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Mercantile Summary.

SARNIA dispatches tell us that James S. Symington, of the firm of T. & James Symington, president of the Street Railway Co. of that place, and managing director of the Industrial, Mortgage and Savings Co., died suddenly on the 17th inst.

THERE will be 12 chicken-fattening stations in operation in the Dominion this year under Government auspices. Those in Ontario will be at Chatham, Whitby, and Lancaster. The stations operated by the Government last season at Carleton Place and Woodstock will this year be conducted by private enterprise.

W. L. GRIFFITH, Dominion Government agent, at Cardiff, South Wales, says that there has been a great change in the sentiments toward Canada during the last year, or since the contingents were sent to South Africa. Previously conditions were more or less chilling to a Canadian. But all that is no altered, and at the agricultural shows, where the agents of the Government attend with exhibits, there is a great increase of interest and good feeling toward Canada.

ARISING from the action of the Montmorency Cotton Mill Co., in objecting to union labor, about 250 of the hands struck work on the 16th inst. Thinking it a good opportunity to make some repairs to the machinery, the management decided to close down for a few days. They give till the end of the week for the striking hands to disclaim connection with any labor organization. The employees place the onus on the head of one of the foremen, who is now said to be absent. No trouble is anticipated.

A DEPUTATION of the Toronto Railway employees waited upon President Mackenzie on the 15th inst., and presented their request for an increased rate of wages and an equalization of the working hours. Mr. Mackenzie replied that he could give no definite reply at once, as he was leaving for the West, but that he would give their petition due consideration. It is to be hoped that no difficulty will be placed in the way of an amicable settlement, as any irregularity in connection with the street railway service would mean untold inconvenience to the public, in such a large city, at this time.

IN a very interesting report to the Department of Trade and Commerce, received from Mr. J. S. Larke, Canadian agent in Australia, that gentleman states that, in his opinion, two of the present fleet of the Canadian-Australian line must be replaced by larger and faster ships, if they are to compete with the new steamships hailing from San Francisco. Mr. Larke points out that the trade with Canada has decreased, and trade with the United States has progressed. He regards the freight rates as the key to the whole position. Trade has increased with those colonies and countries where freight rates are favorable, but has decreased with those where the freight rates are high.

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