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Mercantile Summary.

It is about a year since J. D. Aaron began to trade as a general dealer, at Wabigoon, in new West Ontario, with a stock of \$700, which had been bought for cash. Formerly he farmed at Brandon, but had little, if any, experience in storekeeping. He has more now. And he has assigned.—A bailiff is in possession of W. A. Johns' premises, at Wingham, under power of a chattel mortgage.—Hamilton Smellie, dry goods dealer, at Hepworth, whose troubles we noted last week, has since assigned.

As a presage of the great business expected by the steam and sail carrying trade of the Great Lakes next summer, the following saying of a prominent man may be quoted: "I have never seen the time during my connection with the Detroit Dry Dock Co.," says Gilbert N. McMillan, "when the amount of business in sight was greater than it is at present. Alike to everybody else, we are, of course, working on small margins, but there is a great deal of encouragement in a large volume of business."

DRAW a line on the map from Montreal down through New York City to Norfolk, Virginia, thence west through Cincinnati and Louisville to Cairo, on the Mississippi, northeast to the south end of Lake Michigan. All the territory thus enclosed, including all places on the southern peninsula of Michigan and all Ontario west of Toronto and south of Sault Ste. Marie, is territory to which the Merchants' Association of New York have secured reduced fares for purchasers at their spring trade conventions.

IN 1868 Wm. Willard opened a general store at Taunton, in Ontario County. From there he moved to Raglan, in the same county, in 1882, and about five years later he was burnt out, when he was obliged to assign. Then his creditors wrote off 25 per cent. of what he owed them. Long afterward, namely, in the fall of 1889, he opened another store. But four years later he found himself involved and was obliged to assign, with liabilities of \$8,000. Since then he has been trading under cover by the name of Willard & Co., but with no better success. Now he makes his third assignment. Will he be allowed the opportunity of repeating it?

THE London Furniture Co., London, finds itself somewhat embarrassed at the first of the year. A few days ago a meeting of shareholders was held, and they decided to have a careful inventory of the stock made, and all unfinished work completed as soon as possible. Their liability is about \$85,000, including \$20,000 due their banker, which is secured by real estate and lumber on hand. For some time past it is believed that the business has been unprofitable, and their manager left about a

month ago owing the company \$3 000.—After being in the drug business in Oakville about seventeen years, Rob. C. Balmer has assigned. Unfortunately for him, the business has not had for some time the attention it deserved. At one time he stood well with his creditors.

At a meeting of the Quebec Board of Trade council, a letter was read from a man in London England, asking if ice could be exported from Canada to England for the next season, as owing to the mild weather in Norway, the ice harvest in that country is in a critical condition. Reply was made that the application came too late in the season for ice merchants to export to that country. If ice were wanted in England, and applications for consignments were addressed early in the season, several ships could be ready to sail in the spring with cargoes of ice.

WITH reference to the interesting announcement of the Grand Trunk and Wabash railway arrangement, made last week, Mr. J. S. Richardson, the local agent of the latter road, tells us that his road is making great preparations for rapid passenger transfer between Chicago and New York. The Wabash having arranged for the use of the Glencoe air-line track of the Grand Trunk in West Ontario peninsula, it will be put in good shape for traffic by the use of heavier rails. It may be said, too, that this is a good deal for the Grand Trunk, bringing grist to its mill, while utilizing actively a portion of its less-used track.

A CHARTER has been granted to W. N. Eastwood, S. G. Beatty and others, to purchase the general store business of W. N. Eastwood, at North Bay, under the style of The North Bay Supply Co., Limited, with a capital stock of \$24,000.—The Dundalk Woolen Mills Co. is also incorporated with a capital stock of \$20,000. The first applicants for the charter, W. H. Peterson, woolen manufacturer, Dundalk; E. Mount Castle, T. Bolen, and Samuel McDowell.—J. D. Moore, of St. Mary's, has disposed of his produce and manufacturing business in that town to a company that will operate it with a capital stock of \$90 000, under the style of the J. D. Moore Co., Limited.—The wire and brass manufactory of George B. Meadows, in this city, will in future be operated by a joint stock company, with a capital stock of \$20,000. The style of the business is to be the George B. Meadows Iron and Brass Works Co., Limited.

ON Saturday last a meeting of creditors of the Midland Trust Company, which had been called by a committee formed the previous week, met in a room of the town hall, Port Hope. The room was crowded. Mr. Thomas Long was appointed chairman, and Mr. W. T. R. Preston addressed the creditors at some length. The following resolutions were then submitted and carried: "That (1) this meeting request the assignee to call a general meeting of the creditors in the town hall two weeks from to-day, at two o'clock, for the transaction of general business." (2) "That a committee consisting of Messrs. John Wickett, Thomas Long, Capt. Hanning, F. W. Wilson and the mover be appointed, with power to add to the number, with authority to secure an independent opinion of the right of the estate of the late Thomas Paterson to rank on the estate of the Midland Trust Company, with full authority to call for papers and evidence as to the position of the said accounts, said opinion to be presented, if possible, at a general meeting of the creditors to be called by the assignee on Saturday, March 5, the cost of such examination not to exceed \$250."

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