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Mercantile Summary.

WHEN in Borneo, writes the British consul at Cadiz, it was a frequent experience of mine to receive illustrated catalogs of articles, such as churns, to be shown and distributed in a country whose inhabitants dwell entirely in huts erected on poles over the water and subsist on rice and fish.

In spite of the enormous output of agricultural implements by the big Canadian manufacturers, Canada is the best customer possessed by the United States for those articles. During the last year we imported from that country \$3,123,660 worth. Russia bought \$2,294,-440, and France and the Argentine Rea little less.

For more than nine years, i. e. since March, 1894, Wm. Mose has carried on a harness business at Gorrie. For some time past he has been hard up and slow pay. Last month he put a chattel mortgage on his assets and now he makes an assignment. Another harness firm in trouble is Doherty & Williamson, of Picton. Doherty has been engaged in the business since 1886. About two years ago he admitted William Williamson into partnership, the latter contributing some \$500 capital. This does not appear to have improved the firm's condition, at any rate it did not suffice, for an assignment has been made.

THE lake boats engaged in the St. Lawrence trade, says an exchange, are all employed and more could be chartered to advantage. Freights are firm. The rates from Fort William to Bay ports being 15/gc. on wheat and 11/2c. on oats, and by rail from Bay ports to Montreal 41/4 to 41/2c. From Fort William to Kingston wheat has been chartered at 4c., and from Kingston to Montreal 15/8c., making the through rate by all water 55%c, and by lake and rail 57%c. The rates from Chicago to Kingston are 33%c. for wheat and 31/4c. for corn, making the through rates to Montreal 5c. on wheat and 47/8c. on corn; but it is thought that the latter figure would not be refused by shipowners for wheat. About 200,000 bushels of corn were chartered last week in Chicago on the basis of 31/8 through to Montreal.

AT a meeting of the Lumber Carriers' Association, held at Detroit recently, the Great Lakes Towing Company submitted a proposition that will, if carried into effect, place lumber tonnage on a more equitable footing than has heretofore existed. Instead of 20 per cent. discount from tariff rates at the end of the season allowed to other tonnage the lumber carriers under the new arrangement will get 30 per cent. except at the ports of Chicago and Tonawanda, where a 35 per cent. discount from the tariff rates will be granted to members of the association. The cash discount will be 40 per cent. instead of five per cent., as given other tonnage. A flat price of \$5 is also made for taking lumber tow barges into the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, thus doing away with the necessity of the steamer handling a long tow in the locks.

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TORONTO STOCK TRANS-ACTIONS.

Owing to having been a short week on Change, and perhaps to the fact also that many people are away on their holidays, the volume of trading has not been large. Values have kept up well, however, surprisingly so considering the bearish influences at work in New York and Boston. The following summarizes the chief transactions: Ontario Bank, 5 at 128; Toronto, 6 at 2321/2-2331/2; Commerce, 45 at 1591/2; Imperial, 78 at 2311/4-2311/2; Dominion, 198 at 2357/8-2371/4; Hamilton, 128 at 2261/2-2271/2; Ottawa, 50 at 211-216; C. P. R. 1,425 at 1237/8-125; Toronto Electric Light, 59 at 125-1331/2; Can. Gen. Electric, 1,457 at 161-1623/8; Com. Cable, 61 at 163-1641/2; Bell Telephone, 6 at 155; Rich. & Ont. Nav., 250 at 901/4-933/4; Toronto Railway. 950 at 100-1031/2; Twin City, 2,028 at 98-995/8; Sao Paulo, 378 at 901/4-93; Dominion Steel, 1,413 at 191/2-21; bonds, \$31,600 at 74-765/8; Dominion Coal, 6,979 at 1023/4-1063/4, and Nova Scotia Steel, 915 at 081/2-108.

I'd like to have a nice, soft job, Where I could simply be A sort of weekly visitor. To draw my salaree; And then, as that got burdensome, And seemed inclined to bore me, I'd like to have some fellow paid To go and draw it for me.

-Baltimore News.

-Cunning fellow that he was. When Maisie said to him, "The diamond in this engagement ring is awfully small," Morton instantly replied: "I told the jeweller it was for the smallest hand in the city." -St. Louis Lumberman.