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Mercantile Summary.

At Belleville good progress is being made with the rolling mills. The contractor for the erection of the nail and spike factory has about completed his work. Ald. Hanley is also pushing forward to completion the larger building, known as the rolling mills proper.

Or the adult inhabitants of Manitoba no fewer than 93 per cent. can read and write. This creditable record is not easily surpassed. The only countries excelling this province in this respect are Switzerland, with 95 per cent.; Germany, 96; Scandinavia, 97 per cent. of their inhabitants able to read and write.

THE Magog (Que.), firm of Bouchard & Turcotte, have now assigned, and it has been decided to sell their stock, etc., at auction on the 1st prox. Liabilities are figured at \$5.632, with apparent assets of about \$5,000.—Frederic Poudrette, in a small butcher and provision business at Eastman, Que., has assigned.

WE noted some weeks ago the assignment of H. W. Benson, hardware dealer, Bridgetown, N.S., who declined to assign for some time, he has now assigned his book debts, etc., to H. E. Reed, official assignee. The stock went to satisfy judgments obtained some weeks ago. He has only been in business about two years, and has apparently made a wretched mess of things.

We have a letter from Winnipeg correcting a misstatement which was made in our issue of 14th inst., based upon a telegram at the time of the fire in question. Instead of the Winnipeg Trunk & Box Co. losing \$5.000, their loss was more like \$500, and the factory was running as usual within 24 hours after its occurrence. The award of the appraiser has been already paid by the Canadian Fire Insurance Co.

The speedy collapse is reported of a general store business, started only last spring, at Lyndhurst, by Matheson & Glover. The little capital they had was mainly furnished by Glover, who had no business experience, and was much away, while his partner managed affairs. The latter is reported to have recently realized all he could out of the business, and to have left, and Mr. Glover has made an assignment of the balance of the estate. They do not owe much.

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