Mercantile Summary.

NOT long ago, Alex. McLean, boot and shoe dealer at Kamloops, B.C., was sued, and as his business has been going behind of late he has made an assignment.

AFTER farming for some years, W. F. Wilson started keeping a general store at Wilsonville. In April, 1899, he moved to Waterford, where he did not meet with great success, and he assigns, owing $1,500 and showing $2,800 assets. Another man who had been a farmer but started in a business way, and met defeat, is J. W. Hewer, who commenced selling agricultural implements at Tilsonburg in May last year. His assignment is reported.

ANOTHER batch of recent failures is reported from Sydney, N.S., where the store business appears overdone. McNeil, Gough & Co., provision dealers, are seeking a compromise at 50 per cent., as the result of frequent recent suits against them.——Morris Bros., general dealers, have assigned.——Miss M. J. Campbell, milliner, is reported in embarrassed circumstances. She owes only about $900.——The sheriff has sold the stock of the Sydney Hardware Co., Louis Dana sole proprietor, and the proceeds are hardly sufficient to cover a first judgment of about $2,300. Other creditors to the amount of some $9,000 will likely get little or nothing.

ONCE the business section of Revelstoke was where it is not now. John B. Perks bought a hotel in the old part of the town when his surroundings were active commercially, but when there was a shift he found himself unable to go with the crowd, and others having secured most of his business he has assigned. Quite different is the case of R. W. Patmore, druggist, at Golden. His business was located at Donald until the C.P.R. shops moved from that place to Golden, where he moved too, but found that he could make no more than a living. His assignment is now recorded.

THE Interstate Commerce Commission, at the instance of the National Hay Association, of New York, claims that some of the railroads, by means of privileged rates, are discriminating in favor of Canadian hay, shipping it from the North-West to eastern markets of the United States at less rates than those charged American farmers. The measure of competition is indicated to some extent by the immense growth in the volume of hay imported from Canada, which has increased from 19,872 tons, valued at $115,000, in 1889, to 227,638 tons, valued at nearly two million dollars in 1900. The duty on Canadian hay is $4 a ton, and it is claimed by the American Hay Association that despite the high duty the importation is still on the increase, excluding the sale from the Western States, and resulting in less demand for the American article, a decreased hay acreage, greatly reduced and trifling profit to the farmer, less profit to the hay dealer, use of poorer and cheaper grades, higher prices to the consumer, and higher prices for stock and for meat products.