Mercantile Summary.

THE Lake of the Woods Milling Company is getting ready at Portage la Prairie a shipment of 2,000 bags of flour for Sydney, Australia, to leave on the next outgoing boat.

THE Spanish steamer "Navarro," 2,564 tons, has been chartered to load deals at St. John, N.B., for Liverpool, direct, at 30s. 6d. The cargo will be supplied by Mr. A. Gibson.

THE *Columbian* says that the Pacific Coast Lumber Co., on Lulu Island in the Fraser river, are kept busy turning out cedar lumber for the eastern market, the shipments for the past week averaging over one car a day.

THE Dominion Cold Storage Co. has decided to establish headquarters for Ontario in Toronto. They talk of erecting a $50,000 building and putting in a plant costing $100,000. It has commenced operations by leasing the old drill shed.

A GREAT shrinkage is shown in the value of the property of the defunct United States Cordage Company at Elizabeth, N.J. This was recently sold by the sheriff to satisfy a mortgage held by the United States Trust Company of New York. The plant, which was valued at nearly $1,000,000, only realized $30,000.

LAST week Mr. J. Livingston, the senior member of the firm of J. J Livingston & Bros., died suddenly at his home in Listowel, where he had resided nearly thirty years. The firm is an important one, having extensive flax mills at Baden, Listowel, Stratford, etc., and also manufacturing large quantities of oil cake.

MONTREAL failures for the week are few and of slight moment. C. D. Morin, a druggist, making a specialty of manufacturing sticky fly paper, and a few other sundries, has been asked to assign.——Insolvency proceedings have been instituted against Henry Owen, a small printer, and a victim of low-cut prices.——J. B. Dery, a real estate agent, has also been served with a demand of assignment.

MR. R. A. MATHER, assistant manager of the Keewatin Lumber Company, Rat Portage, said to a Winnipeg *Free Press* reporter last week that the activity in mining was of a substantial character in the Lake of the Woods district The final payment of $15,000 was made last week by a syndicate to a party of four young men for property on the Seine River, where experts have been prospecting and sinking a shaft.

MR. JOHN McDOUGALD, the new Canadian Commissioner of Customs, is now fairly installed in office. Mr. Kilvert, Collector of Customs at Hamilton, who has been acting Commissioner of Customs for the last sixteen months, left for home last Saturday.

AN Order-in-Council has been passed at Ottawa, slightly amending the regulations under which the bounty of $2 per ton on pig iron is paid, by which the bounty is to be allowed on pig iron made partly from Canadian and partly from foreign ore. Previously the pig iron had to be made wholly from Canadian ores.

THE following prices were realized at auction in New York last week for the securities mentioned, says the *Shipping List*: 15 shares New York Rubber Company at $120; also, 13 shares Consolidated Fruit Jar Company at $81. It may be further interesting by way of a record of value of sundry mercantile bodies to note that sales of shares were effected at auction last week in Boston, according to the same authority, of 29 preferred shares National Tube Works Company at 107½ to 108¼; 30 common shares ditto at $64.50; 24 shares McKay Metallic Fastening Association, $18.75; 25 shares Morley Buttonhole Machine Company at $8.25; and 10 shares American Waltham Watch Company at $137.50.

THERE is something pitiful in the spectacle of a business man, once prosperous and active, being thrown into difficulty by circumstances he cannot entirely control. So much of his early life is thus in a measure lost—unless we take the consolatory view that no discipline of disaster is in vain. His early energy is spent, his spirit often bruised, if not broken, his hopes dampened. Such a man recovers lost ground sometimes, but oftener he is permanently disabled. Mr Victor Cote, dealer in boots and shoes at St. Hyacinthe, Que., has been asked to assign. Mr. Cote is one of the oldest merchants of the town, and at one time did a very large business, both as a manufacturer and retailer. He was practically ruined by the fire of 1876, and has since that date had to obtain indulgence from creditors on several occasions.