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Mercantile Summary.

S. D. Walker & Sons' general store at Algonquin, near Brockville, was on the 28th ult. destroyed by fire, together with the Bell telephone office and the Public Library. Total loss was \$3,500, insured for about one-half. The origin of the fire is attributed to incendiaryism.

An order-in-council has now been passed by the Dominion Government granting permission to Mr. E. W. Backus to build a dam at Fort Frances across Rainy river for the purpose of developing electric power. Considerable opposition in the Senate was put up against the scheme on account of the proposed comparatively small amount of power to be furnished for the Canadian side, but the original plans now stand approved.

Louis Flam, for the past eighteen months keeping a small general store at Blackville, N.B., has made an assignment of his estate. He was formerly a peddler in the district.—From Paquetteville, N.B., is reported the failure of S. Theriault, a farmer, who also did a limited store and peddling business, and whose liabilities are reported at about \$1,000.—Mrs. J. H. L. D. Cormier, keeping hotel at Buctouche, in the same Province, is compromising at 25 cents. She was burned out in June last.

Several failures in the Montreal retail grocery trade are reported as follows: A. A. Perry, a leading dealer in the suburb of Westmount, is said to have compromised at 25 cents on the dollar, owing about \$9,000 of merchandise liabilities and \$5,000 advances from relatives. Perry failed once before, in 1876, and then clerked for a time, resuming business in 1890.—Samuel Smith, formerly a clerk of the above, and in business on his own account a few years, has assigned, owing about \$3,000. His failure is attributed in some measure to complications with D. H. Rennoldson, wholesale grocer, reported in last issue as insolvent.—T. Bouchard, in a small way of business, has made an assignment, and offers 25 cents on the dollar.

We learn from the Detroit Free Press of a purchase by the Michigan Steel Boat Co. of the old Detroit United Railway car barns property on Jefferson Avenue from the Olds Motor Works. About 700 men are expected to be employed in building steel and wooden boats and canoes. Stock is on hand with which to build wooden canoes. About 2,000, perhaps, to be turned out for the 1906 season. The Detroit corporation recently bought out W. L. Luke & Co., of Oldtown, Me., and the business will be moved to Detroit. The Michigan Steel Boat Co. has for some time been manufacturing automobile bodies, which will be continued. This company's beginning was at Kalamazoo several years ago. It was bought and incorporated in 1902, when the plant was moved to Detroit and located at 1250 Jefferson Avenue.

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