

TRADE CHAT.

MR. Cook, merchant tailor, Sarina, was much injured by a recent experience with a runaway horse.

The store of Mr. Thomas Craig, merchant tailor, Ridgetown, was entered by burglars recently, and \$500 worth of goods stolen.

The Empress of China brought 200 tons of silk to Vancouver, B.C., on her last trip from Yokohama. Most of this silk was destined for Montreal.

Mr. O. C. Rowse, a prominent dry goods merchant of Peterboro', died there recently. He was an energetic business man and a prominent church worker.

Mr. J. S. Collins, men's furnisher, Simcoe, Ont., was burned out on the 8th inst. Loss amounted to \$5,000, and the insurance to \$2,000. Part of his stock was saved.

Messrs. Newland & Co., Galt, Ont., are having plans prepared for an enlargement of their works, owing to the heavy demand for their imitation buffalo robes.

The Worsted and Braid Company, of Toronto, have amalgamated with the Austin Manufacturing Company, of Toronto Junction. Operations on a large scale have commenced.

On Saturday last the employees of A. A. Allan & Co., cap and fur manufacturers, Bay street, presented Mrs. Walker, the esteemed forewoman, with a handsome gold watch.

The British Columbia Jute Company is to erect a factory in Vancouver for the manufacture of jute and cotton bags of all descriptions, and is to be exempt from taxation thereon.

Mr. James H. Currie, son of Mr. James Currie, St. Thomas, has purchased a partnership in the dry goods business of T. W. Gray & Co., Woodstock, and will remove there soon after the new year.

Always anxious to be abreast with the times, the Canada Glove Works at Acton is about to put in steam power to run their sewing machines. This should render the work much lighter for the operatives.

A young Englishman in Stratford, by name Albert E. Elcombe, recently married an elderly lady, and ten days afterwards deserted, taking with him \$200 belonging to Tolton Bros., men's furriers, in that city.

The dry goods store of D. Hendley, at Tilbury Centre, Ont., was broken into on Saturday night, the 10th inst., and about \$1,000 worth of goods carried away, consisting of ready-made clothing, silks, plush and ribbons.

The matter of addressing the Government on the question of introducing at next session the Insolvency Bill, agreed upon by the joint boards, was left in the hands of the president and Mr. J. W. Little, with discretionary powers at the last meeting of the London, Ont., Board of Trade.

Robert Barbour, president of the Barbour Flax Spinning Company, died recently of apoplexy at Paterson, N.J. He was born in Ireland, and came to the country in 1804, and established an extensive American industry. He left a fortune estimated at from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000. Canadian merchants are well acquainted with this brand of thread.

It is stated, and on very good authority, that if the Park's mill, at St.

John N.B. has not already been secured by the colored cotton syndicate, negotiations to that end will very shortly be consummated. This is the last mill outside of the syndicate, and the fact that it will soon be gathered into the fold, materially strengthens the stock of the latter in the market.

The mayor of Toronto has received a requisition signed by many prominent citizens asking that a public meeting be called to discuss the question of establishing a manufacturers' and commercial exchange, which shall, by disseminating information regarding established industries and others that may be projected, and be advertising the advantages of Toronto as an industrial centre, promote the prosperity of the city.

Mr. Chapleau in the customs department recently listened to the particulars of a case wherein goods had been seized for undervaluation. Stewart & Son, Lisburn, Ireland, manufacturers and importers of Linen thread, have been invoicing goods to Canada for 50 years, and their representative, Mr. Fawcett, of New York, states that the same basis of valuation had been used all these years that was used in invoicing this lot seized.

Messrs. Dundas and Flavell Bros., Lindsay, Ont., are said to have one of the best equipped dry goods stores in that district. Their dress goods are kept in the front of the store, while the rear is filled up with tweeds and ready-made clothing. On upper flats are the carpet room and the millinery and mantle rooms. They carry a huge stock and do a rushing trade. They are also interested in other industries in the town.

Mr. Robert Simpson, who runs an immense dry goods business on the south-west corner of Yonge and Queen streets in this city, has been making some extensive purchases of real estate. For the lot on which he does business, which is 100 feet deep and has 28 feet frontage on Yonge street, he paid \$70,000. For the lot immediately south of this, with 42 feet frontage on Yonge, he paid \$84,000. The lot on Queen street just west of the two mentioned cost him \$40,000. The three deals are said to have been all cash transactions.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Toronto City Council, it was decided that in January the people shall be asked to answer the following question: Are you in favor of the City Council asking the Legislature for power to reduce or abolish taxation on personality, income, merchandise, as well as machinery, and, if necessary, on buildings? The voters who will have permission to answer this question are only those entitled to vote for the election of aldermen. It was decided to ask for power to abolish exemptions on land within the city.

On December 12 fire broke out in Mrs. Wyckoff's fancy store, London, Ont., and before the flames were extinguished, the stock was completely ruined by fire, smoke and water, entailing a loss of about \$5,000, on which there was no insurance. Very little damage was done to the building, although the store fittings were badly damaged. A little granddaughter of Mrs. Wyckoff's after lighting a lamp threw the burning match on the floor which ignited some paper and started to blaze, seeing which the

child ran down cellar, from which she was rescued by firemen through a window.

Speaking of failures, it is said that the circumstances connected with the closing down of the firm of McKinnell Bros., Vancouver, under a bill of sale, are such as to demand investigation and legislative enactment to prevent the possibility of its recurrence. In this case a bill of sale in a large amount was given, which shuts out all creditors, and it seems that in this province such an enactment will hold water even when given when a man is in a position of insolvency, and this has been the means of defrauding more than one creditor in British Columbia.

After an existence of half a century, the well-known wholesale dry goods firm of Mackay Bros., Montreal, is about to retire from business. The firm was established in 1840 by the late Joseph Mackay, founder of the Mackay Institute, and a few years afterwards his brother Edward was taken into the firm, and later on the Hon. Hugh Mackay and Mr. James Mackay, nephew of the founder. All are now dead, and the only member of the family at present connected with the firm is Mr. Robert Mackay, who holds the principal interest, and is now retiring. The business will be disposed of as soon as possible, the sale of the stock and goods taking place some time during the present month.

A change has taken place in the firm of Wall & Butler, the well known and popular dry goods merchants, of Chatham, Ont., by which Mr. Butler retires from the business. His interest has been assumed by Mr. John Wall, Jr., and the future designation of the proprietary will be John Wall & Co. In withdrawing from this old and well established house Mr. Butler carries with him the fullest respect and confidence of his former partner and business associate, together with the well-wishes of the house for his future prosperity. His retirement, it was learned, was voluntary, and the terms upon which it was arranged were mutually satisfactory, and reached in the best possible spirit and with perfect understanding. Mr. Butler, it appears, has simply given opportunity to the son of the senior partner to gratify a natural and cherished ambition for membership in the firm. Mr. Butler has always been regarded as one of the leading business men of Chatham, and was held in high respect by the citizens of that town.

Mr. Robert C. Milne, with R. C. Macfie & Co., hats and caps, has returned to London after a successful ten weeks' business trip to Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia. His trip evidently agreed with both him and the firm.

W. R. Brock & Co. have an enormous stock of new prints. They have several ranges in domestic goods which are entirely confined to themselves. Already they are shipping out these domestic goods and the comment on them is very favorable. Their samples of English prints are on the road, and orders are coming in very well. In German blues their samples show a well assorted stock. They also carry a nice range of the better class of American prints. They expect fine gingham to be in good demand, and are preparing to meet this with a good supply.