Mercantile Summary.

The ratepayers of Clinton have passed a by-law to loan the Clinton Knitting Company $6,000 for a period of twenty years, to assist in enlarging their factory, which they intend to do at once.

M. A. Shaw, dealing in men's furnishings, at Yarmouth, N.S., is reported in trouble, with premises in charge of an assignee. Liabilities are stated at about $4,000. Several recent suits were entered by Montreal and Toronto houses.

The Canadian Rubber Company intends, we are told, to spend about $250,000 this year in improving and extending its plant and erecting new factories in Montreal. It is hoped to increase the company's present capacity by at least 50 per cent. and to be able to manufacture goods in an extensive way of a character that is now scarcely produced at all in the Dominion.

The failure of Crain Bros., of Florenceville East, N.B., who have been running a small general store and sawmill for the past two and a half years, has caused hard feeling among the creditors, who are not likely to get much on their claims, which amount to some $4,900. It appears that Charles Crain, the senior brother, left suddenly for the United States, several weeks ago, taking with him, it is estimated, $3,000, having secured about $2,000 as advances on lumber. He also made a sale of the mill for $1,000, besides realizing some smaller amounts. This is too like deliberate rascality to be at all pleasant.

The directors of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company held a meeting in Montreal last week and listened to a report on the company's operations at Sydney. It was regarded as very satisfactory. The chairman reported the new issues of second mortgage bonds as fully subscribed, and a resolution passed authorized the proposed expenditure for improvements. Part of the money is for new coke ovens, so that there will be ample coking plant for keeping the blast furnaces in continuous operation, in view of the additional requirements of ore for the larger output; additions to the mining plant are to be made, and an extra steamer chartered to carry ore to Sydney, so as to have ample supply on hand when the three furnaces commence operations. The demand for the products of the company is increasing with sufficient orders on hand to take care of the output for some time to come. Great progress has been made on the rail mill since the snow blockade was removed.