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Mercantile Summary.

THE firm of A. W. Ross & Co., mining brokers, are about to open a branch office on St. James' street, Montreal.

DIGBY, at the far west of Nova Scotia, along the terminus of the Western Counties Railway, has been taking a census. It has 1,025 inhabitants.

MAURICE SOUCY, engaged in a small canning business at St. Laurent, near Montreal, since the summer of 1895, has assigned, owing \$1,995. He was formerly of Dion & Soucy, in the same line of business at Valleyfield.

A DECIDED improvement is shown in *The Montreal Herald* under its new management. A new heading of a very striking character has been adopted. It also has donned a new dress and shows already the influence of the new blood that has been infused into its management.

A. M. WRIGHT, of Bedeque and Summerside, P.E.I., engaged in the shipping and produce business, is reported involved, rendering his assignment necessary. He is also a partner in the firm of Wright, Schurman & Co., general storekeeping at Summerside, whose stoppage has followed as a consequence.

A WELL-KNOWN New Brunswick lumberman, Mr. Welch, tells the St. John *Sun* that the 15,000,000 logs hung up on the Miramichi will remain where they are till next spring. The recent rains did not affect them at all. The cut this winter he puts down at 60,000,000, or say 5,000,000 less than last year.

THE embarrassment is reported of Moore & Robertson, general dealers at North Sydney, N.S. The firm has dissolved, the business being continued by H. E. Moore, who gets an extension of time on the firm's indebtedness of about \$17,000, payments being arranged at 4, 8, 12 and 16 months. Nominal assets are shown at about \$26,000 — H. G. Turnbull, of Digby, N.S., who succeeded to the grocery business of his father in 1893, has assigned.

SOME two years ago George Hickey became tired of working as a clerk in Berlin, and started a boot and shoe store in that place, securing by a chattel mortgage the party who supplied him with goods. Beside this, his indulgent father loaned him \$200. Now we hear that George has made an assignment. Surely the wholesale firm who supplied the goods in this instance were very anxious to place them in other hands in order that they might be better able to finance.

ALTHOUGH the Ontario Straw Goods Company and the American Felt Hat Company are incorporated separately, they are largely owned by the same individuals, Robert Crean and George H. Hastings being the chief shareholders. Owing to dull trade and the long illness of one of their practical men, who died yesterday, both concerns have suspended payment. In the meantime stock is being taken, and it is probable an assignment will be made in a few days. They owe about \$30,000.

THE gentlemen whose names follow have made application for incorporation by letters patent at Ottawa of the Canadian Mining Trust Co., Limited, capital \$100,000: Hugh Ryan, W. R. Brock, H. P. Dwight, W. D. Matthews, S. F. McKinnon, Wm. Mackenzie, C. J. Campbell, A. E. Ames, H. M. Pellatt, Fred. Nicholls, A. S. Irving, Thos. Walmsley. They ask for very wide powers, which it takes almost a page of the *Canada Gazette* to describe. They propose to act as trustees and agents, and to report upon the character of mining lands and securities offered for sale, a very necessary function.

IN addition to the Furness, Beaver, Heal, French and Donaldson lines of steamers, whose sailings will be from St. John this winter, Aberdeen Navigation Company announce sailings commencing with the steamer "State of Georgia." This line will run to Aberdeen.

W. E. BROWN, boot and shoe dealer at Ottawa, and his bookkeeper, Daniel McCallum, were arrested not long since, charged with fraud. The magistrate acquitted them and now McCallum sues James Robinson, of Montreal, shoe merchant, at whose instance the charges of fraud were made, and asks for \$5,000 damages.

THERE are three or four Bridgetowns in Canada, but the prettiest of them is the one in Annapolis county, Nova Scotia. Its inhabitants are agitating for incorporation and the project is expected to carry. A number of neat residences have been built there this year which have added to the beauty of the town, which is in the "apple country," and should be seen in June or in September.

A NUMBER of creditors of the Petitcodiac firm of Humphrey & Trites met on Saturday last, in response to a circular sent out by Mr. Trites, the surviving partner of the firm, to consider the best course to take in settling up the affairs of the firm. Messrs. E. C. Jones, J. K. Dunlap, J. A. Belyea, G. A. Schofield, W. H. Barnaby were appointed a committee to represent the creditors in a settlement. The estate, we understand, offers 25 per cent.

THE total catch of seals by the British Columbia fleet this year, says a dispatch of last Friday from Victoria, will not total 60,000 skins. Last year, a most unsatisfactory season, produced 74,124 skins, and in 1894 there were 94,474 skins taken. Dividing this year's catch among the sixty-four vessels of the fleet, with their 800 whites and 118 Indian hunters, it would just about meet the cost of the outfitting and wages, leaving nothing for profit to the ship-owners.

OTTAWA official figures of the exports and imports for the fiscal year ending June 30, show the total foreign trade of Canada to have been \$239,024,852, as compared with \$224,420,485 in 1895, an increase of fourteen and a half millions. The total imports were \$118,011,000, against \$110,781,000 in 1895, and the exports \$121,013,852, against \$113,638,808. In 1895 of the total imports, \$110,587,480 were entered for consumption, of which \$67,239,759 paid duty amounting to \$20,197,345. Of the total exports \$109,915,397 worth was the produce of Canada.

AN assignment has been made by J. W. Lloyd, a stationer of twenty years' standing in Aurora, and at one time in a fair position. Of late years his stock has not been kept up to date and his business decreased. In June, 1895, he was obliged to mortgage his stock.—In December, 1894, J. W. Philp succeeded to the general store business of the estate of E. H. Disney at Balsam, with little capital and less experience in the ways of trade. This week we hear that the estate has seized the stock for rent, etc. Philp owes about \$1,000.—Another seizure is that of the boot and shoe stock of John Brown at Guelph, under power of a chattel mortgage.—Last May P. J. Macfarlane, tailor, moved from Huntsville to Nelsonville. It seems that this change of location did not improve his prospects, and he now assigns.—A meeting of the creditors of J. E. Hutton, general storekeeper at Thornbury, is to be held in this city to-day. Fourteen years ago his father kindly supplied the capital to start J. E. in business. At his death some years since another sum of money was allowed the son. We have not learned the cause of his difficulties.