Mercantile Summary.

A DESPATCH from Quebec says that Senator Paquet is about to turn his large departmental store business into a joint stock affair, with a capital of two million dollars.

CONTRACTS are being given out for the work of constructing the new palace hotel, in Toronto, that for building being given to a Pittsburg firm. The construction includes the work of demolishing the old Walker building and the building adjoining. In their place will be reared an imposing structure of stone and brick terra cotta, six stories high, having a frontage of 165 feet on King street, and a depth of 197 ft. on Victoria street, which is to be extended through to Colborne. It will have an area of 32,000 feet.

THE shareholders of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company have unanimously confirmed a by-law to increase the capital stock of the company from $2,000,000 to $3,500,000, by the issue of 60,000 shares of the par value of $25 each. Of this amount 20,000 shares are to be issued at once, we believe, to J. J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway Company, at 160, or $40 a share. These shares, with the 10,000 already purchased by Mr. Hill, will make his holdings three-fourteenths of the entire stock of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company. The other 40,000 are to be issued to shareholders, the method being left in the hands of the directors.

WORD comes from Vancouver that Mr. J. J. Hill, of the Great Northern Railway, has obtained options on half a million dollars' worth of property along the water front of False Creek, a branch of English bay, with the intention of building a canal from deep water on the main harbor side of the city to the site that has been secured. Two weeks ago the Great Northern acquired the charter of the Victoria, Vancouver and Eastern. The plan is for the eastern end of the line to connect with the Great Northern system, running out of Spokane, which will give a separate outlet to the coast, besides Seattle. By this charter, the Great Northern gains a direct line east in British Columbia to Nelson, the Northern terminus of its own line from Spokane.

WITH regard to the reported failure of the attempt to amalgamate the stove-manufacturing concerns of Ontario, it is now stated that Dr. McCauley, of Chicago, has not finally given up the idea, but that the project may be revived. We understand, however, that the McClary Co., of London, which was the chief company refusing to renew its option, is applying, on its own account, for incorporation with a capital stock of $1,000,000. It is claimed that the reduction in expenses, through a union of the foundries, would of itself pay a good dividend on the entire capital of the combination. It is an expensive matter, especially for small firms, to keep up-to-date patterns of all lines of goods, and in this item alone an enormous saving would be effected by union and specialization of various lines in different factories.