

FALL SEASON, 1896

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Mercantile Summary.

THE Grand Trunk Railway Company is about to erect a commodious passenger station in the town of St. Henri. This new building, which will be 100 feet long by 88 feet wide, is to be constructed of brick and stone, with slate roof, and its neat appearance will place it in the first rank of the public buildings in St. Henri. It will be located on the site of the present old wooden structure, which has not for a long time been sufficient for the requirements of the town.

A PETITION has been prepared to lay before Parliament protesting against the lack of any law governing the stamping of watch cases, and gold and silver jewellery, which is said to have caused the Canadian market to be flooded with spurious goods. The petition asks: That proposals be submitted to Parliament making it a criminal offence to falsely stamp or mark watch cases or manufactures of gold and silver; or that a Government assayer be appointed in the different provinces, where practicable, to assay and stamp or mark manufactures of gold and silver—the Government charging sufficient fee for each article so stamped to pay cost of stamping—the Government stamp to be a guarantee of quality to the buyer.

THE travelling public will be interested in the announcement that the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company will add two large steel side-wheel steamers to their present fleet. The new vessels are to be at least 275 feet in length, and it is promised that they will be the finest and most spacious steamers in Canadian waters. This is necessary if the company expect to keep control of the route between here and Montreal. For a considerable time there has been much cause of complaint, and we have found that it is well grounded. A little better attention to the wants of those who have become temporary guests would not be the cause of reduced dividends. At a meeting of the company held a few days ago, a semi-annual dividend of three per cent. was declared, payable on and after November 2nd. Senator Forget, who presided at the meeting, brought out the financial statement of the business of the company to September 1st. It showed the net earnings to be largely in excess of last year. This was caused not only by an increase in traffic, but by a large decrease in operating expenses.

PROBABLY owing to the recent light demand for pig iron, the management of the Londonderry Iron Co., of Londonderry, N.S., has turned its attention to the development of other departments of the business, and apparently with encouraging results. We learn that they have recently completed the first contract for turned and bored pipe for water-works ever undertaken in America. These pipes were for the town of Moncton, N.B.; another similar job is in progress for St. John, N.B., and the company may be fairly congratulated on their enterprise in competing for this kind of work with British makers. They have also inaugurated a new department for the manufacture of valves, sluice gates, hydrants, and general waterwork fittings, utilizing in this way a quality of their pig iron product which was hardly adapted for general foundry purposes, and of which they had a considerable accumulation in yard. Their machine shop and foundry have been working over-time of late to complete a large coke oven and condenser plant for the People's Heat and Light Co., of Halifax, N.S., and on general orders. The blast furnace will probably shut down in a few weeks for the winter, as a new

lining is necessary, and other improvements are in contemplation, tending to decrease the cost of production, and to improve the quality of the output.

A MEETING of the creditors of Wm. Thorburn, hardware dealer, Gore Bay, was held here last Friday, when an offer of 75 per cent, secured, was made and accepted, payments extending over a year. His statement shows a surplus of \$3,000 over liabilities of \$10,000.—Frank Shepherd, doing a small tailoring trade at Shelbourne, has assigned.—The Canadian assets of S. G. M. Bates, who carried on lumbering at Bay City, Mich., have been assigned to E. R. C. Clarkson. Although he has been estimated worth a quarter of a million dollars, he has not enjoyed the reputation of being prompt in meeting his payments.—Fifteen years ago John McKee started a drug business in Peterboro. Now he is offering creditors 25 per cent. of their claims, payable in cash. Heavy expenses, with poor health, seems to be the cause of embarrassment.—An assignment is made by John V. Magee, baker, Norwich. Lately his habits have not been suited to prosperous business, and his financial condition need cause no surprise.

GUELPH has recently added to its commercial buildings one of the finest office buildings in the Province of Ontario. The building is situated on Douglas street, near the post office, in the centre of the city, having been erected by Messrs. McLean & McLean, barristers, of Guelph. The building itself is made of pressed brick, with stone foundations, and is divided into ten suites of offices, each suite being fitted up with vaults, and heated by hot water. The architect is Mr. Jno. A. Trimble, of Brampton, and he has given to the owners and tenants some of the finest arranged and most convenient offices in Ontario, lighted with electric light, large plate glass windows in every office, and an excellent ventilation throughout the building. The offices are nearly all rented, the first office on the ground floor being used by the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company of Toronto, through their district manager, Mr. H. A. Burton Calvert. The other tenants at present in the building are: Messrs. McLean & McLean, barristers, owners of the building; Dr. E. S. Hardie, dentist; G. W. Field, barrister; Messrs. Mowat & Dawson, barristers; J. W. Kilgour, general agent; J. F. Kilgour, barrister.—Among the other improvements in Guelph are the new offices of the Dominion Bank, on the corner of McDonald and Wyndham streets. The exterior presents a neat and attractive appearance, and Mr. A. Peplor, the manager, has displayed taste and judgment in the interior arrangements.—Mr. Wm. Sunley, a large dealer in stoves and tinware, is renovating his entire establishment. It is situated on Market Square, near Front street, and when finished will present quite an altered appearance. He is one of the oldest business men of the city, having succeeded his father 34 years ago, who came to Guelph in 1832. The business has been established 55 years. Mr. Sunley is agent for Gurney, Tilden & Co., Bowes, Jamieson & Co., D. Moore & Co., all of Hamilton.

THE SUGAR REFINERY FIRE.

The burning of the Moncton (N.B.) Sugar Refinery is of interest to underwriters. Regarding the loss, Mr. W. E. Lowe said, "In twenty-five years no sprinkled sugar refinery has burned, and half are now sprinkled. All of those belonging to the American Sugar Refining Company are now equipped with sprinklers. Every refinery burned, that I have any