

THE ISSUE OF

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Mercantile Summary.

THE long-distance metallic circuit line, just finished by the Bell Telephone Company, between Ottawa, Carleton Place, Smith's Falls, and Brockville, Ont., gives Ottawa a direct long-distance service with Buffalo, N.Y., and other western points. It required upwards of 3,500 poles, 4,000 cross arms, and 75,000 lbs. of copper wire.

A GENERAL dealer at St. Eleanor's, P.E.I., F. W. Cannon by name, writes his creditors that owing to losses by bad debts he finds himself embarrassed, and proposes a composition at 25 cents on the dollar, liabilities being \$9,300. He shows nominal assets of about \$8,000, over \$4,000 of this amount being in book accounts of doubtful character. Here is an object lesson for country merchants.—McGillivray & McIntosh, an Antigonish, N.S., general store concern, of quite recent formation, have assigned, as the result of several suits instituted by Montreal houses, who have found them very slow pay.

THE following late instances of retail dry goods trouble are reported from Montreal. C. P. Chagnon has got behind, owing, it is said, to business being affected by street improvements, and he is offering creditors 60 cents on liabilities of about \$15,000.—B. Charbonneau, lately reported failed, made an offer last week of 50 cents, which was not acceptable, and he has now increased his figure to 75 cents in the dollar, with a better chance of a settlement. He owes about \$10,000.—J. Aitken & Co., one of the oldest firms in the city, making a specialty of ladies' wear, are reported as assigned. The business had been steadily falling behind of late years, owing to the strong uptown movement in trade. John A. McKerrow, a son of one of the original partners, has been the only partner for some time past, and his mother is chief creditor, to the extent of some \$13,000.—A. F. Leblanc, who opened a men's furnishing shop in August last, has already made a voluntary assignment.

LATE country failures in the province of Quebec are reported as follows: C. J. Trudel & Co., hotel, Grande Mere, have assigned. Mr. Trudel was formerly of Drouin & Trudel, who failed several years ago at Abenakis, and since coming here has been using his wife's name.—A voluntary assignment has been made by G. A. Vallee, general dealer at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, who owes \$2,500. In 1898, Mr. Vallee was a dry goods clerk in Montreal.—A tinsmith at Kazabazua, G. H. McKenny, has assigned, owing \$1,761, and showing assets of \$650.—T. Boyes, butter manufacturer, at Hemmingford, has got behind in his payments to farmers for milk, etc., and proposes asking an extension of time spread over several years. He is said to owe \$8,500.—A voluntary assignment is made by T. E. Gravel & Co., dry goods dealers at Joliette. Mr. Gravel has of late done business under cover of his wife's name, owing to a former failure, as one of the firm of Guilbault & Gravel, in 1898.

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