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## Mercantile Summary

THE Halifax Chronicle says that the N. S. Coal Company are opening up the seam at Lloyd's Cove. It is expected that by March this pit will be producing 500 tons of coal per day. The output at the present pit will probably be increased to 1,000 tons a day.

WHEN Mr. Goff, of Pawtucket, president of the Intercolonial Copper Company, reached St. John on Monday, from the company's works, at Dorchester, N.B., he had with him the first sheet of copper made by electrolysis in New Brunswick. The copper was the first product of the new works at Dorchester, which had their trial on Saturday. The works begin operations this week.

SOME sections of Manitoba have to contend with a lack of fuel. With an idea of obviating this, some parties are making overtures to the Provincial Government, whereby, in return for the gift of a certain acreage of peat lands, they will install a plant for compressing this material and rendering it available for commercial purposes.

THE Victoria Terminal Railway & Ferry Company, which proposed to build a railway from the terminus of the Great Northern, at Liverpool, to the mouth of the river, and bring freight and passenger cars across the Gulf of Georgia, on a modern ferry, to the northern terminus of the Victoria & Sidney Railway, and thence to Victoria over that line, has purchased the Victoria & Sidney Railway, and will commence immediately to extend the line into the centre of the city.

THE village of Dorion would probably have been completely destroyed by fire on the 5th inst., had it not been for the efforts of a squad of firemen, aided by an engine, who were sent to the scene of conflagration on a special train from Montreal, about fifteen miles distant. The only means for extinguishing fire, possessed by the village, were a small pump and some buckets. As it was, seven houses and some outbuildings were destroyed, at a loss of about \$12,000, partially insured.

A NEW and very rich "find" of placer gold is reported from North-West Canada. The man who points it out, James Sheppard, and a few who accompanied him, tell a remarkable story of its richness—declaring it richer than the creek which first attracted men to Cariboo. Among them is Frank Reynolds, son of the Editor of the Ashcroft Journal. But the place is remote and very difficult of access. Leaving 150-mile House one has to go up Horse-Fly River, near to Horse-Fly Lake, which is south-east of Quesnel, and about due south from Barkerville, in the Quesnel district. "With a roughly hollowed log and rifles," says one of the miners, "I washed \$25 an hour on the bed of that creek." An officer of the Mines Department has gone up there, so we shall have an official description soon.

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