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PATTERSON & CORBIN ST. CATHARINES, Ont.

Mercantile Summary.

A PAVORITE bicycle shoe is of dark russet laced at back as well as front. Many are being made up without lining. This idea seems to be popular with bicyclists, and they are ordering

THE competition of American carpets is still to be reckoned with in Britain. Sixty-three bales of the goods, valued at about £1,100, left New York for Manchester during the second half of January, and were delivered last month.

A LOT of flour has been sold by Ogilvie & Co. to go to Suva, in the Fiji Islands. This is probably the first shipment of Canadian flour that has been sent to that distant part of the world. It goes forward via Vancouver and the Austra-

Adams & Hemphill, a firm of Ottawa tailors, have made assignment of their estate. Their liabilities are about \$4,000, with assets composed of \$2,000 in stock, and book debts of a similar amount. The reason assigned for failure is too much expense for the business done.

THE unexpected failure is announced of Haines & Ludecking, a Montreal commission firm, taking import orders for German chemicals, hardware, etc. Mr. Ludecking retired from the firm a year ago, though his name was retained. Their liabilities are mainly due in Germany, and to their bankers.

WORD comes from Quebec that demand for timber from the other side of the Atlantic is becoming more pronounced, and that considerably increased export may be looked for in the spring. This is cheering news, for the timber and lumber business has been languishing in Canada for some time. It is not unlikely that the increased activity at British shipyards wil accelerate the improvement.

Counterfeit half dollars have been in circulation in Portage la Prairie and vicinity. They are similar to those circulated in Winnipeg a few months ago, and the imitation is a very bad one. The spurious coins are composed of silver and lead; the stamping is inferior, being distinct in some parts and in others faint, the lettering being irregular. The whole face of the coin is full of little flaws, also the metal has a greasy feeling to the touch.

HERE is something new about that worthy gentleman, Sir Donald Smith. The Draper's Record avers that at one time he was well known in St. Paul's churchyard in connection with the old firm of J. F. Pawson & Co., London. He was once in the service of the Hudson Bay Company, of which he is now the chairman. He was also, as we know, one of the prime movers of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

THE Halifax and Bermuda Cable Company proposes an extension of its line from Bermuda to Jamaica. If this extension be made a great reduction in the rate per word from Halifax to Jamaica will result, marking the wide difference between \$1.19 and 50 cents. This is the temptation held out to the Dominion Government to give assistance to the proposed extension, in the form of a moderate subsidy for a limited number of years. Cable orders form an item in the cost of carrying on commerce between distant points, and cheapness of transmission is an incentive to increased intercourse; but whether the claim that the extension would open new routes to trade would be realized, is necessarily problematical. Direct communication by cable between Canada and Jamaica is desirable, and it could scarcely fail to increase the trade between Canada and the West Indies.

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