Mercantile Summary.

THE Peoples' Telephone Company, or any other of the organizations now being formed to do cheap telephoning in Ontario, will not get a chance to cut rates in Hamilton for several years. In 1892 the Bell Telephone people made a bargain with the authorities of Hamilton to allow no other company a franchise to do telephoning for ten years, on condition that the Bell Company paid the city $1,500 a year. The rates there are $45 for business purposes and $30 a year for residences.

A MEETING of the creditors of J. B. Boisvert, general merchant, at St. Hilaire, Que., lately noted as insolvent, was held in Montreal a few days ago, when the creditors generally expressed much dissatisfaction at the general position of affairs, and with the statement. Mr. Boisvert, who had only been about fifteen months' in business, had been previously a book-keeper in Montreal, yet stated at the meeting that he had kept no cash book, and no satisfactory explanations could be elicited as to the disposal of cash receipts, etc. His wife and father-in-law figure as creditors for about $5,000, and the total liabilities, including a mortgage of $5,700, amount to about $14,500, with nominal assets of about $11,000.

THE almost regular weekly failure in the shoe trade at Quebec is again announced, the case being this time that of Messrs. P. Boissonault & Fils, who are reported as having suspended. They have been recently interested largely in the failure of the Commonwealth Shoe Co., and also in several other failures for smaller amounts. The present firm dates back about a year, but the senior partner was formerly of Boissonault, Vermette & Lachance, and some years ago was of Laine & Boissonault, which firm proved unsuccessful.——An assignment has been made by R. E. Woodley, shoe manufacturer, of the same city, whose troubles we alluded to last week. The liabilities are some $18,000, his mother, who assisted him to start, figuring as a creditor for $5,845. The assets are figured nominally at $10,000. Mr. Woodley made an offer of 15 cents, which has not been accepted.

PAUL GELINAS, general merchant of Grande Mere, Que., was unfortunate in being burned out a week or two ago, and being insufficiently insured, has had to assign. He formerly did business at St. Barnabe, and was induced to remove by the great boom Grande Mere is experiencing, owing to the great extension the works of the Laurentide Pulp Co. are undergoing, in which venture Secretary of War Alger, Sir Wm. Van Horne, and other notables have recently become interested.——A voluntary assignment has been made by Hector Hudon, formerly a farmer of St. Angele de Rimouski, but for three or four years a storekeeper. He offers 25 cents.——A meeting of creditors of P. A. Lessard, dealer in pulp wood, lumber, etc., at Dudswell, Que., is called for the 15th inst. Liabilities are about $5,000.——A. Trudeau, of St. Brigitte des Saults, Que., has assigned. He has done a small slow business for the past five years, and two recent law suits have apparently brought his affairs to a focus.