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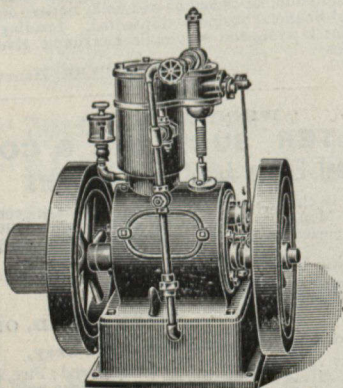
*Of Toronto, Limited.*

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They are built in sizes from 1 to 20 h.p., upright and horizontal, for pleasure yachts, boats, shops, farm work and any purpose where light power is required. Tell us to what use you want to put the engine, and what power you require, and we will name you prices.

**SYLVESTER BROS. MFG. CO.**  
LINDSAY, ONT.

### **A MERCANTILE AGENCY FAILURE.**

For something like two years the Mutual Mercantile Agency has been doing business in the United States and Canada, having headquarters in New York. It did not secure much of a hold here, but in the States had, we are told, a good many subscribers. Its methods were novel, likewise expensive, and although \$2,000,000 of its stock was subscribed and nearly half paid up, the outlay in establishing the business was enormous, and the revenue disappointing. Hence the company has been forced into bankruptcy within a few days. It is said that a syndicate principally made up of Montreal business men, has made an offer for the Canadian portion of the business, which will be considered by the liquidator at a meeting in New York. Among the directors of the agency are Franklin Edson, John H. Flagler, Erastus Wiman, Alfred R. Turner, jr.; G. Waldo Smith, Walter L. Lascelles and Edward F. Cragin, well-known American business men, Maurice L. Muhleman, ex-assistant United States treasurer, is vice-president of the concern, and Ross M. Turner, manager. Mr. Wiman, sanguine and indomitable as ever, is credited with saying that a thorough reorganization may yet place the agency on a profitable basis. But Mr. Wiman, who has been largely the originator of the concern, is ill, laid aside by a stroke of paralysis, and his energies will be missed in any reconstruction.

In the early part of 1891, Robt. McGowan, merchant, moved from Thamesville to Kirkton, and assigned nearly three years later, with liabilities of \$5,000. Then he moved to Brussels, and traded under cover of his wife's name, not prospering. In February, 1895, they were successful in arranging a compromise on liabilities of \$8,000 at 50% discount. A year later he moved from thence to Walkerton, and traded as McGowan & Co. This time his sister was the sole owner. She, too, assigned in November, 1896, with liabilities reduced to \$3,500. The stock was then sold at a discount of 31½ per cent. In the spring of 1897, another venture was made by buying the \$3,000 stock of W. Southern, of Delhi, at 40 per cent. discount. This time it was found convenient to have his mother the purchaser, she paying \$1,150, cash, on account. Three years later she claimed a surplus of \$4,939 in the business. In September last, John D. Abraham was admitted a partner, with, it was stated, \$3,000, but appears to have continued only five months, Mr. Abraham retiring from the firm with \$1,000, cash, advanced by Mr. McGowan's sister, the balance of his interest to be paid in monthly instalments. To do this was evidently too heavy a strain on the business, and in order to secure the balance, Abraham took over the stock at 80 cents on the dollar. McGowan & Co. then assigned, and the long and tedious chapter of accidents appears to be closed. Still another volume may be opened—credit is still cheap in some warehouses.