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Mercantile Summary.

THE merchants of Essex town have made an agreement to close at six o'clock every Tuesday and Friday night during the fall and winter.

POSTMASTERS have been notified that a direct parcel post service between Canada and Hong Kong has gone into effect *via* Vancouver. The rates are 16 cents per pound.

THE firm of Henry A. King & Co., commission merchants in this city, have removed their offices from the Board of Trade Building to 12 King street west.

THE British Board of Trade returns for October show an increase for the months in imports of £1,190,000, and in exports of £1,680,000, as compared with those for the corresponding month last year.

INCORPORATION is being sought for the "Montreal Hydraulic Wheels Company," whose capital is \$100,000, and the Power Rope Belting Company of St. Catharines applies for Dominion incorporation; capital, \$20,000.

THE Upper Ottawa Improvement Company, at a recent meeting, decided to issue debentures for \$60,000, for building the two new boats now in Progress at Sand Point and at the Quyon. The boats are to be completed early next spring.

APPLICATION is to be made next session for a charter for the "Huron and Ontario Railway Company," whose scheme is to construct an electric railway from Port Perry to Kincardine, running through York, Simcoe, Cardwell, Grey and Bruce counties, touching a number of towns and villages *en route*.

THE Premier stated, on Saturday, that the Furness Steamship Company had also expressed a desire to compete for the service for the proposed winter line of steamers between St. John, N.B., and Liverpool. This week the Government expects to have offers from the Allan, Dominion and Furness lines.

WE learn from Winnipeg that Mr. J. B. Ferguson, for years a stationer in that city, one of the first, if not the first, in fact, to open there along with Mr. Parsons, has sold his books and periodicals to Alex. Taylor, and purposes doing a wholesale business in printing and wrapping papers, office and school supplies. Mr. Ferguson has bought 70 feet of land on McDermott street, in Winnipeg, near Main, with a brick block thereon, and his premises are to be in those buildings.

HECTOR LEMIEUX, of Chicoutimi, Que., is reported to be embarrassed and to be conferring with creditors to obtain indulgence. Originally a well-doing blacksmith, he laid in a stock of groceries, etc., two years ago, and it is presumed he has got his moderate capital spread out in slow accounts. It is claimed that he shows a surplus. Since writing the above, we learn that Mr. L. has arranged a compromise at 75 cents on the dollar.

UTTERERS of counterfeit notes have been operating in Quebec of late. Among their bills in circulation are American two-dollar bills (greenbacks), dated 1891. All of that year are understood to be counterfeit, for the counterfeits being out before the legitimate notes, all the latter of that issue were destroyed. The *Chronicle* says an American officer is here in connection with the frauds, which have been going on for some time past, but the counterfeits cannot be found, and are supposed to be in hiding in some country place.

A STONE contractor of St. Alban's, Que., Geo. Beaucage, is asking a year's extension. Mr. B. has done quite an extensive quarrying business for some years, has supplied stone for a number of important buildings, including the Chateau Frontenac, at Quebec, and has also shipped stone to Toronto. —A. Nadeau, quite an important operator in hay and coal at Ste. Marie de Monnoir, Que., has become discouraged, and is reported gone away to the United States. His liabilities are estimated at \$17,000.

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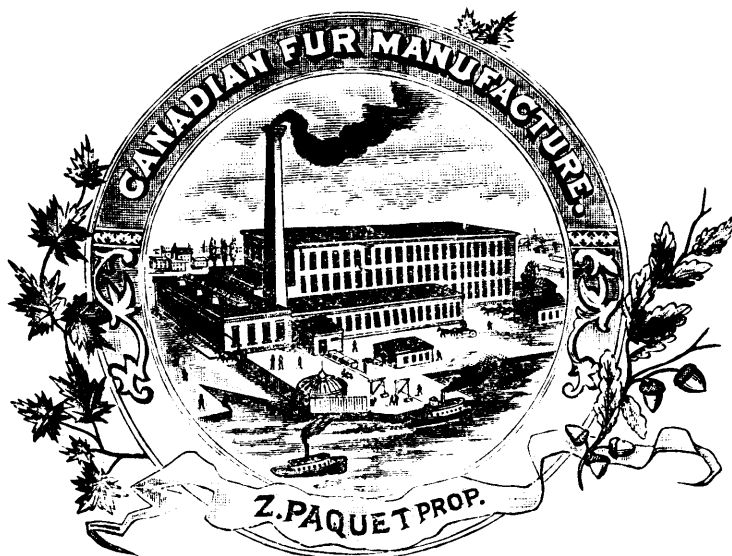
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