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It is stated that John Ritchie's shoe factory in Quebec may be removed to some other place, largely in view of the unsatisfactory labor conditions prevailing in the former city.

An assignment has been made by W. G. Keyes grocer and victualler, at Sydney, N.S. He was formerly a farmer in Hants County, Nova Scotia, and began business in the spring of 1901.

THE Canadian Telephone and Telegraph Company, Ottawa, has been organized with the following officers: President, Charles Robinson, Scranton; vice-president, Robert Bickerdike, M.P., Montreal; directors F. J. Stegmaier, Wilkesbarre; W. F. McCreary, M.P., Winnipeg; George Fowler, M.P., Sussex, N.B.; treasurer, James R. Mears, Scranton; secretary, John T. C. Thompson, Ottawa; manager, F. J. Leonard, New York. The company is endeavoring to obtain a franchise from Ottawa council, and if they succeed will conduct a system at once in that city.

Mercantile Summary

ALREADY the aggregate of the year's building operations in Vancouver, B.C., is over \$1,300,000, though they have been considerably hampered by labor troubles.

MR. L. D. SHAFNER, of Annapolis, N.S., has given a contract to Foley's shipyard at Salmon River, N.S., to build two large three-masted schooners, both to be launched next year.

WORD comes that C. J. Willis, of C. J. Willis & Co., in the lumber trade at Amherst, N.S., is an absentee, and attachments have been recorded to the amount of \$10,000. He represented H. & G. Curwen, of Preston, England, to whom he is said to be much in arrears, and he was also employed in connection with the management of a lumbering business in Newfoundland.

WORK on the new Soo line between St. Paul and Minneapolis and Winnipeg is making good headway. On the section to Glenwood, already a distance of twenty-five miles is in operation. The route followed is from Minneapolis along the main line to Glenwood, thence northeasterly to the Red Lake country, passing east of Crookston, then bearing northwesterly straight on to Winnipeg.

THE Grand Trunk Railway's example in establishing a combined telegraph and telephone system between outside points and the head office has been followed by the Canadian Pacific who have installed such a service between Montreal and Ottawa. It is not claimed that the principle can be utilized all over the system, but it is thought that for comparatively short distances it will prove a success.

THE weekly failure list among country traders in the Province of Quebec comprises the following: Mrs. E. Duplessis, doing a grocery business at St. Janvier, has assigned. Her husband has also been carrying on a small sawmill business in his own name.—Three demands in insolvency having been made upon Magnan & Freres, dry goods dealers at Sorel, they have assigned, and owe, it is said, about \$12,000. Both were formerly clerks in the town, and began business as principals little more than a year ago.—An extension of three, six, nine and twelve months is sought by Miller & Riopelle, general storekeepers at Ville Marie, in the Temiscamingue country. They bought out E. Belanger in the summer of 1902, but it is reported that the partners have not been working together harmoniously, and their affairs have been undergoing investigation by a Montreal accountant. Liabilities are stated of about \$13,000, and an apparent surplus is shown of \$4,300.—A. Chouinard, of L'Anse and Grispons, lately reported failed, has arranged to pay fifty cents on the dollar.—F. A. Bedard, a shoemaker of St. Ambroise de Lorette, who has also been keeping a small general stock, has made an assignment of his estate. His liabilities will not exceed \$1,000.—At Les Grandes Bergeronnes, in the Saguenay district, B. Larouche has been running a

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sawmill, getting out spoolwood principally, and also doing a small store business. His affairs are apparently in bad shape, for he owes about \$5,000, and shows assets of a little over \$1,000. A Quebec assignee has assumed charge of the estate.