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Mercantile Summary.

REMI CHAMPAGNE, a Montreal builder and contractor, is reported assigned, owing \$17,387.—C. Lafond, also a Montreal builder, has compromised at 20 cents.

C. VEZINA, a Quebec plumber, in business for some 26 years without previous disaster, has been served with a demand of assignment at the instance of C. A. Parent, of Quebec.

THE price of lobsters during the coming season is the chief question of interest with lobster fishermen. The Bras d'Or Gazette thinks it will be the highest since a number of years before the season is closed. Two new lobster factories are in course of erection in Canso, N.S., one being put up by the Whitmans, of that place, and the other by Mr. Sproule, of Digby.

A UNION of employers to fight a union of workers does not seem to please the leaders of the striking cigarmakers, says the Montreal Gazette, "It is, however, what was to have been expected, what workmen's organizers have by example been teaching for years. 'The injury of one is the concern of all,' on both sides of the fence that divides labor and capital. Perhaps a just appreciation of the fact will be a help in the solution of what is discussed as the labor problem. It should make each side careful in considering what steps it decides on."

TROUBLES among the Quebec leather and shoe trade seem to be epidemic. Besides the failures noted of recent weeks, a demand of assignment is reported on Budden & Perry, shoe manufacturers in that city. The firm dates from September, 1898, when they bought the estate of E. Woodley. Last fall the firm showed some embarrassment, and Mr. Perry retired, Mr. Budden continuing alone under the same style.—A demand of assignment has also been made upon P. I. Boivin & Co., retail shoes, who have been trying to arrange a compromise at 35 cents. Mr. L. Boivin, of St. George de la Beauce, is the registered proprietor of the business, but is believed to act as a cover for P. I. Boivin, who is the manager of it, and who was unsuccessful some years ago as a manufacturer.

COUNTRY failures in the province of Quebec are few of late, and of no special significance. E. Tanguay, doing a general store and small milling business at Chartierville, has assigned. He started business, with the assistance of his father, in 1898.—Desjardins Freres, hardware dealers, moved from St. Henry de Montreal to Lachine about eighteen months ago, and have now assigned, owing about \$2,700.—Joseph Loranger, formerly in the grocery business at Three Rivers, removed to Berthierville in the spring of last year, but the change has not proved beneficial in its results and a demand of assignment has now been made upon him.—Another case of removal attended with disaster, is that of J. A. Brien, general dealer at Chambly Basin, who came from Mascouche in the fall of 1897, and whose assignment is now reported.

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