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R. J. FLEMING & CO.,

10 Victoria St., Toronto.

Mercantile Summary.

THE people of Rat Portage expect both the Bank of Montreal and the Canadian Bank of Commerce to open branches in that lively and ambitious town, and that right soon.

JAMES H. SIMPSON, grocer on Waterloo avenue in Guelph, has assigned. He opened in February, 1895, having gone to the Royal City from Toronto, where he had been employed as a bookkeeper. At that time he claimed to have a capital of \$500.

THE city council of Chicago last week amended the existing building regulations which limit the height of buildings to 155 feet, and fixed the limit at 90 feet by a vote of 46 to 18, more than a two-thirds vote, which overwhelmed those who held out for 110 feet.

THE Wilson Company is the name under which five persons purpose doing business in Montreal as an incorporated company dealing in wood, tan bark, fuel, etc.; capital stock, \$100,000. The parties are Joseph Wilson, George Allan Wilson and Joseph Patrick, of Montreal, William Mitchell, of Drummondville, and David Mitchell, of Forrestdale.

THE *Detroit Journal* says that quantities of Canadian whiskey are being taken across the Detroit River. The Walkerville makers have within a few days, it says, shipped from that town to their warehouses in Detroit 9,000 cases. "The cause of the large shipments is said to be the belief that the tariff will be largely increased on the product by the present administration."

A BIG haul of seals is reported in a telegram of Wednesday from North Sydney, Cape Breton. The steamship "Iceland" has arrived at Harbor Grace from the gulf, with a full load of 23,000 seals. The steamship "Nimrod" will have a full load also. Quite a number of seals have been hauled ashore at Channel and Rose Blanche, 6,000 being taken in one day.

HERE is some New England wisdom put into epigrams and attributed to John R. Hegeman, of the Metropolitan. "Never rely on a lame man to take the gate money at a walking match." "Employ no rocking-chair man—he is all motion and no progress." "Leave out men who have a tropical fertility of promise and Saharic aridity of performance." "Don't take any stock in hard times. The times are always good if you only know how. And if you don't know how they are always bad."

JESSE WELLAND commenced a tailoring business in Galt early in 1888, having received assistance from his friends. He has not done well; never made more than a living, and now assigns.—In 1892 Adam Torrance commenced business as one of the firm of Burgess & Torrance, general storekeepers, at North Bay. Two years ago they dissolved partnership, Torrance continuing. Last month he gave a chattel mortgage on his stock and afterwards made an effort to compromise, but was unsuccessful therein and made an assignment.

FOR so long as twenty years Walter Tully has made and sold boots and shoes at Picton. He has been unsuccessful and has assigned.—In 1883 Lewis H. Tarrant started a tailoring and men's furnishings business at St. Thomas. He assigned in 1887, and afterwards opened in the name of his wife. For a number of years the stock has been covered by a chattel mortgage, which at last has been foreclosed and she has assigned.—A flour and feed merchant at Grimsby named Arthur Burland has made an assignment.

THERE is activity among Canadian buyers of wool to get hold of and ship all they can to the States, in anticipation of the new tariff going into force. On Saturday last Long & Bisby, of Hamilton, shipped 100,000 pounds, and within the week R. Berryman has shipped 21 cars of domestic wool. Under the new bill 12 cents a pound will be put on, whereas Canadian pays none at present. Ontario long wool, however, will go into the United States the same as before, for the manufacturers want it, and meanwhile there is an active market in Western Ontario for unwashed at 12 to 13c., and for washed at 20 to 21c.

THE creditors of A. D. McRossie, boot and shoe merchant of Ingersoll and Napanee, met on Monday at Ingersoll. The statement presented showed assets of \$4,300 in the two stores and liabilities of \$4,000. The creditors would not consider an offer of 50 per cent., as they were of the opinion the stock would realize more than half. Messrs. Walsh of Ingersoll, J. B. Jackson of Ingersoll, Geary of Toronto, and T. C. Cooke, of the firm of Pinkerton & Cooke, Toronto, were appointed inspectors. Mrs. McRossie ranks on the estate for \$1,100, and when asked for an explanation as to this claim her husband stated that it was for notes his wife had endorsed for him and paid. The Toronto creditors were hardly satisfied with this explanation. Other relatives of Mrs. McRossie rank on the estate for wages.

THE *Rossland Miner* of 18th instant contains several interesting items. It appears that an Austrian syndicate has taken up the option secured in November last by Oscar P. Beck, of London, for \$32,000, on the Highland and Sierra Madre claims on Rock Creek, just north of Rossland. The property shows a mass of low grade ore, carrying a good percentage of copper. Work has been suspended in the Robert E. Lee mine, pending the sale now being negotiated by D. W. Linnard in London, of the Lee, Maid of Erin, Gopher and Homestake properties. The same paper says that Alexander Dick, who, with A. B. Mackenzie, bonded the Alpine group in the Slocan country, has been successful in organizing a syndicate to take over the property, and will return to Rossland the last of this month. Mr. Dick has also organized a general development company with large capital, some of the principal stockholders being New York men.

MONTREAL FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The fire department of Montreal has a staff of 190 men, and the annual cost of maintaining the brigade is \$180,000. The annual report, issued this week, shows that the total number of alarms responded to last year was 778-595 for fires and 183 false alarms or those due to mistakes. The Fire Alarm Department transmitted 586 of these, and 192 alarms either still or received by telephone. The salvage wagons responded 797 times, laid 2,612 covers, and used 120 extinguisher charges. Four citizens, three firemen, seven horses and three cows lost their lives at fires during the year.

The equipment of the Montreal Fire Department consists of 24 reels, 4 extension ladders, 6 ladders, 9 steam fire engines, 3 chemical engines, 3 salvage wagons, 1 coal wagon, 1 water tower, and 108 horses. The personnel includes 1 chief, 4 sub-chiefs, 1 supply officer, 1 superintendent of machinery, 1 secretary, 17 captains, 9 engineers, 16 foremen, 99 first-class firemen, and 41 second class firemen. The statement of the medical staff on the health of the members of the brigade shows that 143 firemen were treated during the year, 44 for wounds received on duty.