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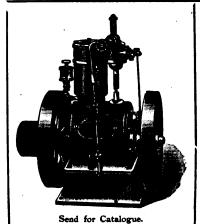
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BEDARD, Bertrand & Gauvin, the Oucbec dry goods retailers, reported as in trouble several weeks ago, are now trying to effect an arrangement at 60 cents, in four quarterly payments.

THE Chateauguay & Northern Railway Co. have awarded contracts for the grading of the proposed railroad between Montreal and Joliette, and for the superstructure of a bridge at Bout de l'Ile. The steel work for the latter will be supplied by the Dominion Bridge Company, but the other contracts, we understand, were awarded to a New York

IT is stated that the Dominion Securities Co. has made an offer to build a railway from Halifax to Yarmouth, along the south shore, if the Nova Scotia Government will give a subsidy of \$10,000 per mile, and the Dominion Government \$3.200. The road, it is estimated, will cost about \$5,000,000 to build, besides that part now in operation from Yarmouth to Barfington, which will cost another million to buy.

R. W. RICHARDSON, of Hartland, N.B., has assigned to the sheriff. He was originally a farmer, and began store-keeping some few years ago. In 1896 he also started a planing mill, which proved a losing venture, and was dropped, but he has since operated in lumber and bark, apparently with poor results.

THE assignment is noted of G. W. Perkins, Ottawa. He was formerly in business as a machinist, but sold out in 1895 to the Chaudiere Machine & Foundry Co., and has since devoted his attention to mining and real estate operations. He has been a partner, too, in the firm of V. E. Traversy & Co., lumber dealers. Montreal, who are also reported in trouble, as noted elsewhere.

A DEMAND of assignment has been made upon V. E. Traversy & Co., lumber dealers, Montreal. The business was started in 1894, with G. W. Perkins, of Ottawa, as the reported capitalist of the firm. He has lately become involved, and has assigned, as reported in another column. A planing mill business has also been carried on, under the style of Leveille & Co., and the concern has shown signs of strain for some time past.

following articles, used as materials in Canadian manufactures, have been transferred to the free list: Keypins, damper springs, jack springs rail springs, regulation screws, spoons, bridle wire, damper wire, back check wires, dowel wires, German centre pins, brass pins, rail hooks, brass brackets, plates, damper rod nuts, damper sockets and screws, shell, brass capstan screws, brass flange plates and screws, hammer wires, fly felt, butt felt, damper felt, hammer rail cloth, back check felt, catch felt, thin damper felt, whip cloth, bushing cloth, hammer felt, back hammer felt, bridle leather, and buckskin (when imported by manufacturers of piano-keys), actions, hammers, base dampers and organ keys, to be used exclusively for the manufacture of such articles in their own factories