

FALL SEASON, 1896

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## Mercantile Summary.

A RESTAURANT business started at Amherst, N.S., by a young man named O. C. Purdy, in 1894, has not proved a success, and his assignment is reported, with small local liabilities. —Miss M. A. Vaughan, in the millinery business at Berwick, N.S., is also reported insolvent.

A DEMAND of assignment has been made upon V. Warren, a young farmer, who began storekeeping at Point au Pic, Que., only last May. —A. Langlois, genneral store, St. Theodosie, Que., is offering his creditors 20 cents, cash. He owes about \$4,000, largely to relatives, and shows assets of only a few hundred dollars.

ON September 29th inst., there will be held in St. John, N.B., the annual meeting of the Maritime Board of Trade. Already the local boards are sending in the names of the subjects they want discussed. The number of delegates will be very large, particularly from Halifax. There is no restriction as to number, but only a limited number may vote. President George Robertson is collecting a mass of information regarding the resources and health of the Dominion, and his annual address, it is understood, will be a masterpiece.

It is announced that the members of the Montreal Board of Harbor Commissioners appointed by the Conservative Government, have been removed from their positions, and the following named to replace them:—Robt. Mackay, Robt. Bickerdike, Jonathan Hodgson, E. H. Lemay, W. Farrell and Alphonse Racine. It is intimated that Mr. Mackay will be chairman. The dismissed members are: Messrs. Henry Bulmer (chairman), Richard White, Victor Hudon, Frank Hart, W. W. Ogilvie and Hormidas Laporte.

THE Bell Telephone Company has completed a new line between Ottawa and Arnprior, in order to give direct connection to Pembroke and intermediate points. They have also a direct wire from Ottawa to Brockville, at which point Kingston, Prescott and other towns on the front can be reached promptly. A new copper line by way of Metcalfe and Winchester to Morrisburg is now under construction and will give an alternative route to towns along the St. Lawrence. This line will be finished about October 1st.

INQUIRY at the Victoria banks, says a western exchange, confirms with many additional details of interest, the report that much Puget Sound money has been brought to British Columbia recently for deposit in the solid chartered banks here until the political uncertainty is at an end. The number of American citizens who are daily applying for the protection of the Canadian banks against the possible loss of their money through the adoption of free silver, is surprising. The majority of these deposits are made for three or six months.

THE embarrassment of an important firm in the lumber trade is reported from Montreal, Joseph Robert & Fils, who have run an extensive planing mill business in the East end for many years, being the parties concerned. They have been overloaded for some time past with real estate, and were among those who had received large advances from La Banque du Peuple, over \$100,000 it is said, on their own name, and whose affairs were freely canvassed in the suspension of the above-named institution. They were then enabled to make a very favorable cash settlement with the bank, the funds being advanced by a large Ottawa lumberman, who took a blanket mortgage, and who is now the demanding creditor.

AN insurance case of considerable interest which was before the court for nearly two days in this city, was that of the heirs of Maria Jordan, of Toronto, a widow, who applied to the Provincial Provident Assessment Institution in June, 1894, for a policy of insurance for \$2,000, which was granted. During March, 1895, Mrs. Jordan was notified by the company that the policy had been cancelled on account of misrepresentations. She died in April, 1895. It was alleged that shortly before making her application Mrs. Jordan consulted a doctor respecting some ailment, and that this fact was not mentioned to the physician of the company. It was also alleged that she went into a hospital to undergo an operation some days after the application. On the part of the plaintiffs, it was contended that the society being a mutual company, it had no power to expel members.

MR. LACROIX, the Building Inspector, says the *Montreal Gazette* has just brought before Deputy Recorder Bourgouin a case to which a large amount of public interest attaches. It is the question of skating rinks, the number of which is yearly increasing in the city. Most of these buildings are constructed entirely of wood, and are supposed to have been erected only for temporary use; but, unfortunately, as Mr. Lacroix points out, they are sooner or later turned into theatres, as the Covello Rink, situated on St. Catherine street, has been, and these buildings remain up, although they are strictly against the spirit and the letter of the law. A test case is now being made with the proprietors of a large structure which is being erected on the west corner of Wellington and Napoleon streets, to be used as a skating rink next winter. The building is to have no walls, but to be built in wood, the roof resting on the ground on each side. The by-law says that the walls of a building must be encased in brick or stone or other incombustible material, and rest on a solid and continuous foundation. It is alleged by the erectors of such buildings that they have no walls to be encased in bricks, that the whole structure is practically a roof and nothing else. Deputy Recorder Bourgouin has promised to render judgment upon the merits of the case this week.

## UNDERTAKERS CONVENE.

The thirteenth annual convention of the Undertakers' Association of Ontario was held in London, Ont., this week, under most auspicious circumstances. This is said to be the first time in the history of the association that the annual meetings have been held outside of Toronto, but the vigorous protests of the western and eastern members effected a change whereby the meetings will likely be held alternately at London and Ottawa.

About 150 members are expected to attend the convention, and among others are Messrs. S. M. Rogers, president, Ottawa; J. P. McIntyre, St. Catharines, treasurer; W. H. Hoyle, Cannington, secretary. Board of Examiners—C. D. Blachford, Hamilton; E. Hopkins, Toronto; John Ferguson, London; A. Millard, Toronto. Other members present are: J. Muir, Port Elgin; F. Latshaw, Dundas; Coltart & Wilson, Chatham; K. M. Whitehead, Thorndale; H. Benglet, Tilbury Centre; L. Morris, Bowmanville; E. F. Best, Simcoe; W. Mohr, Belmont; T. L. Wood, Brantford; A. Burkholder, Woodbridge; J. C. McNevin, Dorchester; A. S. Faust, Zurich; J. E. Hoffman, Dashwood; T. Boon, Bothwell; Rev. Mr. Moyer and F. Moyer, Campden; Dr. John Ferguson.