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Mercantile Summary.

RECENT failures in Quebec city are reported as follows: E. Picard & Co., grocers, have compromised liabilities of \$1,800 at 35 cents, cash. Mr. Picard is reported to have been previously unsuccessful, and has latterly been doing business in his wife's name.—L. R. Faucher, confectioner, has assigned, owing about \$1,400, which he would likely settle at 25 cents.—Mrs. Vallee, milliner, lately failed, offers 10 cents on the dollar.—A. & J. Ruthman, jewelers, have arranged for an extension on liabilities of about \$2,000, payments to be made at 3, 6, 9, 12 and 15 months.

An important timber berth sale took place at the Crown Land office of the New Brunswick legislature a few days ago, when sixteen berths, all but one of which are located along the Nepisiguit river, were disposed of. It was thought that there would be very active competition for possession of it, and that the purchase prices would be bid up high, but these expectations were not realized. A Fredericton correspondent of The St. John Sun says it appears that previous to the sale the lumbermen got together and apportioned the timber berths among themselves by mutual agreement, then employed a certain party to bid them in with the understanding that there would be no bidding against him. The agreement was kept to the letter and the lumbermen scored as related.

THE Canadian General Electric Company is one of the successful concerns of Canada. Its annual meeting was held in Toronto last week. The report showed that the net profits on operating accounts had been \$262,903, and the premium on the new stock, \$75,000. These items, with the \$58,437 balance from last year, made a total of \$396,340. The dividends, 10 per cent. on the common stock, and 6 per cent. on the preferred stock, absorbed \$127,623; \$125,000 has been added to reserve, making that fund now \$265,000, and a further sum of \$12,601 was placed at the credit of profit and loss. Directors were re-elected as follows: W. R. Brock, president; H. P. Dwight, 1st vice-president; Frederick Nicholls, 2nd vice-president and managing director. The company's business is large and active.

A PLEASANT feature of the recent meeting of the Canadian Life Officers' Association, was the presentation to Col. W. C. Macdonald, actuary, Confederation Life; F. Sanderson, F.I.A., and T. Bradshaw, F.I.A., of valuable testimonials, in recognition of their services in connection with the compilation, and publication of "Net premiums and values" upon the new Government standard, Hm. 31/2 per cent. Col. Macdonald was presented with a gold watch, and Messrs. Sanderson and Bradshaw with a cabinet of sterling silver, each. "Net Premiums and Values" is a work which has been highly appreciated by the life insurance companies in Canada, whether Canadian, British and American, and it reflects much credit upon the committee composed of these three gentlemen, to whom the entire work'was intrusted.

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