties. The company has secured 630 lots in the town of Wabigoon, and will erect buildings this year of considerable proportions. Among the directors in London are J. Barker, J.P.; Col. A. Burton Brown, R.A.; Walton Lee, J.P., and J. W. Taylor, J.P., leading representatives of Finance in the world's metropolis.—*Winnipeg Free Press*.

MR. WM. WITHALL, who has been a prominent man in business circles of Quebec for forty or fifty years, and in Montreal for twelve, died in the latter city on Monday last, at the age of 84. He was born on the Island of Jersey, came to Gaspé as a boy, and as a young man began in groceries at Quebec. He was very successful, and became the largest shareholder in the Quebec Bank, of which he has been a director over thirty years. He has been also president or director of the Quebec Steamship Company, the Quebec Fire Insurance Co., the Quebec Street Railway Co., and several manufacturing enterprises. He had large interests in the Canadian Rubber Co. He held stock in nearly every bank in Montreal, and is said to have quite lately made large investments in the United States and in Yukon and British Columbia gold mines. Mr. Withall was not a pretentious or demonstrative man, on the contrary, rather retiring. But he stood well among business men, and had a good business head.

FOR the week, Montreal failures are as follows:—Having been served with two demands in insolvency, John Lorigan, a maker of mantels and dealing in furniture, has consented to assign.—Joseph Desautels, grocer, has made a voluntary assignment. Four years ago he failed before, and settled at 40 cents.—Charles Bazina, dealing in butter and general provisions, in the Bonsecours market, has assigned, and wants to compromise at 20 cents, cash.—E. J. Parent, formerly a clerk, started men's furnishings business six months ago, and has already assigned owing \$1,880.—A voluntary assignment has been made by L. Desjardins & Co., dry goods. Mr. Desjardins failed last August, with liabilities of \$30,000, and not getting a settlement, the stock was bought in for him at 5½ cents, and he resumed, under cover of his wife's name.—Another dry goods failure is that of A. J. Vallieres, who also failed as Jasmin & Vallieres in 1895, when he compromised the firm's indebtedness at 55 cents, and continued alone.—After failing in the fall of 1896, Ovila Chicoine, shoe dealer, resumed business on a compromise of 25 cents, on liabilities of \$4,300. He is again in trouble, and has made a voluntary assignment.

John Mackay

Public Accountant, Auditor, Receiver and Trustee

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Notice is hereby given that the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Shareholders of the

IMPERIAL LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

Of Canada, will be held at the Head Office of the Company, 26 King St. East, Toronto, Ont., on Wednesday, the 2nd day of February, 1898, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the reception of the Annual Report and Statement of the Affairs of the Company, for the Election of Directors for the year, and for all other business and general purposes relating to the management of the Company.

F. G. COX, Managing Director.
Toronto, January 17th, 1898.

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