

## Mercantile Summary.

MR. JOHN FISHER, of Arnprior, intends opening a carriage shop in North Bay.

THE construction of the Congo railway is proceeding rapidly, nearly 100 miles having been laid.

THE principal Japanese firm, the Nippon Yussen Kaisha, is reported to be in the market for five steamers of 5,000 to 6,000 tons.

ARRANGEMENTS are reported to be in progress by which an important electrical plant will shortly be established in Western Australia to supply motive power to the gold fields.

WE hear of the death last week of a well known Montreal man, Mr. John Atkin, the brewer, who became in 1885 owner of the brewing business formerly done by the late Miles Williams.

THE new saw-mill of the East Angus Paper Company began operations the other day. It is to employ about 75 men, and to run day and night, sawing 60,000 feet per day. Part of the timber will be sawed for lumber, part for pulp wood.

MR. GEO. A. MACAGY, secretary of the Pillow & Hersey Company, of Montreal, who leaves that employ, after some fifteen years' service, was, last week, presented by his fellow employees with an illuminated address and a fine gold monogram locket.

THE creditors of Louis Perrault, manufacturer of cacks and ladies' shoes, Montreal, whose failure, as a result of the Leggatt suspension, was noted in these columns, had a meeting last week, at which he offered 25 cents. Direct liabilities are \$36,900; indirect, \$30,700.

AN Ottawa dry goods dealer, H. H. Pigeon, has assigned, after making an unsuccessful attempt to settle at 50 cents. Liabilities are somewhere about \$29,000. Mr. Pigeon got an extension last August.—L. G. Morgan, in the shoe business, in the same city since 1892, has assigned.

WE note this week another group of Montreal failures in the grocery line. Mercer & Villeneuve began business last spring as a supply account of La Compagnie d'Approvisionnement Alimentaire, just gone into liquidation, and have had to assign. They owe about \$8,000.—Oscar Melançon, another comparatively new man, has assigned, owing \$1,475.—A. A. Lefebvre, in a limited way, owing only about \$500, is also insolvent.

AT Windsor, Ont., recently, Judge Horne, county judge of Essex, decided that the municipalities cannot assess the telegraph wires of the Canadian Pacific Railway, as the company is, by its charter, allowed to erect and maintain telegraph lines and to charge for messages sent by them.

ALBERT VIPOND, of Hudson, Que., has assigned. Doing well in a moderate way, he expanded several years ago beyond his means, opening a branch at Vars, Ont., and another at Clarence, besides handling cordwood. He had to compromise at 60 cents in 1894. Present liabilities are \$15,564.

VILLENEUVE & FRERE, dry goods merchants, St. Sauveur suburbs, Quebec, have made a voluntary assignment. They failed in January, 1895, owing some \$30,000, and resumed shortly after under cover, having got no settlement.—Damase Thibadeau, a provision dealer, is trying to arrange a compromise of his small local liabilities.—O Fortin, gilder, etc., has assigned.

AT Hamilton, the estate of Charles Holt, grocer, has been sold to his wife for a sum sufficient to pay the creditors 50 per cent. of their claims; a very good dividend from a poor estate. A corner grocery with 47 creditors, ranging in amount from \$5 to \$750, is a spectacle which, if it occurred in a half-civilized country or in a backwoods community, Ontario city merchants would laugh at heartily. Those interested in this case must surely laugh ruefully.

MRS. J. BOUTET, general store, St. Severin, Que., lately reported failed, is offering 40 cents.—J. Daoust, groceries, etc., Vendome, Que., has settled his small liabilities at 25 per cent.—C. Vallée, stationer, Sorel, offers 25 cents in four months.—Z. Cordeau, dry goods, Actonville, Que., has effected a compromise on liabilities of \$1,400.—Ulderic Parent, hotel-keeper, Pointe Claire, has filed consent to assign; liabilities, \$2,690.—Another hotel-keeper, G. E. Lemire, Drummondville, Que., another of the victims of the recent fire, has had to assign.—Charles Brillard, of Valletort, began store-keeping about two years ago, having been a farmer at St. Ephrem de Tring. He has shown little aptitude for business and is now reported in difficulty.—J. L. Janel, of St. Sylvere, Que., who has been doing business under cover of the name of F. Côté, owing to a previous failure, is offering 40 cents on liabilities of \$2,200.

T. S. VIPOND & SON, of Montreal, a quite important firm in the wholesale fruit and produce trade, have consented to assign. The senior has been long in the business, in which he made a very considerable amount of money, but of recent years he has sunk large sums in a banana plantation in Jamaica and in a fruit steamer, which he had specially built in Scotland at a cost of some \$70,000, and which has proved a disastrous venture.

ALFRED BLAIS, of Montreal, supposed to be a well-doing tinsmith and plumber, has assigned, showing an indebtedness of \$11,400.—J. M. Last, laundryman, is insolvent, owing \$5,880.—Isaac Schwartz, making cloth caps in a small way, seeks a compromise at 25 cents.—J. H. Parker, quite a noted maker of banjos and similar musical instruments, has found it necessary to assign.—Albert Perrault, a small dry goods dealer, owing less than \$1,000, is being wound up.

THE Canal-boat Owners' Association, along the line of the Erie canal, are promoting a bill to be submitted to the New York State Legislature, asking for the erection by the State authority of a number of floating grain elevators, for use at Buffalo and in New York harbor, to be exclusively operated by the Superintendent of Public Works. The bill framed is entitled, "An Act to prevent injurious combinations against the State's commerce at the ports of Buffalo and New York." And it proposes to make the maximum charge for elevating grain one-quarter cent per bushel.

No less than seventy-six boys who were brought out to Canada from the Fegan homes, London, England, have within the last five years honorably redeemed their pledge to help another boy out to Canada by repaying £10, that is \$50, the cost of their emigration. And what is more, we find that 128 of these lads have each contributed in sums of \$1 to \$50, the handsome amount of \$1,038, and forwarded it last month as a "New Year's gift, 1896, to Mr. Fegan, from his old boys in Canada." This is the sort of gratitude that we may call practical.

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