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Mercantile Summary

COMPLAINT is made in Winnipeg as to the dearth of laborers, not only in the country for farming operations, but for building and railroad work as well.

THE private banking firm of J. C. Mc-Keggie & Co., Elmvale, announce that they will open a branch office at Fenelon Falls, Ont., about 1st October next.

THE Pontiac & Pacific line, which is under construction between Aylmer and Hull, will be completed about October 25th. A new station worth \$7,000 is being built in Hull.

A NUMBER of miners, who have been working at the copper mines at Capelton, in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, are going to the Sudbury mines, being attracted thither by higher wages.

WEDNESDAY of last week, when the royal visitors were in Montreal, was the greatest day for the Street Railway Company in its history. Nearly 300,000 passengers were carried, compared with 125, ooo or 150,000, which is usually the number on a holiday or fine Sunday. Over 350 cars—everything available—were in commission

IT is now definitely stated that the Cape Breton Electric Company is in a fair way towards obtaining a franchise from the Glace Bay council, permitting it to start work on the construction of an electric railroad through that town. This means that within a short while the industrial centres of Cape Breton will be belted by electric roads.

IT is announced from Winnipeg that a company has been formed there, under the name of the Souris Coal Mining Co., which will result in the practical amalgamation of all the coal trading concerns in the south-western portion of the province under one head. The combined capital of those interested amounts to something like \$1,000,000. The output for last year -in the neighborhood of 50,000 tons-is expected to be doubled.

MERRITT BROS., wholesale grocers, St. John, N.B., who succeeded W. W. Turnbull about five years ago. the latter allowing a considerable portion of his capital to remain in the business for a number of years, are now in difficulty, and suspended payment last week. In 1898 they claimed to have about \$100,000 capital in their business. Whether that was correct or not, they now appear to have invested a considerable sum in gold-mining in Montana. This in the meantime is locked up. In addition to this, within the past year the firm has met a heavy loss by fire, notably in the Moss Glen mills, and also losses from other causes. The amount of their liabilities, which are reported very large, cannot yet be ascertained. Puddington & Merritt, retail grocers of this city, who were connected with Merritt Bros., have also suspended payment in consequence of the latter's failure. Another suspension in St. John is that of Charles Hoyt, grocer, from the same cause. He owes about \$2,500, and has nominal assets for a fourth of this sum.

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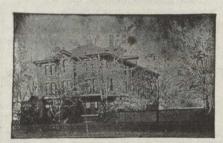
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