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In May a year ago J. B. Clouthier, of La Macaza, north of Montreal, began storekeeping in a small way without any previous experience, having been formerly a farmer. Already he has approached his creditors with an offer of compromise, it is said, and it is considered doubtful if same will be accepted. It is probable that "Back to the Land" will be his motto now, as it is of so many who see that the middleman has grown too numerous.

## Mercantile Summary.

A. H. Gordon's dry goods store at New Westminster, B.C., has been damaged by fire and water to the extent of \$8,000.

A letter from Montreal under date 8th May says that Mr. Robert Reford has resigned from the harbor board, and will probably be replaced by Andrew A. Allan.

J. Boucher and others have taken up their option on the Beatrice mine, near Camborne, B.C. The property, which is now shipping 150 tons of high-grade silver ore, is to be further developed.

The assignment is noted of Charles Merrier, dry goods dealer at Valleyfield, Que., but no particulars as to liabilities are yet available. His lack of success is attributed in same degree to a want of proper attention to business.

News has just arrived from the Yukon of a rich strike of placer gold on Highet Creek, about 250 miles from Dawson. Hector Morrison, it is declared, has struck six feet of pay that will average, probably, five cents to the pan, or over \$600 to the cubic yard.

The Jewel Company, of London, Eng., has bonded a half interest in the Denero Grande mine in the Boundary district of British Columbia, owned by J. C. McArthur. The mine is contiguous to the vein which has been successfully developed by the Jewel Co.

It now appears that, contrary to former announcements, the Imperial forces are likely to remain in Halifax for two years longer, owing to the difficulty experienced by the Dominion Government in recruiting a sufficient number of men to take their places.

Charles Thibault, general dealer, St. Armes Monts, in Gaspé county, Que., is reported insolvent, and his affairs are in the hands of V. E. Paradis, accountant, Que. He is said to owe \$4,500, on which he recently made an offer of 60 per cent., which was declined, and unfavorable impressions regarding the failure appear to be entertained in some quarters.

Toronto capitalists have purchased the large Hamilton property on St. Catherine Street, Montreal, running through to Dominion Square. The area of the site is something like 19,000 square feet, and the price \$340,000. Options have, it is understood, been obtained on adjoining lots. The purpose of the investors, who acted through the National Trust Co., is not stated, but it is surmised to be in connection with a large new palace hotel.

A shoemaker bearing the rather classic name of Pantaleon Trepannier, of St. Stanislas de Champlain, Que., who has also been carrying, Heaven knows why, a small grocery stock at an out-of-the-way location, three miles from the village, has fallen on evil days. A suit for \$246 was entered against him by a Montreal house a fortnight ago, and his assignment is now reported. One would hardly expect him to sell \$246 worth of merchandise in a year.

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