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Mercantile Summary.

LAST year the quantity of Canadian logs towed across Lake Huron for Michigan mills was stated at 250,000,000 feet. This year, the quantity so towed to Michigan will be increased to 350,000,000 feet, if a report from Bay City, Mich., is to be believed.

A RESIDENT of Skagway, writing last week to a friend in Victoria, said that according to the Customs returns, 5,500 persons had arrived at Skagway between March 1st and March 23rd. It was estimated that the population of the town was 12,000 at that time and still growing.

WE have heard that Sir Roderick W. Cameron, of New York, who is heavily interested in ranching in West Alberta, has sent to the Ontario Department of Agriculture asking for 2,500 cattle for stockers. A representative of Sir Roderick is expected in Toronto to look after such cattle.

A MEETING of the Winnipeg Retail Association was held last week, when a legislation committee of eight members was appointed. A discussion was had upon the subject of vacant lands around the city, and the association will vigorously help the scheme to secure the settlement of lands around the city.

ARGUMENTS are being made before the House River and Harbor Committee at Washington in favor of a 1,500-ton barge bill which calls for the deepening of the Erie canal from seven to twelve feet. It is favored on the ground that the much-talked-of ship canal to connect the lakes with tide water is impracticable.—*Railway Review.*

Two delegates from South Dakota have been on a visit to Alberta Territory, in the Canadian North-West, and will make a favorable report to those farmers whom they represent. Already these delegates have entered for ten homesteads for themselves and near relatives. They anticipate that a large number of their friends in South Dakota will remove to Alberta.

ELISEE ROY & FILS, retailers in the dry goods line, at Quebec, are reported in trouble, and to be making an offer of 50 cents on the dollar, secured, and payable at 3, 6, and 9 months. Liabilities are \$7,700, with assets of \$5,400. Mr. Roy is "an old timer," having been some 35 years in business, and has heretofore always managed to pay in full, but he is not very progressive, never

having done beyond a moderate business, and even this has fallen off of late.

THE number of vessels that passed through the Suez Canal last year was 2,936. The number in the previous year had been 3,409, or say 94 per day, and in 1895 it was only 2,534, which was at the rate of 69 per day. The receipts of the canal for these three years were 78,884,000 francs in 1895; then 80,365,000 francs in 1896, and only 73,565,000 in 1897. The diminution in last year's receipts is attributed to the famine and plague in India.

THE following little group of failures are reported for the week in Eastern Ontario: Wm. Hickey, formerly in the lumber business, and of recent years doing a moderate store business at Deux Rivieres, on the Upper Ottawa, has assigned to A. P. Mutchmore, of Ottawa.—Kimpton & Co., butchers, principally in the pork line, and carrying on two stores in Ottawa, are reported insolvent.—A jewelry firm in Cornwall, F. C. Meyers & Co., a concern of some ten years' establishment, but never of very strong standing, have also made an assignment.

J. CORCORAN, a shoe retailer, in business in Montreal since 1890, has been slow pay of late, and his assignment is now recorded. He owes \$4,200, and has apparent assets to about the same figure.—A demand of assignment has been made upon A. Lebeau & Co., a contracting firm in a small way, of the same city.—T. Masse, dry goods, Montreal, is offering 40 cents, cash. A year ago he took over the business of his deceased son, then compromising liabilities of \$15,000, at 80 cents in the dollar.—J. E. Leblanc, in the same line of business, recently reported failed, has settled liabilities of \$14,000 at 40 per cent. cash.

IN the Province of Quebec recent country failures are as follows: Upon the demand of Messrs. J. Hamel & Co., of Quebec, a judicial abandonment has been made by G. L. Pelletier & Co., general dealers at Matane, on the Lower St. Lawrence. Mr. Pelletier is one of the oldest merchants on the Rimouski coast, but has not always met with success in the past. He failed in 1892, and has since been obliged to do business under cover of his wife's name. Present liabilities are stated at about \$11,000, with assets nominally about the same.—At Little Matane, in the same district, the embarrassment is reported of Mrs. Joseph Guimond, who does a small store trade, while her husband is away working in the United States. She wants to settle her very limited liabilities at 50 cents on the dollar.—From Hopetown, rather further down the coast, is reported the failure of W. C. Ross, who has carried on a small general store, also a custom saw and grist mill, and has been Mayor of the parish. He wrote his creditors asking a settlement at 60 cents, but this offer has apparently not met with favor, and a demand of assignment has been made upon him.—Cyprien Dionne, recently reported insolvent at 60 Fraserville, has effected a settlement at 60 cents, owing \$4,650, and J. S. R. Page, general merchant, St. Isidore, has also got a compromise at a similar figure.

—The Virden, Man., Board of Trade is publishing a pamphlet giving lists of vacant lands in the district, with a view to encouraging settlement.

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