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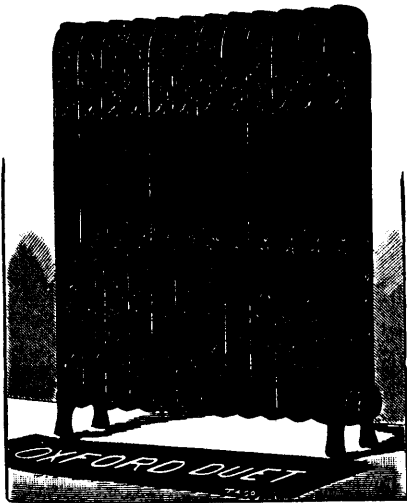
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Mercantile Summary.

AFTER two preliminary meetings those directly interested in the piano and organ trade of Montreal met on the 26th inst., and formed a permanent organization. The meeting was held in the Board of Trade. A committee had formerly been appointed and submitted a draft of constitution, which after being read was adopted. The name of the new organization will be the Music Trade Association of the Province of Quebec, and all who are engaged in the music trade are eligible for membership. After the adoption of the constitution and by-laws the officers for the year were elected. They are Mr. A. M. Featherston, president; Mr. A. P. Willis, first vice-president; Mr. C. W. Lindsay, second vice-president; Mr. L. E. N. Pratte, treasurer, and Mr. C. Martel, secretary. The following gentlemen, in addition to the officers of the association, will form the Executive Committee: Messrs. Glendon, Archambault, Thos. Foisey and J. W. Shaw.

LATE country failures in the Province of Quebec are reported as follows: Job White, a baker and manufacturer of crackers in a small way, at St. John's, has assigned on demand, and shows an indebtedness of about \$3,500.—Victor Beaulac, of St. David d'Yamaska, lately insolvent, made an offer of 80 cents on his liabilities of some \$4,000, but has now reduced the figure to 60 cents.—Jules Laporte, a harness maker of Berthierville, and O. Mercier, carriage maker, Repentigny, are each trying to arrange liabilities of about \$2,500, at 25 cents on the dollar.—G. Leduc, general store, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, has been running behind of late, resulting in pressure from some of his creditors, and he is now seeking a general settlement at 25 cents cash.—F. A. Thomson, general merchant, Buckingham, has completed a settlement at the rate of 35 cents cash, on liabilities of \$8,793.—The assignment on demand is reported of A. E. Fox, who began a small grocery business at Coaticook only last fall, his wife also doing a small millinery business.—Theo. Huard, general dealer, St. Rosaire, has assigned, owing \$5,600.—Joseph Masson, general dealer, of Danville, lately insolvent, is offering 50 cents, cash, and 10 cents on time, on liabilities of about \$3,500.—At St. Gervais, Alphonse Gerard, a young man barely of age, and without any previous experience, began storekeeping barely two years ago, being assisted by his father, a well-to-do farmer. He has already assigned.

THE Montreal Gas Company's fiftieth annual report, issued last week, makes a very good showing. The report, by comparison with those of former years, shows that the output of gas during the past year was the largest in the history of the company. About sixty thousand feet of mains and services were laid during the year, or 11½ miles; 1,235 new meters were put in during the year. Of these 711 were what is known as "nickel-in-the-slot" customers. In addition to this there were 466 stoves and 203 generators, or an increase of 669 customers who used gas for heating purposes. It is understood that there are now over six thousand people using gas for heating in Montreal. The reduction in the price of gas from \$1.40 to \$1.20, which was expected to make so serious inroads in the company's net earnings, has been in a measure offset by the large increase in consumption. The gross receipts for last year showed an increase of about \$54,725, as compared with 1895. For the first time in a great many years the company does not appear as a borrower from the banks, the amount due at the close of 1896 (\$204,000) having been wiped out. This was done by using the money realized on the sale of bonds. Out of an authorized issue of \$500,000 bonds, \$350,000 have been sold at par. The total amount which the company received for gas rents during the year ending February 28th was \$596,000. Besides this sum, the gas rent for street lamps netted \$6,358 over the expenses. The working account shows that during the year the operation of the entire plant cost \$391,365. The total receipts, including coke sales, coal tar sales, etc., amounted to \$716,285, leaving a balance of \$324,920. The following directors retire this year: Messrs. J. P. Dawes, Robert Benny, Henry Joseph, and John Crawford. All offer themselves for re-election.

THE INSTITUTE OF

Chartered Accountants of Ontario.

The Spring Examinations of the Institute will take place on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 19th, 20th and 21st of May next, commencing at 10 o'clock a. m. each day. The Intermediate Examinations may be taken at Toronto, Belleville, Owen Sound or Kingston. The Final Examination may be taken at Toronto only.

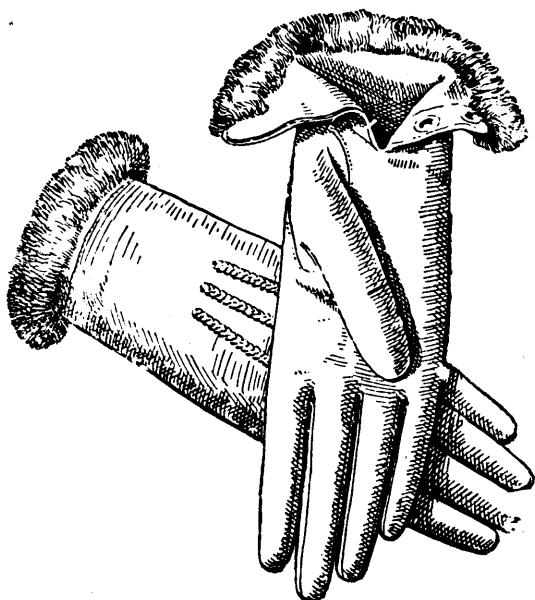
Applications will be received by the Secretary not later than the 30th of April next, and must be in the form prescribed by the By-laws of the Institute.

Full information on application to

HARRY VIGEON, SECRETARY,

Imperial Bank Building, Toronto.

Up to Date



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