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Mercantile Summary.

It is calculated that Windsor's rate of taxation will not exceed 22 mills.

THE work of rebuilding 100 feet of the Port Stanley pier has been completed.

THE Chatham Dredging Company have commenced dredging on the Raleigh Plains outlet.

THE Forest flax mill has changed hands, William Weir having sold the property to S. Fraleigh, of St. Mary's.

NAVIGATION will likely open at Ottawa in a couple of weeks. The Ottawa Transportation Company expect a very busy season and are making extensive preparations.

THE Provincial Department of Agriculture, says the *Winnipeg Free Press*, has been able so far to supply the demand for experienced farm hands; but many applications for inexperienced men will not be filled until the first party of old country immigrants arrive.

A PETROLIA grocer named W. J. Ewing has assigned, after being in business less than three years. When he began, his father kindly gave him and his brother \$1,700. About a year ago the brother retired. The chief cause of trouble was lack of experience and too free credit.

THE Brantford Board of Trade are trying to discover a method of checkmating the railways in the withdrawal of the market-day tickets. A committee has been appointed to inquire as to the possibility of chartering trains to run from Woodstock, Paris, Galt and other points to Brantford on market day.

AT a special meeting of the Montreal Harbor Board, on April 2nd inst., the harbor master's report upon wharf berths for the coming season, as far as regarded the ocean lines, was adopted, it being practically the same as last year, with the exception that the outside berth on the Island wharf, occupied by the Black Diamond Line, was allotted to the Bristol Line of steamships, owned by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., to meet the strong representations of the butter and cheese trade as to a more central location of this line, it being one of those with which the Government has made arrangements for a weekly cold storage service. The Black Diamond Line was allotted the lower 300 feet of the space occupied last year by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co.'s London Line.

A MEETING of the creditors of E. D. Cotterette, hardware, Montreal, was held last Saturday, when he made an offer of 20 cents on the dollar. The liabilities were shown at \$20,575, partly mortgaged and privileged, and assets about \$15,000, but largely depreciable.

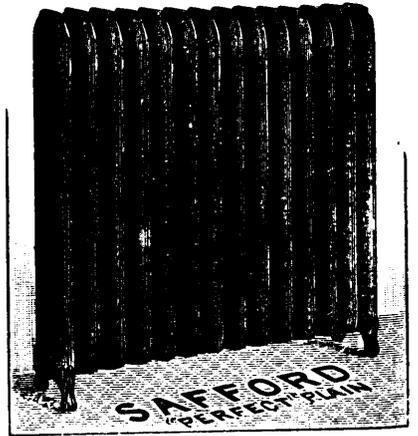
—R. Donaldson & Sons, machinists and iron workers, Montreal, have assigned on demand. The concern failed only last July, on which occasion the estate was bought in, and the firm reconstructed. The liabilities then were \$22,000, now they owe \$9,400.—R. G. Brown & Co., Montreal, tailors, are in a bad state. Their stock was recently seized for rent, and they are now offering 20 cents, cash, on liabilities of \$2,700. The concern is an offshoot of G. Brown & Son, who failed in '93.—The failure is reported of Hunt, Barnes & Co., a wholesale fish firm, Montreal. The firm was in trouble before in January, '96, when the firm was re-organized, with J. G. Brock as general partner, and Mrs. N. W. Smith as special partner to the amount of \$2,000, but with no better results than heretofore. The direct liabilities are \$4,860 and indirect \$2,700.—J. E. Bourdon & Co., coal dealers, Montreal, have assigned, owing \$1,600. Mr. Bourdon failed before just about one year ago.

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