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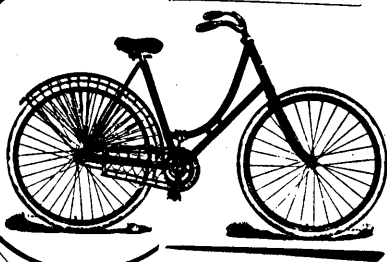
is a publication devoted to the business-man, the credit-man, commercial lawyers and collection managers of the wholesale and manufacturing houses. It contains from month to month their experiences, plans and methods. The publication has always been the leader and best of its class—its field, rather—as it has out-classed all its competitors. The year '97 sees it better and brighter than ever before. If you are a man of business you will enjoy its regular monthly visits. **Try it.**

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Mercantile Summary.

THERE are prospects of an unusually early opening of navigation at Montreal, this spring. The ice is rapidly breaking up.

GAGNON & VAILLANCOURT, a small shoe manufacturing concern of Montreal, dating from the spring of '95, have assigned, and owe \$8,412. Gagnon was formerly of Gagnon & Frere, who failed in '94, and Vaillancourt was also unsuccessful in business before.

THE Dominion Government has granted the request for the extension of the postal car service on the L. E. & D. R. R. from Leamington to Ridgetown. The change will take effect July 1st next. At the present time the mails are carried to Leamington by train, and from there they go by stage to Ridgetown.

THE assignment is reported of M. McDonald & Co., teas, etc., Cornwall, Ont., in which concern Jane McDonald figures as the only partner. —J. D. Mallette, doing a small stationery and fancy goods business at Arrprior, Ont., is insolvent. —W. H. Scripture & Co., druggists, Ottawa, of which business W. H. Greig has been the only proprietor since April, '96, have made an assignment.

We are informed by a commercial man in a position to know that over \$17,000 worth of binder twine was used in P. E. Island last season. This seems almost beyond belief, yet it is true. When expressing our astonishment, he put the query: "How much paris green do you think it took to fight the potato bug last year?" Having learned to be wary with the binder twine figures, we expressed utter ignorance, when he replied to his own question, "Ten thousand dollars." We were simply amazed. —Prince Edward Island Farmer.

JACQUES & ST. PIERRE, a Montreal dry goods concern, held a meeting of their creditors last week, and made a proposition to pay 50 cents, in 3, 6, 9 and 12 months, liabilities being about \$10,000, and assets nominally the same. —J. T. Bolt, a manufacturing jeweller, Montreal, has assigned, owing \$2,500. His failure had been anticipated for some time. —Alfred Deschamps, senr., trader, Montreal, involved through the late failure of his son, a hardware dealer, of the same name, has assigned, owing \$10,900. —The Havana Cigar Co., Montreal, has now assigned to the court, and filed a schedule of liabilities amounting to \$16,797. —An arrangement has been effected by Kelly Bros., tailors, Montreal, at 33½ cents, at 4, 6 and 8 months, secured, on liabilities of \$12,000.

THE World's Ottawa special says: There is a prospect of international complications arising out of the encroachment of American fishermen in Hecate Straits, which lie to the north of Queen Charlotte Island, B.C. Last autumn the Dominion Government steamer "Quadra" was sent to these straits, where there is good halibut fishing, for the purpose of warning American fishing vessels away and preventing poaching. At the particular time the "Quadra" was at Belle Coola there were none of the American fishing vessels there, but notices of warning were left with the missionaries to hand to captains of the vessels this spring, which was done. Now, it appears, the Americans have raised the contention that these straits are neutral waters, and unless a bold front is assumed upon it by our Government there will be trouble thereabouts. Under the treaty for delimitation of the Alaska boundary, 20 miles square of territory was conceded by Canada to the United States, and unless the Government acts vigilantly further accessions of territorial jurisdiction will be secured by the States.

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