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**Mercantile Summary.**

AN explosion of gas culminating in a fire destroyed a large portion of the Standard Chemical Co.'s works at Deseronto last week.

THE attention of the Board of Trade has been called to the fact that in Ontario voluntary assignments for the benefit of creditors may be made to an individual residing in the province, and the assignee is not required to furnish security. It is maintained that creditors should be protected by legislation from the possible failure of the assignee.

At a meeting of the retail hardware merchants, of Montreal, it was decided to form an association for the protection of trade interests. The following officers were elected: Mr. Francis Martineau, president; Mr. Drysdale, first vice-president; Mr. L. J. A. Surveyer, second vice-president; Mr. Alex. Prudhomme, secretary; Mr. Frederic Lariere, corresponding secretary.

THE Kingston Evening Times made some condemnatory remarks about a silk skirt scheme, which was being operated in that city. Mrs. Delong, the conductor of the scheme, brought an action against the paper for libel. Counsel's defence, that a newspaper was justified in commenting honestly on all matters concerning the public, was upheld, and the case was dismissed.

At Burk's Falls, a by-law to authorize the loan of \$20,000 to the Knight Bros. Company, to aid them in enlarging their present planing factory and sawmill, to put in up-to-date machinery, and to authorize the issue of debentures to raise the said loan; and to exempt the factory from municipal taxation, was carried by a large majority. A spur line from the G.T.R., to connect Burk's Falls with the main line is to be built at once.

MEDICINE HAT citizens are shortly to vote on a by-law for a ten-year exemption from taxation of a company which is being formed under the name of the Western Canada Woolen Mill Co., for the purpose of building and operating a woolen mill in that town. About \$15,000 worth of stock has already been subscribed, and \$65,000 of 7 per cent. preference stock is now being put upon the market in Toronto and Medicine Hat.

A STRANGE condition of affairs prevails in connection with the building of an electric line between Winnipeg and Selkirk. The council of Kildonan has already granted the right of way to the Winnipeg, Selkirk and Lake Winnipeg Electric Railway, but the councils of St. Paul's and St. Andrew's, which lie between Kildonan and Selkirk, have granted the right of way to the Selkirk Electric Railway. Thus, it is impossible for either line to construct a direct line between the contemplated terminals. The Kildonan council is now asked either to revoke its former decision, or to give both companies a right of way, as the present situation may delay the construction of both lines.

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