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## Mercantile Summary

ESTIMATES are being prepared for the conversion of the New York and Ottawa Railway into an electric road.

ON March 3rd, at Chicago, the accounts of the Columbian Exposition of 1893 were closed with the payment of a final dividend of 4.65 per cent. to all the 2,000 stockholders. A dividend of ten per cent. had been paid in 1894. It was a great Fair, but financially a costly experiment. All told, the local organization spent \$26,000,000, and the National Government and the States \$7,000,000, the total spent on the Chicago World's Fair being \$33,000,000.

A GROUP of Montreal grocery failures is noted as follows: J. E. Robichaud, who began business in 1902 on a borrowed capital of \$1,500, has been asked to assign.—Mrs. E. W. Carignan, who for the past six years has continued the business of her late husband, doing also some jobbing in liquors, has made an offer of 35 cents on the dollar, which has not been favorably entertained. Within a year she claimed to have a surplus of \$11,000.—D. Michon, is offering 25 per cent. cash, on small liabilities, and a demand of assignment has been made upon J. M. Chapdelaine.

J. E. VOYER, a boot and shoe manufacturer in a moderate way, at Ancienne Lorette, near Quebec, is reported seriously embarrassed, and two Quebec retailers, who are reported to have accommodated him, are seeking compromise indulgence. The first of these, J. Campbell, has been in business some sixteen years, and now asks his creditors to accept 50 per cent. of their claims, amounting in all to some \$10,000. Chas. Binet & Fils, with previous favorable record of eleven years, offers 25 cents on the dollar, also showing liabilities of about \$10,000, with nominal assets \$5,000 or thereabout.

A DEALER named L. Leveque, carrying on general stores at St. Gedeon and St. Jerome, in the Saguenay district, has become insolvent through a serious loss made with a Montreal produce house, and his affairs are in the hands of a Quebec firm of accountants.—Ephrem Charbonneau, who has been a grocer at Lachine, Que., since 1886, has assigned. His business has been small, but his family is large, and he has had to throw up the sponge at last.—An unexpected failure is that of J. Z. Gagnier, general dealer at Howick, Que., who has just made a voluntary assignment. He only began business at his present address in the spring of 1903, and had previously been in the grocery line in Montreal, with a favorable record. Liabilities are stated at \$8,000, and he claims to have assets of \$11,000.—J. L. Roberge & Co., general merchants at Thetford Mines, Que., are reported as having assigned. They are said to owe some \$15,300, while showing apparent assets of \$20,000 odd.

## IMPORTANT WORK.

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