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Mercantile Summary.

A PETITION is in circulation and has been signed by many of the property owners of Walkerville to Wolfe's Point, asking certain capitalists to construct a street railway along the river front through Walkerville and up to the point named.

THE British Columbia Gazette of April 1st contains notice of the incorporation of thirty-four new companies, with a total capitalization of \$31,275,000. Of these companies, thirty are for carrying on mining business, the others being the Milwaukee Brewing Co., Victoria; the Inland Sentinel Newspaper Company, Kamloops; the Business Property Investment Syndicate, Rossland, and the White House Trading Company, Rossland.

The returns of foreign trade of Germany in February show an improvement as compared with the same month last year, both for imports and exports. Imports were 2,341,025 tons, against 2.023,774 tons in February, 1896, and 1,554,295 tons in February, 1895. The increase is chiefly due to coal by 185,283 tons. Imports of cereals show a decrease of 12,432 tons. Exports were 1,988,255 tons, against 1,865,827 tons, and 1,463,929 in February, 1896 and 1895 respectively. Exports of coal show an increase of 107,007 tons, and of iron a decline of 32,118 tons.

THE residents of Collingwood hope shortly to again be able to divert a considerable amount of the grain trade from American channels through that port. Owing to shallow water in the harbor and the increased capacity and greater draft of vessels employed in the grain trade, which prevented craft of the most modern class from taking that route, most of this trade has been lost. Now we hear that the Government has given a contract for dredging the harbor to a depth of eighteen feet and at the entrance to a depth of twenty feet. The work will commence about the 1st of May, he total cost of the work will be \$150,000, of which Collingwood pays some \$25,000. At a meeting held in Collingwood to consider this question, Mr. Arthur White, district freight agent of the Grand Trunk Railway Co., is reported as saying that he would advocate a line of steamers from Collingwood to Duluth and also increased elevator facilities of not less than 600,000 bushels capacity. He would also like the citizens to appoint a committee to go to Montreal and see General Manager Hays.

The prospect for a lively business season on the St. Croix is not very encouraging just at present. The cotton mill is now running only half the time, and it is said that some of the lumber mills may not begin to saw until late in the summer. It is well nigh certain that there will be less lumber sawed here this season than in several years. The effect of this is already observable to some extent in the scarcity of money that prevails and the apprehension of a continued depression in business and lack of demand for labor that is heard in the talk on the streets.—St. Stephen's, N.B., Courier.

An advice from St. John's, Nfld., dated April 10th, says: The sealing steamer "Aurora" has returned from the North Atlantic with a full cargo of 27,000 seals secured after the most severe experience of many years. Tremendous storms were encountered, often lasting days at a stretch. The ship was driven by the ice floes three hundred miles south-east of Cape Race, and the men were almost always in peril of their lives. Nine hundred seals were carried away by the waves and lost. The "Aurora' reports that the other ships have had a most discouraging expedition, the "Neptune" taking only 5,000 seals, the "Hope," "Ranger," "Algerine," "Diana" and "Greenland" only 2,000 each, the "Kite" and "Labrador" 1,000 each, the "Panther" only 800, the "Terror," "Nova," "Esquimaux" and "Walrus" about five hundred each.

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