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## Mercantile Summary.

DOUBTLESS because Mrs. Mary Riley, hotelkeeper, in Hamilton, has not been regularly meeting the payments due on her chattel mortgage, a bailiff has been put in charge of her premises.

G. M. MCPHERSON, K.C., of Stratford, and a number of other capitalists, purpose to build an electric railroad from that city to Mitchell. They are asking the council for a fifty-year franchise.

ENGINEERING experts report that the cost of constructing a channel of a uniform depth of 20 feet between the Georgian Bay and Lake Nipissing will be \$4,000,000. The distance is 61 miles, the chief engineering obstacle being the Five Mile Rapids.

E. O. INGALLS some years ago opened a small jewellery store in Jarvis. Early in 1896, he removed from there to Selkirk, where he was in business, when he assigned a little over two years ago. Last **autumn** he went to Villa Nova, where he put in a general stock of goods, part of which was paid for by his wife. Recently, he has been sued, and after a judgment was obtained against him, he has finally assigned.

THE crop of leaf tobacco is good in Essex County, Ontario, this year. Lewis Wigle, who is well known in that industry, has been buying tobacco in Colchester and Gosfield townships for the Empire Tobacco Co., of Granby, Que., and contracted for about 200,000 pounds last week, all Burley, averaging about 8 cents per pound. The largest grower in the township this year had 14,000 pounds, two others had 10,000 pounds each, and three 8,000 pounds. In Pelee Island he purchased 30,000 pounds. In his opinion, farmers had better sell now than wait for higher prices, which are not likely to come.

IT was only in February last that the National Iron Works Co., Limited, was incorporated with a capital of \$200,000. Of this sum one-half was seven per cent. preference stock, on which was paid \$25,000, and on the common stock \$75,-000 was paid, but we are not told in what form, whether in patent rights or not. In addition, the town of Wingham voted a bonus of \$17,000, which was repayable in fifteen years without interest. Last month a writ for \$785 was issued against the company, and we are told that on Tuesday a meeting of the parties interested was held in Wingham, Ont., but we are unable to learn what took place at it. However, there is one thing that surprises most persons who know anything about such a business, and that is why the manufacture of iron should be undertaken in an inland town like Wingham, when it is so heavily handicapped in the item of freight alone. Surely the premoters must have had their eyes blinded by the handsome bonus voted by that town or they would not have undertaken the venture. We shall probably know more about the matter when the president of the company returns to the city.

