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Mercantile Summary.

ONE of the unsuccessful tenderers for the Niagara Central Railway, Mr. Neelon, has written to the Master-in-ordinary protesting against the acceptance of Mr. McMahon's offer of \$34,000 for that road last week.

THE assignment is reported of Samuel McDougall, of Renfrew, Ont., long in business as a general storekeeper, dealing in hay and other shanty supplies. He was unfortunate before in 1877, and has always had the name of being unsystematic in his business affairs, and more or less slow in payments. Several recent suits by Ottawa and Montreal creditors have apparently culminated in his suspension.

A LEADING Montreal East end shoe retailer, Avila Lecompte, has made a voluntary assignment, and his creditors are called together for the 9th inst. He began business twenty years ago, and did very fairly for a time, but in 1896 he became surety to a Toronto brewing firm for a saloon-keeper, an affair which cost him several thousand dollars, and he has since seemed to have fallen behind. He owes \$16,800.

THE Quebec firm of D. Fournier & Co., tobacconists, Quebec, have assigned to the court. Mrs. Fournier, who was the registered proprietress, affirms that her husband, who kept the books, has left the city, and she is unable to file a schedule of liabilities, but there is a mortgage of \$2,800, and probably a like amount of trade debts.—L. A. H. St. Onge, a tailor at St. Dominique, Que., is offering 25 per cent. cash, in liabilities of about \$1,500. His affairs have been in bad shape for some months.

AN arrangement is being negotiated by Messrs. Letang, Letang & Co., the wholesale hardware merchants, of Montreal, whose failure we lately noted. They propose to pay 70 cents in the dollar cash, which is certainly a good settlement for creditors as such matters generally go, but a few of those interested seem averse to sign off, being dissatisfied with the failure, in view of the claims of a large surplus made only a few months before suspension, and also with the unsatisfactory manner in which the books have been kept.

THE new fire engine bought by the Fairville, N.B., fire department, has been tested and is found to work well.

THE Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo railway intend to ask Brantford for \$10,000 of the lapsed \$70,000 bonus which was once voted them.

THE record of sales by the C.P.R. land department during the month of June shows the areas disposed of to have aggregated 49,000 acres, and the price received \$160,000.

At a meeting of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, some days ago, one of the subjects discussed was the request of the City Council for the co-operation of the board of trade, and the appointment of not less than ten members to assist in receiving the visitors. The meeting asked the president to name the committee. The 11th to 16th July is the week of the exhibition.

As to the customary summer travel of Americans through Canada or down the St. Lawrence, opinions differ as to its extent this year. Not so many of our neighbors are going to Europe, however. Says Henry Clews: "The war has certainly served one wholesome purpose in keeping Americans from indulging in foreign travel this summer to a very great extent. The expenditures are not likely to be more than one-half that of former years for that purpose, making a saving to this country of at least \$50,000,000. This is an item of considerable importance. These stay-at-home people, instead of traveling in Europe, will do so in this country, and our internal transportation companies will be corresponding gainers."

MR. GEORGE ROBERTSON, of St. John, like the public-spirited man he is, has made an excellent showing for that city in the course of his visit to Liverpool, Manchester and other British cities. The Guardian of Manchester devotes a column to Mr. Robertson's address on the Canadian city, the port, and the new Manchester line of steamers. Evidently, too, the visit to Canada of Mr. Southern and Sir Bosden Leech has had a good effect in dissipating prejudice against the Bay of Fundy route and in familiarizing Old Country commercial men with Canadian lines of transportation. Mr. Robertson has deserved well of Eastern Canada. He is one of a number of St. John's enterprising and self-sacrificing citizens.

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