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Mercantile Summary.

THE Central Canada Exhibition is to be held
at Ottawa, September 17th to 25th, this year.

At a meeting of the city council of Nelson,
B.C., on the 17th inst., an expenditure of
\$38,000 was authorized for building a sewage
system and improving the waterworks, includ-
ing a new twenty thousand gallon reservoir.

THE eleventh session of the Summer School
of Science, the Yarmouth *Telegram* says, is held
this year in Yarmouth, N.S. The attendance
is the largest in the history of the school.
There were 188 registered on Friday last.

BERNARD & FILS, music and piano dealers,
Quebec, have assigned to the court on demand,
and owe about \$2,900. The concern was
unfortunate before in the spring of 1896, and
the senior had previously been in the dry goods
trade unsuccessfully.

THE Hall mines shipped a train load of blis-
ter copper from Nelson, B.C., to England, last
week. The weight was 127,371 pounds, and
the value \$32,577, an average value of \$511 per
ton. The new 200 ton blast furnace at the
mines is almost ready for use.

THE death last week by drowning of Fred B.
Robb, second son of Alex. Robb & Sons, now
the Robb Engineering Co. of Amherst, N.S., is
an event which has occasioned lively sorrow.
Mr. Robb, who held the position of secretary
to that company, was a most estimable man, in
the prime of life.

THE manager of the Foley mine in Western
Ontario, Mr. J. C. Foley, informs the *Rainy
Lake Journal* that the company has contracted
for a sixteen power drill plant to be in opera-
tion by Oct. 1. The mine now has three power
drills at work, and with this big addition will
be able to open up the mine rapidly.

In a paper on the sponges of the Atlantic
coast of Canada, which has just appeared in
the "Transactions of the Royal Society of
Canada," Mr. Lawrence Lambe gives a cata-
logue with descriptions of the marine sponges
hitherto obtained from the river and Gulf of
St Lawrence. The list embraces thirty-one
species, of which seven are new to science.

IMPROVEMENTS have been made in the
grounds and buildings of the St. John Exhi-
bition, and an excellent show is expected to be
made this year. A number of large manufac-
turers in Quebec and Ontario will exhibit, and
the New Brunswick manufacturers will not be
behindhand, we may be sure. The date of the
fair is from 16th to 25th September, and there
will be four days racing—two each week.

THE most important country failure in the
Province of Quebec for some time past is that
of J. B. Boutin, general merchant at Lauzon,
just reported assigned. He has been long in
business, and successfully, but he has been in-
discreet in helping his friends too freely, having
not only loaned a large sum to Rinfret & Mar-
cotte, wholesale smallwares, Quebec, recently
failed, but also endorsed for them to the extent
of \$40,000, in favor of two banks, one of whom
has made a demand on him. His general li-
abilities are put at \$21,600.

MR. WEATHERSTON has sent us a little book

entitled "In the Country," containing informa-
tion intended for the tourist, sportsman and
invalid seeking health and recreation at the
numerous charming resorts on or reached by
the Intercolonial Railway. Its memoranda
begin with Quebec city—which used to be the
ultimate goal of the tourist from the west—and
go on through the various picturesque villages
of the province, all the way to Dalhousie and
Bathurst, N.B., and to various attractive points,
in Cape Breton. The last half dozen pages
contain instructions about "Rod and Rifle,"
for down there is good country for salmon and
sea trout, moose and caribou, partridge and
woodcock.

WE note the following little group of Nova
Scotia failures: O. W. Trenholme, who has
for twelve years done a moderately general
business at Grand Pre, in the "Evangeline"
country, has assigned. He owes about \$3,500,
of which \$3,000 is preferred, and the estate
will be a very poor one.—Mrs. L. Gullivan, of
Middleton, who has continued the business of
her late husband since 1890, has also assigned.
A son, who has managed of late, seems to have
been prodigal of credit, it is said. She owes
\$4,500, of which \$2,400 is preferred; assets es-
timated at about \$3,000.—The assignment is
also reported of D. W. McDonald, who has done
a small business at Lansdowne for the past two
years.

A VOLUNTARY assignment has been made by
F. Tremblay, for years past a general dealer at
Les Eboulemens, Que. He owes \$4,200 alto-
gether in Quebec, and shows assets of \$5,000.
—Godbu Freres, grocers, St. Hyacinthe,
Que., reported last week as in trouble, have
assigned. Liabilities, \$2,400.—Rancourt &
Trudeau, of St. Johns, Que., who succeeded
last spring to the dry goods business of W.
Brosseau, have assigned to the court on the
demand of Messrs. S. Greenshields, Son & Co.,
Montreal. Liabilities are calculated at \$8,000
to \$10,000.—Therrien & Frere, general store-
keepers, Napierville, Que., recently insolvent,
are making their creditors an offer of 50 cents,
at three and six months.

THERE was a pretty hot fire at Wiarton on
the 25th inst. Several newspaper reports state
that "the heart of the business portion of the
town was burned," but luckily this does not
mean that the entire business section was con-
sumed. There are one hundred business estab-
lishments in Wiarton, and only half a dozen
were damaged by the fire. These were Fielding's
flour and feed store, Sadlier Bros. large dry goods
store, Fisher's drug store, Davis' watchmaker's
shop, Davis' tailor shop, Miller's office, Which-
er's office; the Mechanics' Institute (books
saved), and several others suffered a scorching.
The insurance on most was small. From the top
of the high hill directly behind the town or from
the surface of Colpoys Bay, the fire must have
been an interesting spectacle.

THE difficulties and hindrances in the way of
the dry goods dealer find illustration in the
case of two Montreal concerns in that line this
week. The failure is reported of F. F. & C. B.
Kelley, jobbers in small wares and fancy dry
goods in Montreal, they having filed consent to
assign. The firm dates from 1894, when they
bought out Baker, Taylor & Haskett. The di-
rect liabilities are figured at \$21,472. Again,
largely as a result of increasing departmental
store competition, it is said, Laramee & Massi-
cotte, dry goods retailers in Montreal, have
been obliged to assign. They began business
in 1894, with small capital, but a very fair con-
nection, and considerable experience. They
are said to owe \$35,000 to \$40,000, with assets
nominally to the same amount.

Gold Medals, Paris, 1878: 1889.

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Greatest Durability are Therefore
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