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Mercantile Summary.

THE earnings of the Canadian Pacific Railway last year were \$24,049,538, and deducting working expenses the net profits were \$10,303,775, as compared with \$8,107,581 in 1896.

THE annual statement of the town of St. John's shows the receipts of last year to have been \$20,374, exclusive of a loan of \$5,000, the total assessments amounting to \$15,449. Licenses contributed \$2,810 to the revenue; markets \$867, and drains \$135. The actual expense of running the corporation was the same as in 1896, and the floating debt was reduced by \$1,400.

THE five persons whose names follow have been incorporated by Ontario letters patent by the name of the Cardinal Electric Light Co., Limited; capital stock, \$20,000: George Frederick Benson, of Montreal, merchant, and John Dowsley Reid and Duncan Gow, physicians; James Cumming Nagle, chemist, and George Reid, book-keeper, all of the village of Cardinal, Ont.

THE Davies Furniture Company, Limited, has been incorporated in Ontario, the parties being Sydney James Davies, and Frederick Barnes Duffett, furniture dealers; John Alexander Sinclair, book-keeper; Nicholas Adams, cabinet maker, and Charles Samuel Hicks, salesman, all of Toronto. They will buy the business of S. J. Davies, and the capital stock is ten thousand dollars.

THE modest capital of \$99,000 is all that is claimed by the five persons incorporated as the Muskoka Gold Mining and Development Company, Limited, for mining, milling and reduction: viz., George Spurgeon Burt, physician; Samuel Andrew Cunningham, railway agent; James Hankinson Jackson, general merchant, William Ormsby, general merchant, and George Fletcher Rice, jeweler and prospector, all of the village of Severn Bridge, Muskoka.

SEVERAL farmers and others in Haldimand and Welland county have gone in together to buy and sell farm implements, machinery and general merchandise, under the name of the Attercliffe Co-operative Store Company, limited, and are content with a capital of \$2,000, in five dollar shares. The names and designations of the parties are Chas. Dolan, of Moulton township, farmer; John Bradford Moore, of Wainfleet township, farmer; Seaman Lafayette Tisdale,

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of Caistor township, farmer and saw-mill owner; Harmon Webster Tisdale, book-keeper, and James Kirk Tisdale, of Attercliffe, brick-maker.

THE Baltimore Trade suggests that every packer of canned goods should put his name on his own goods, and that besides an association brand should be established to be used only by the members. That journal anticipates that Congress will this spring pass a pure food law, in the framing of which the canned goods packers may be prepared to exercise their just influence.

A LOT of Duluth and Michigan people, seven in number, form the J. O. 41 Gold Mining Co. of Rainy River, incorporated 18th January in Ontario; capital, \$500,000. The same authority incorporates Geo. E. Casey, of Elgin county and several Toronto men, J. Enoch Thompson among them, as the Yukon-Klondyke Co-operative Mining Company of Ontario, Limited.

IN September, 1895, Henry Proctor, druggist, removed from Toronto to Drayton and assigned in the following February. Business has since been carried on under his wife's name. The stock has been mortgaged and she now makes an assignment.—A cash offer of 50 per cent. is made to the creditors of Frank R. Newberry, dealer in men's furnishing in Hamilton, on liabilities of \$5,000. He has nominal assets \$1,000 less.—An assignment is made by B. B. Ostram, druggist, Frankford, who had several law suits. In one of these he is held liable for \$500 and heavy costs.

UNDER favorable auspices, Joseph Aube began a dry goods business in St. Henry suburbs of Montreal, about four years ago, and for a time did fairly well. Latterly his habits have occasioned some comment, and his failure is now reported. Liabilities are about \$14,000, assets nominally \$12,000.—Drolet & Gagnon, selling men's furnishings in Montreal since last fall, have already failed. Mr. Gagnon was previously unsuccessful in the dry goods line.—Pierre Marsan, shoe dealer, has assigned; his liabilities are scheduled at \$7,900.—A demand in insolvency having been served on A. W. Kelly, contractor, he has consented to assign.

THERE are two hotel men, or firms, reported in difficulty this week. One of these is A. McKinnon & Co., who formerly kept the Pacific Hotel, and now the Victoria, at Sault Ste. Marie. Both the building and chattels are mortgaged for about all they will realize, and M. has assigned. The other party, who also assigns, is U. J. Ianson, Uxbridge. In 1896 the chattels of the Queen's Hotel were sold by an assignee, and he became the purchaser. Since then he has not been able to make more than a livelihood.—James McComb, dealer in men's furnishing goods at Peterboro, to whom reference was made in these columns last week, has assigned, as intimated was probable.

ROBERT SPITAL, formerly of the firm Spital, Burn & Gentleman, who failed in London some years ago, in consequence of this is now carrying on business under cover of his wife Anna, and both are in financial difficulty.—In 1888, W. J. McComb removed from Concession, to Trenton, and opened a tailoring shop. The following year he assigned, and creditors wrote 60 per cent. off their claims. Five years later, another assignment followed. This time he paid his creditors ten per cent. more. Lately several writs have been issued against him, and he makes a third assignment.—R. D. Perry, who keeps a general store and post-office, at Holbrook, has been less than two years in business, and made but little, if any, progress, although he claims to be worth more than \$1,000. He has assigned.

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