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Mercantile Summary.

AN overliability in the matter of credits, and slackness in collections are assigned as reasons for the failure of St. Desmarais, general merchant at Marieville, Que., who has just consented to assign. He moved to Marieville, from St. Marc, in 1883, and has since then done a leading business in the place. He is estimated to owe about \$17,000.

ABOUT five years ago, Bates & Robinson began plumbing in this city, and in August, 1900, admitted James Heron, a partner, with a capital of \$3,000, cash. The business style was then changed to Bates, Robinson & Co. But for all this ready cash, they seem to have been unable to compete and make money, and recently they offered creditors 25 per cent. This was declined, and now E. R. C. Clarkson is in charge of the estate. They owe \$6,000, and have nominal assets of \$3,800.—John Haslett, marble dealer, has assigned, and Edward McKague, blacksmith, was sold out by a bailiff.

SOME years ago E. Parent was a fairly prosperous boot and shoe manufacturer in a moderate way in Montreal. In 1893 he accepted a bonus grant from the municipality of Terrebonne, and removed his factory to that Quebec town, when he was handicapped by distance from his source of supply by poor shipping facilities, etc. In 1895 he was obliged to compromise at 35 cents. In 1898 the bonus arrangement expired, and being solicited to remove to St. Johns, Que., under a bonus arrangement, the town of Terrebonne voted him a further bonus to remain, but friction developed during the following year over the terms of said bonus, and he assigned in 1899, settling with creditors at 20 cents. Mr. Parent returned to Montreal last summer, taking premises in the Boys' Reformatory, and arranging for the labor of a certain number of the inmates of that institution, but he is again reported in trouble, but with small obligations, and the business will likely be wound up. M. Parent probably now perceives, as wiser people have long ago done, that the bonusing system is a fallacy.

—Doctors Pasteur, Koch and others, with F. W. Foxworthy, an American army surgeon, are the originators of an idea, which, if carried out, will no doubt be of great benefit to the interests of international commerce. They are endeavoring to make arrangements for holding an international quarantine congress to formulate a uniform code of laws recognized all over the world. The quarantine systems of the world are at present chaotic and contradictory. Their inconsistencies are so glaring that Dr. Koch asserts that they might as well be abolished altogether. The rigor shown in one place is discounted by the laxity shown in another and not infrequently the one exists where the other belongs. The endeavor will be to hit upon some plan whereby, while all health demands are fully met, the loss of time and damage to baggage shall be largely obviated.

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