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ACCOUNTICS ASSOCIATION, Publishers,
262 West Broadway, New York.

Mercantile Summary.

MR. KIRKWOOD, of Sudbury, proposes to put a steamer on the route from Sault Ste. Marie to Quebec, calling at all lake and river ports for freight. She will carry downward lumber, shingles, etc.

A WRITER in San Francisco, in a letter to the Montreal Gazette, says that in the States a Labor Union regulation allows only one apprentice to every sixteen men. "This debars our young men from learning a trade. Hence, they hang on the ragged edge of politics, and the consequent misery and degradation which follows. When one of our large shipbuilders wants skilled labor to erect a new battleship, the American boy is hanging around a corner grocery store, talking politics, while the boy from Glasgow, Belfast, Bradford or Montreal comes here with a master-mechanic's certificate, and is immediately employed at a man's wages. The American boy goes from bad to worse, because of that hydra-headed autocrat, 'Labor Federation.'"

In the matter of the Portland, N.B., Rolling Mills, more than half the unsecured debts being represented before him, Judge Tuck last week acceded to the general view of those present that the company might recover from its difficulties, as there was much stock on hand, which, when worked up, would yield a profit. But some advances must be made for running expenses, as the difficulty had been caused by the want of working capital. It was thought that the works should be continued for a while. So the court appointed George F. Baird provisional liquidator, with power to carry on the business in the usual way. He fixed the security at \$10,000 for Mr. Baird personally and two sureties of \$5,000 each. On 20th June, creditors will meet to appoint a permanent one.

THE embarrassment of Letang, Letang & Co., wholesale hardware merchants, Montreal, noted in last issue, is largely due to real estate speculations. They have bought property of late years to the extent of over \$100,000 for speculative purposes, which they have not been able to turn over as expected, but have had to carry under a considerable load of expense for interest, etc. They recently gave their bankers a mortgage for some \$65,000, which alarmed some of their larger creditors, with the result that the firm was induced to place their affairs in the hands of trustees, who shall carry on the business for the general benefit of creditors, until all are paid off, when the estate will be re-transferred to the firm. The merchandise liabilities are believed not to exceed \$30,000, and the assets, it is claimed, show a surplus of over \$100,000.

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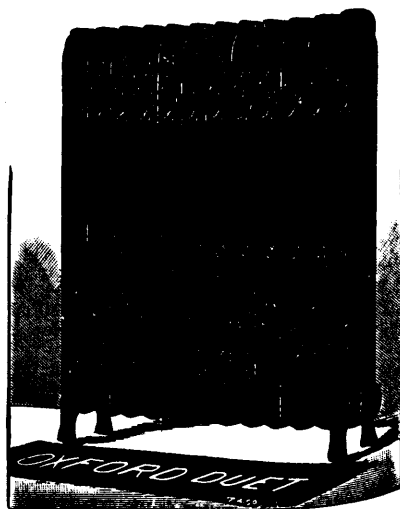
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