

Mercantile Summary.

SOME shares of new Electric Railway, Quebec, were bought by tender last week, the Union Bank paying 112½ per cent.

A NEW packing house for the Windsor Salt Company is being built in Windsor. It is 50 by 180 feet, and will hold 12,000 barrels of salt.

A. G. HALSTEAD has been appointed to succeed the late P. H. Snider as manager of the local bank of Alloway & Champion at Portage la Prairie, Man.

MESSRS. TROOP & SON, says a Maritime Province exchange, have placed an order in Britain for a 300-foot steel steamer, to be named the "Canada."

A CABLE from Argentina of 20th to a New York house says there has been an excellent crop of wheat, and there will be a surplus of 1,000,000 tons for export from that country.

ACCORDING to the Charlottetown *Guardian*, Messrs. Hodgson, of Montreal, have handled about half the cheese produced in P.E. Island this year, that is to say, in the vicinity of 25,000 boxes.

A SUCCESSOR to Mr. Rogers as manager of the Bank of Montreal branch in Peterboro, has been appointed in Mr. H. G. Parker, who goes from the charge of the Seigneurs street branch in Montreal.

THE council of St. Henri, a suburb of Montreal, authorized the mayor of that municipality to buy a site for a new fire station, and the architect was instructed to prepare plans for a building to cost not more than seven thousand dollars.

THE gold produced in New South Wales during the September quarter amounted to 94,991 ounces, and during the first nine months of 1897 to 222,240 ounces. The total yield for 1897 is expected to exceed that for 1896 by at least 3,000 ounces.

UNDER the present manager of the branch of the Bank of Commerce at Simcoe, Mr. Edmund Cowdry, additions are being made to the banking premises there. The offices are being extended and refitted, the latest improved fixtures being used, and when completed will be both neater and more commodious.

THE Dominion Coal Company having notified their intention to shut down the Victoria colliery, after December 15th, a public meeting was held at Victoria Mines, C.B., to protest against that course, and a resolution adopted appealing to the Provincial Government to take action to induce the Dominion Coal Company to continue operating the mines.

THE council of the London Chamber of Commerce formally approved of the issue of a circular to country chambers, requesting them once more to take up actively the question of commercial education in their districts, and suggesting the formation of local branches in connection with the Chamber's scheme.

In a law passed in October, 1894, it was stipulated that mercantile vessels should pay on entering the port of Buenos Ayres, sailing vessels twenty centavos gold per ton, steamers ten centavos, and vessels carrying the national flag one centavo. Countries having navigation treaties demanded the benefit of the last mentioned rate, but the Minister of Finance of Argentina objected that it was only ceded to coasting vessels. Congress has now made this quite clear by adopting a *projet de loi* in these terms: "Sailing or steam vessels engaged in coasting navigation shall pay on entering the port of the capital a due of one centavo gold per ton register."

THE New South Wales Government states that it has found such difficulty in placing in England an order for 2,000 tons of steel rails of high carbon quality, that it has been compelled to order them in America, where, the *Times'* Melbourne correspondent states, the manufacturers readily undertook the contract at the price of £5 per ton.

A BARGAIN has been made between the International Steamship Company of Philadelphia and the States Steamship Company, which engages in the Klondike trade, for the sale of its five steamers. All the vessels will be turned over to the new owner by the first of the year or thereabout. The steamers are to ply regularly from San Francisco or Seattle to St. Michaels.

A PROPOSITION has been made to sell the Ronald steam fire engine lately exhibited at Ottawa to the village of Hawkesbury. The mayor reports that the majority of ratepayers seen are in favor of the purchase according to the Hawkesbury Lumber Co.'s terms, who offer to pay half the cost of the engine, and if kept on their property will look after it and furnish the horses in case of fire.

THE plan of cheap return transportation rates of fare by rail, which has proved so popular with the customers of New York jobbing houses, has approved itself to San Francisco merchants. The proposal of the Manufacturers' and Importers' League to provide free return transportation to country dealers visiting that city and buying from the members of the League goods to the value of twenty times the amount of the single fare, was adopted. The lines of travel upon which the system operates are the Southern Pacific West of El Paso, and Ogden and South of Portland; the San Joaquin Valley Railroad, and the Pacific Coast Steamship routes. The League consists of a number of leading manufacturers and wholesale dealers.

In the course of an interesting memorandum about Aylmer, our travelling correspondent, Mr. Oliver, tells us, respecting Mr. W. E. Murray, of that place, that he is claimed to be the oldest private banker in Ontario. He came from the old country to Canada in 1829, and reached the vicinity of Aylmer in 1839, when a young man, and commenced the banking business in 1852. He is now 88 years of age, and is in the enjoyment of good health, and attends to his banking business every day. Adjoining Mr. Murray's establishment, which is on Talbot st., are the newly erected residence and banking office of Mr. N. Warnock, who has been in business in Aylmer nearly twenty years. The offices are among the neatest and best finished of their kind. They are as nearly as possible fire-proof; the woodwork of the interior is of quartered oak, and the metallic roof is tastefully ornamented.

WE learn from an exchange that suit has been entered in the Circuit Court at Grand Rapids, Mich., against the Alabastine Company, by its president, Melvin B. Church, to recover \$250,000 on a contract made six years ago, and which expired on October 1st, this year. Plaintiff alleges that according to the contract he was to have a certain percentage of the profits of the company, also stock in the company as a consideration for the use by the company of certain valuable patents of which he is the sole owner—particularly the patent covering the present process of manufacturing alabastine in such a way that by mixing it with cold water it is ready for application. Mr. Church is still a stockholder in the company, and states that the amount of damages claimed is not exorbitant, and that facts will be brought out to substantiate his statement.

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