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Mercantile Summary.

COATICOOK is to have a new industry, a woven wire mattress manufactory.

THE electric lighting plant at Huntingdon, Que., is in operation again, this time as the property of the village council.

AT a meeting of the Boston Chamber of Commerce held last week a resolution in favor of reciprocity with Canada was adopted.

MR. FRANK OLIVER, member for Alberta, will address a meeting on the "Yukon" before the Board of Trade of Winnipeg on Saturday night.

THE Royal Hotel in Hamilton is to be rebuilt and modernized. Contracts for the work have been let. The cost of the alterations and improvements is estimated at \$60,000.

AMERICAN manufacturers of sugar machinery are selling more machinery to Mexico this year than ever before. The amount of Mexican tobacco exported has now reached a value of more than \$500,000 a month.

THE Standard Chemical Works have got to work at Fenelon Falls, Ont. They produce acetate of lime, wood alcohol and charcoal. A shipment of fifty tons of lime is going to Liverpool next week from this company, we are told.

THE Executive Committee of the London engineers issued, on Monday last, a circular advising the men to accept the employers' terms. A ballot of the men was fixed for Thursday 27th, and it is probable that work will be resumed on the following Monday.

HARTLAND, New Brunswick, between Woodstock and Grand Falls, is described as a live town, having a good weekly paper, a bank, good waterworks, good hotels. It now intends forming a Board of Trade. An exchange says, "Hartland welcomes traders who come to the town and does not try to shackle trade."

SEVERAL members of the Virden Board of Trade waited upon Commissioner McCreary of the immigration department, to discuss with him the settlement of the vacant lands in the five municipalities of which that town is the centre. The owners of the property will be asked to prepare a pamphlet describing the lands, and these will be distributed at all the Dominion agencies in the States and in Europe.

So far the iron market quotations in the United States have been in favor of buyers. Production of pig iron has reached one million tons per month, and practically all is melted as shipped, says the R. R. Review. What shape the market will take when the heavier demands of spring are preheated is a problem. Iron trade combinations are projected in Europe which, if effected, will have some beneficial reflex action on this side.

THE recent decision of the Government to admit Liberia, Morocco, Salvador, the South African Republic, Congo and Spain to the benefits of the reciprocal tariff involves the further decision that the excess of duty paid on products imported since the 23rd April, 1897, from these countries will be refunded, if a claim therefor, with satisfactory proof of the origin and value of the products, is made at the customs port where the duty was paid.

THE annual meeting of the Brown & Wigle Company, Limited, of Kingsville, Ont., was held last week and the report approved. The same directors as last year were re-elected, viz.:—Dr. S. A. King, president; Horace Wigle, vice-president; E. A. Brown, sec.-treas.; J. E. Brown, manager; Jas. Hillis, J. E. Durand, Chatham, Geo. D. Ross, Montreal, and W. A. Smith. The company has to run overtime in order to fill large orders for the Klondyke trade.

THOMAS A. EDISON writes to a New York daily protesting against the many sensational articles appearing in New York "papers purporting to be interviews with me about wonderful inventions and discoveries made or to be made by myself. Scarcely a single one is authentic, and the statements purporting to be made by me are the inventions of the reporter—the public are led from these articles to draw conclusions just the opposite of the facts." He especially objects to the story that he has anything to do with an article advertised to appear in one of the papers about Mars.

A STATEMENT of the finances of the Hamilton civic departments shows that while the actual (\$237,962) exceeded the estimated (\$230,550) receipts by some \$7,420, there has been a very considerable excess of expenditure over the appropriations. The amount so expended is \$27,135, which, lessened by \$7,421, leaves a deficit of \$19,714. The principal overdrafts were \$10,150 by the board of works and \$10,521 by the hospital board, that amount including the cost of the Jubilee wing. The waterworks department, on the other hand, yields a good surplus, over \$8,000.

RESPECTING large castings, Messrs. H. R. Ives & Co. write the Montreal Gazette respecting a claim made that the pipe (42 inches in diameter, and weighing nearly three tons), cast at the Londonderry, N.S., Iron Works, was the largest ever manufactured in Canada. Mr. Ives says that his firm cast and delivered for use on the Soulanges Canal, to be used as culverts, nearly 300 cast iron pipes, 120 inches, or 10 feet, in diameter. "The average weight of these pipes or sections was 6,600 lbs. each. These castings were probably the largest of the kind ever made in America."

THE report submitted by the assignee of the Carrick Financial Company, of Mildmay, is an instructive document. It will be remembered that a number of Mildmay merchants and others were conducting this concern as a sort of private bank. It came to a stop last year, to the grief of many depositors. Mr. John Schneider, the assignee, now submits an abstract of receipts and disbursements of the insolvent estate. The liabilities amount to \$35,609 in amounts of from \$12 up to \$1,800 each; there are 129 creditors, 32 of them women and six clergymen. The amount realized thus far upon the assets is \$8,964 and a dividend to creditors is declared of fifteen per cent., which with the expenses nearly absorbs the amount received. These 129 creditors are likely to lose, in the aggregate we are told, 50 if not 70 cents in the dollar of their claims, which were largely of the nature of deposit moneys.

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