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#### Mercantile Summary.

THE United States of Central America became a federal republic on the 1st of November. But on the 1st of December came the news that the union had dissolved. They are very rapid in their movements, these States.

THE valuation of taxable property in Montreal, according to the returns of the assessors, is this year \$143,217,325, an increase of \$2,415,000 over the record of 1897. It is worthy of note that about \$40,-000,000 worth of this does not pay taxes.

A visit has been paid to Fenelon Falls by Mr. J. J. Wright, manager of the Toronto Electric Light Co., for the purpose of obtaining data upon which to base a report regarding the practicability of the proposal for the transmission of electric energy for light and power to Lindsay. The Electrical News says that Mr. Wright was engaged by gentlemen who have been asked to provide the capital necessary to carry out the scheme.

A FEW days ago Messrs. Geo. A. Stimson & Co., bond brokers, Toronto, took delivery of the \$100,000 town of Barrie debentures which they purchased from the town quite recently. The bonds were issued to take over the waterworks which had previously been run by a private company. The Barrie council were shrewd enough to get the county of Simcoe to guarantee the bonds, which enabled them to get a handsome premium, although the securities were issued at 3½ per cent.

HALF a dozen parties in Windsor have obtained letters patent to make and deal in paints, colors, etc., under the name of the Standard Paint and Varnish Works Company of Windsor, Ltd.; capital, \$12,-000. The widow of the late S. B. Chandler and some other parties have obtained a charter to carry on the business of the late S. B. Chandler in dental instruments and supplies in Toronto, under the name of the S. B. Chandler Dental Depot, Ltd. Parties in Glencoe and Newbury, Ont., are incorporated as the Glencoe Oil and Gas Company, Ltd., capital \$20,000, to bore for petroleum and to produce natural gas. Head office, Glencoe; provisional directors: Geo. Parrott, Walter J. Small, Geo. H. Small, R. J. Aldred, A. E. Aldred and George Hav.

THERE is a story in print, which does not bear a very probable air, that some of the bills stolen from the Molsons Bank in Winnipeg were seen, and their numbers taken, by a woman in Vancouver the other day. They had been "left over-night in her custody as landlady" by a mysterious stranger. This stranger has disappeared. Of course he has. Something more intelligible and apparently authentic comes from Vancouver, under date Tuesday last. An attempt was made, says the despatch, by safe-crackers to enter the Bank of British North America there in the early morning. The men were scared away by the night clerk, Fred Salisbury, who appeared on the scene with a revolver. They were standing near the vault, and on seeing him rushed to the back window and jumped through, There was in the vicinity of \$200,000 in the safe.

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