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Mercantile Summary.

THE bondholders of the Great Northern Railway have come to the decision to build the Joliette branch as soon as possible, and to begin on the Bout de l'Ile bridge at once.

Last month, some time, Trumbell & McDonald, dealers in cigars, etc., at Kaslo, B.C., sold their stock. have assigned.—G. R. M. Stritzell, who has kept general store at Plum Coulee, Man., has also assigned, after carrying on business in a small way since June, 1896.

WE hear of the incorporation, by letters patent, of the "Canada Cold Storage Company, Limited," of Montreal, with a capital of \$1,000,000. The charter members are Messrs. Eustache H. Barchard, solicitor; William F. Robinson, manager; Lawrence Macfarlane, advocate; Arthur R. Holden, gentleman; Ernest E. Vipond, law student; all of Montreal.

THE A. T. Wiley Company, Limited, of Montreal, with a capital of \$150,000, is incorporated to deal in wholesale and retail china, etc. The charter members are William Prentice, crockery merchant; Dame Mary P. Skinner, his wise; William D. Birchall, manager; Frederick Worden, book-keeper; John Francis Shaw, salesman, all Montreal

IT is said that during the ten months ending October 31st, the metal-mining companies in the United States, reporting to the Engineering and Mining Journal, paid a total of \$48,568,071 in dividends. If one will multiply this figure by twenty, or even by ten, he will obtain thereby a better idea of the hundreds of millions of capital employed in mining in the United States.

A DESPATCH of Monday last from Sydney, C.B., says that iron workers employed by Riter, Conley Company, on construction of Steel Company's plant, 200 in number, quit work this week. On Saturday the company posted notices that in future the day for iron men would be nine hours, instead of ten, and that the pay would be reduced proportionately. The men are all skilled mechanics, and from Pittsburg. They have been receiving \$2.50 and \$3 a day. At a mass meeting the men decided to stay out till their demands were complied with.

A CHANGE in the system of grain insurance has taken place. Instead of a separate policy being made out for each company interested in a cargo, a joint pelicy, arranged on the percentage basis, is now issued. This not only simplifies the business, but it dispenses with a large amount of clerical work and lessens the responsibility of errors. The British and foreign combination first introduced the feature five or six seasons ago. The regular lake companies combination followed in 1898, and at the eginning of the present season what is known as the United States Lloyds combination entered the field with the

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