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Mercantile Summary.

BEAN & WESTLAKE, biscuit manufacturers,
Woodstock, propose to extend their premises,
and are negotiating to purchase premises adjoin-
ing their factory.

HENRY A. CANFIELD, sporting goods dealer
in Woodstock, has been in business there since
March, 1896. He has made but little headway,
and now assigns.

HON. J. D. ROLLAND, of Montreal, has been
asked by a deputation of the Dominion Com-
mercial Travellers' Association, to be a candi-
date for the presidency of that body for a
second term, and has consented to do so.

BECKER BROS., two hard-working fellows
operating a planing mill in Stratford, have
made an assignment. They succeeded their
father in this business last February, and
although they did considerable trade, were very
poor business men. Liabilities will amount to
\$1,000, with assets of \$300 or \$400.

NAZAIRE LACHANCE, of Quebec, who has
carried on a grocery business in a modest way
in Quebec city for some thirty years or more,
without previous mishap, has been obliged to
assign. —The demand of assignment recently
reported as being made upon James Ellis, of
the same city, is being contested.

AMONG the passengers to Boston by steamer,
Saturday evening, says the *Halifax Chronicle*,
was Mr. Charles E. Platt, of Montreal; who
contemplates engaging in the West India trade,
having headquarters at Halifax, with branches
at Digby and Yarmouth. Should his scheme
materialize, a storage warehouse will be erected
at Halifax, and one at Digby.

AN insurance agent in Ottawa named Walter
Spencer, has left that city hurriedly for New
York, and his bondsmen have been asked to
make good a shortage of several hundred dol-
lars. Spencer wrote from New York to his
father, saying that evil companions had led him
astray, and that he would have to remain away
from Ottawa for the future and to seek to rise
from his fallen position.

DAVID BERTRAND, of Hawkesbury, Ont., who
has been doing business of recent years in gro-
ceries, produce, etc., under the name of his
wife, A. S. Bertrand, because of previous diffi-
culties, is trying to arrange a compromise at
20 cents. —The assignment is reported of F.
Offord, boots and shoes, Kingston, Ont., a son
of the late George Offord, well known in his
life time as a prominent name in the shoe line.

MR. ROBERT IRONSIDES, who handles the
bulk of the Manitoba and North-West cattle
that comes east, says that the North-West
trade this year been unprofitable and disap-
pointing. Poor quality he gives as the princi-
pal reason for the failure. Flies and rain in-
jured the stock and the cattle failed to fatten
up well on the long grass. He says that there
were an enormous number of cattle raised in
the North-West, and the fact that thousands
were taken across the line for feeding purposes
prevented a glut. Otherwise beef might have
sold on the Montreal market at a cent a pound.
Shipment to the British market did not turn
out well.

ACCORDING to the *California Fruit Grower*
the prune output of California for the past
seven years has been as follows: 1890, 16,000,-
000 lbs.; 1891, 27,500,000 do.; 1892, 22,500,-
000 do.; 1893, 52,180,000 do.; 1894, 44,750,-
000 do.; 1895, 64,750,000 do.; 1896, 55,200,000.
Total in seven years, 282,880,000 lbs., or more
than one hundred and forty thousand tons.

THE annual statement of the Cornwall
Electric Street Railway shows the total
receipts to have been \$25,282.68, and the
surplus earned forward to profit and loss,
\$1,359.87. The passenger receipts amounted
to \$16,557, while \$1,661 was earned in car-
rying freight.

THE estate of Thouret & Co., Montreal,
dry goods jobbers, is to be wound up.
The proprietor, Emil Thouret, has filed
consent to assign. He was formerly con-
nected with another dry goods firm, from
which he withdrew two years or so ago,
with a clean \$20,000, which, however, has
all been lost through an unwise liberality
in the dispensing of credits. It will take
Emil longer to make the next \$20,000,
probably.

FROM the Province of Quebec the following
list of country failures is reported for the week:
At Baie St. Paul, Louis Bouchard, a millwright
by trade, has been running a small store for the
past four years. Last year he built a mill for
making spool wood, which seems to have proved
too much for his limited capital, and he asks
indulgence from creditors, proposing to pay 40
cents cash, balance spread over 18 months. —
On the demand of Thibaudeau Bros. & Co., an
assignment has been made by Godfred Caron,
of Cap St. Ignace. In 1896 he settled at 65
cents. Liabilities are about \$3,000. — J. A.
Blondin, general store, St. Maurice, is asking
for a settlement at 70 cents on the dollar. He
was burned out last July. — Edouard Roy, of
L'Anse St. Jean, for many years doing a small
general store trade, is now reported to be
in some embarrassment, and to be consulting
his Quebec creditors, with the view of getting
a settlement. — James Powell, general store, St.
Ferdinand d'Halifax, was in Montreal last
week, soliciting signatures to a deed of compo-
sition, at the rate of 60 cents on the dollar, but
has now assigned. For the past year he has
been often sued, and has had to pay a good
many hundred dollars in costs. — A demand
of assignment has been made upon P. E.
McGee, who began storekeeping at Rimouski
in 1895.

TORONTO JUNCTION APPEAL.

The appeal of the municipality of Toronto
Junction has been disallowed. Chief Justice
Meredith and Justice MacMahon have dismissed
the appeal of that town from an order com-
pelling it to pay \$144 interest on debentures to
Arthur Park and Jacob Vipond, brokers, of
Montreal. For the Junction it was pleaded that
the municipality had already assessed at 30
mills on the dollar, and that the law allowed
them to go no further. The bonded debts of
the Junction were now \$1,000,000. Said the
Chief Justice: "And if this appeal is allowed
you are absolved from this particular debt."
"With respect to this interest, we are,"
answered the counsel.

"Well," answered His Lordship, "you'll
have to go somewhere else to have that allowed."
"This is a valid debt," the judge continued.
"It would be a nice way to pay off your liabili-
ties, to reduce your assessment one half and
then declare that you haven't enough to pay.
The action is dismissed."

—An experienced man, who has just re-
turned from Alaska, tells the *Fargo Argus*
how to cure the Klondike fever. "Pick
out a morning next winter," he says,
"when the mercury is below zero, shoulder
a pick and go into the woods before break-
ast; dig a hole sixteen feet deep; come
back to the house at night and eat a small
piece of stewed buffalo robe and sleep in
the woodshed. Repeat the dose as often
as necessary."