

Mercantile Summary.

SAMPLES of new season's Japan teas, consisting of "Moon," "Crescent," "Teahouse," and "Sailor Boy" brands, have just been received by Messrs. Perkins, Ince & Co., Toronto.

THE annual meeting of the directors of the Taylor Hydraulic Air Compressing Company, Montreal, was held at their office, June 25, at which the following directors for the ensuing year were elected: Messrs. S. Carsley, Joseph R. Fair, George Durnford, W. L. Campbell, and R. L. Murchison.

A NEW statute in Connecticut makes it unlawful for officers of public records, State, municipal or court, to use any ink in making public records not approved by the Secretary of State. This is based upon the fact that from using poor ink in past years some important records are now nearly illegible. They should use Arnold's ink.

IN an article on the subject of silver in China and its relation to Chinese copper coinage, published by the American Academy Pol. and Soc. Sci., Mr. Tallcott Williams shows that the relative value of gold and silver has exhibited in China the same steady and regular depreciation of silver as measured in gold, as in the western world, with the difference that the change from 4 of silver to 1 of gold, to 15 and then to 30 of silver to 1 of gold, which has taken thirty centuries in the west, has taken but five in China.

WE note the death of Mr. Amor de Cosmos, who formed the first administration of British Columbia, after she came into the Dominion. His real name was not De Cosmos, an Act of Parliament having bestowed that name upon him, but Smith. He went to California shortly after the gold craze of 1849. In 1858 he settled in British Columbia, where he has since resided. He owned and edited the *British Columbia Press*, and afterwards the *Daily Standard*. The deceased was 72 years of age.

IF Latham & Pominville, of Windsor, hadn't opened in Detroit a branch of their tailoring and men's furnishings establishment in the early part of 1896, they might not have had to make an assignment the other day. When they first opened at Windsor their stock and capital was small, but by push and energy it gradually increased until they took it in their heads to go across the river, since which time things have not gone so smoothly. A few weeks ago they chattel mortgaged everything, and later on some anxious creditors issued writs, so they made an assignment.

WORD comes from Moncton that the Dominion Department of Agriculture has arranged a cold storage service on different roads eastward, similar to that western service we described the other week. This, with the Intercolonial, will provide a weekly car between Rimouski and Quebec, Moncton and Halifax, and Moncton and St. John. The cars are to be labelled, "Government cold storage line," and painted white, so as to attract the attention of farmers and other shippers of perishable goods. These articles are to be picked up at all stations, and carried at the ordinary rates of freight. Announcement of dates, etc., will be made later.

THE insolvent estate of the Citizen's Telephone Exchange, Waterloo, Que., was sold by the curator, Mr. R. R. Burrage, of Sherbrooke, last Tuesday. The total amount realized was \$3,060. The telephone outfit, wires, instruments, poles, leases, etc., and the book debts were knocked down to Pare & Pare, of Granby. The price was \$2,850. The only other bidders

were Messrs. H. B. Brown, Q.C., of Sherbrooke, and C. E. Harvey, Waterloo. Mr. Pare announces his intention of at once putting the line in first-class shape, and running it in connection with his own system.

THE editor and publisher of *Munsey's Magazine* has entered the field of book publishers by bringing out a first edition of 10,000 copies of a story entitled "A Princess and a Woman," written by Robert McDonald. The venture is remarkable for the fact that this first book while printed on fine, heavy paper, and bound in cloth, will be sold to the reader for 25 cents. This revolution in prices of books," says the *Literary News*, "is an outgrowth of the reduction in the cost of magazines, which was brought about, we believe, by Mr. Munsey, and has been followed successfully by several periodicals other than his."

THERE is a good-sized strike on the Nassau-Peterborough section of the Trent Valley canal, says the *Peterboro Review*, and some seventy teams and over two hundred men are off the work. The demand of the men is for better wages. They have been receiving \$1 per day for laboring men, and \$2.25 per day for a man and his team. There seems to have been more or less dissatisfaction among the men on this section of the canal, and "the straw that broke the camel's back," the cause of the men deciding on action yesterday, was the raise that was made in the charge for boarding their teams by the contractors.

THE canneries on the Skeena River, according to British Columbia late mail advices, are hard at work, and much of the spring salmon has been put up. The sockeye salmon are just beginning to run, and judging from the present prospects the outlook is none too promising. The Skeena cannerymen do not anticipate a large run. They are prepared for an average catch, but they do not expect to get more than about two-thirds of that amount. Boats are now out fishing, but that the salmon are not running very thick may be seen from the fact that they are only getting from 10 to 15 a day. Fishermen are scarce on the Skeena, they having migrated to Rivers Inlet, where the fishing is not so difficult as it is on the Skeena, and in consequence more money is to be made.

A CORNWALL dry goods merchant, E. O'Callaghan, has opened a branch at Martintown. —Duffy & Hayland, general storekeepers at Courtright, Ont., have dissolved partnership. —Henry Banwell has purchased the harness business formerly owned by A. E. Watson at Windsor. —Belanger & Desjardins are commencing a grocery business in Montreal. —A new machinery establishment has been started in Montreal. —J. R. B. Smith & Co. has been the name of a Montreal wholesale millinery firm, but they have dissolved. —J. Chevrier is commencing a general store at Rigaud, Que. —The Victoria Hosiery Co. has been succeeded by G. O. Gervais & Frere at St. John's. —F. Dolmage has opened in the harness line at Plum Coulee, Manitoba. —Campbell McDaniel is about to engage in the general store business at Sherbrooke, Que. Let us wish him well. —Konig & Fraser was the name of a firm in the dry goods trade at Westville, N.S., until the other day, when Frank J. Konig sold out his interest to J. McDonald, and now the new firm is styled McDonald & Fraser. —Hoover & Son, flour and feed merchants at Toronto Junction, have been succeeded by J. S. Watson. —Smith & Taylor, wholesale grocers, Windsor, have dissolved partnership, and the business will be continued by J. F. Smyth & Co.

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