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Mercantile Summary.

THE Southampton ratepayers have voted by a large majority in favor of raising money for waterworks.

THE Nelson city council has accepted a proposition to procure electric power from the Kootenay Power Company for use by the city plant at \$55 per horsepower per year, or for a percentage of the gross receipts. The proposal will have to be submitted to the ratepayers, however.

THE Cornwall Electric Street Railway Co. are engaged in rebuilding the interior of the old mill of the Cornwall Milling Co., and are installing therein new dynamos with a view to operating their system from this new station. The turbines will be turned by water-power, but the old steam plant will be kept in working order ready for emergencies.

A CREDITABLE and interesting paper is the Royal Souvenir Number of the Victoria Daily Times, commemorating the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York. Beginning with a spirited poem by Clive Philipps-Wolley, it gives its readers sketches of the city by Mr. John Nelson, of the Times, and by Mr. Dowler, the city clerk, of the Board of Trade, etc. Then of the industries of the province, its education, its game, its agriculture, sports and mining. The last-mentioned paper, which is especially full, is by W. M. Brewer, M.E. The portraits and illustrations are numerous.

THAT the use of the bicycle is declining is not to be denied, but its decline is becoming rapid, according to what we hear from Montreal. The books of the civic license office in that city indicate that less wheels have been licensed, year after year, especially during the last four years. There were 7,973 licensed bicycles in Montreal in 1898, and there are now so far only 3,700, a decrease of 4,273, although the police have made their usual raids on tagless wheels.

SOME weeks ago, Merritt Brothers, wholesale grocers, St. John, N.B., suspended payment. Now they issue a statement showing liabilities of \$550,000, of which \$300,000 are direct. The assets amount to \$147,000, of which \$37,000 are hypothecated. The firm made an offer of fifteen cents on the dollar. As this was very unsatisfactory, the creditors appointed a committee to examine the financial statement and adjourned the meeting.

AFTER being employed as clerk in Napanee for several years, W. E. Wilson opened a hardware store on his own account in Tamworth, in December, 1899. But he granted credits too freely, so that in about a year he found all his surplus in the shape of book accounts. By reason of this, he has been slow in meeting his payments, and his assignment now is no surprise.—An assignment has been made by Pritchard & McComb, who keeps a restaurant at Parry Sound.—Another small assignment is that of Jos. T. Ott, tailor, Floradale, who has barely made a living, and does not owe much.

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