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A SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL AND MINING NEWS.

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## Montreal Stock Market.

STRENGTH IN VIRTUE THE FEATURE OF THE FORENOON — OTHER TRADING WAF PROFESSIONAL — PRICES KEPT FIRM — LONDON MARKETS FIRM BUT NARROW

Montreal, Feb. 20.

The lull in public interest in markets everywhere has for the second time of late turned the bulls' attention to mines. A week ago all except War Eagle got some promotion, to-day Virtue monopolized the attention and the advances. Business opened with the sale of 10,000 shares at 70, an advance of 3 points on the last sale of yesterday and continued through another 18 transactions each a little higher price than its predecessor. The immediate occasion of this phenomenal strength in Virtue was the report of the mining engineer, Mr. Obalski, the inspector of mines for the province, who has just returned from his inspection of the Cumberland with the best of reports. Price advanced today to 8, making this an advance of 10 points on the previous closing price and the total number of shares handled this forenoon was 45,750.

Of other mining stocks Montreal-London at 26 stands where it was, while Payne at 122 registered a gain of 1½.

War Eagle at 155 was also 1 point higher, and Republic on the sale of a broken lot sold ½ lower at 97.

The market was wide in having various stocks offered, but trading was light, owing to want of public interest. There was no weakness, however.

Canadian Pacific at 99½ was ¼ higher. Duluth preferred at 16¼ was ½ higher, while the common stock advanced ½.

Twin City was at 63½, ½ point higher than the previous actual price.

Montreal Street at 294 was 1 lower than the price of a broken lot on Saturday.

The broken lots of Gas and Dominion Coal preferred secured advances of 1 and 2 points on these stocks' former quotations,

while a very small parcel of Rich. & Ont. going at 113 suffered a little recession.

The 96 price for Halifax Railway show neither advance nor recession.

The 104 for Dominion Cotton is unchanged.

Hochelaga Bank at 185 kept firm also on former value.

A London special cable of yesterday is to the effect that London markets report an almost complete absence of outside public dealing, and movements in the market have been for the most part professional. Traders were said to have bid up prices with a view to unloading before Wednesday, the first day of the settlement. This, with the enormous increase of loan expansion seen in the last bank statement is having an influence repressive on the public buying. It is thought that money rates will ere long go higher.

### MORNING SALES.

Can. Pac.—125, 99½.  
Dul pfd—100, 16, 100, 16¼.  
Twin City—50, 63½.  
Dul. Com—200, 6.  
Mont. St.—25, 294.  
Mont. Gas—6, 191½.  
Dom. Coal pfd—15, 118, 15, 117.  
War Eagle—750, 155.  
Virtue—10,000, 70, 3000, 71, 2000, 72½, 7000, 72, 7000, 73, 2500, 73½, 1000, 73¼, 6000, 74, 5000, 75, 1500, 75½, 500, 76½, 500, 78, 1750, 76.  
Republic—200, 97.  
Payne—500, 122, 300, 122½.  
Halifax Ry—50, 96.  
Dom. Cotton—150, 104.  
R. & O.—2, 113.  
Mont.-London—1000, 26.  
Hoch. Bank—30, 185.

### AFTERNOON SALES.

Can. Pac.—75, 99½, 25, 99½.  
Com. Cable—25, 169.  
Dul. Com.—25, 5¼.  
R. & O.—25, 113.  
Virtue—3500, 76, 500, 80, 5000, 79, 2, 500, 77, 2500, 77½, 500, 77½.  
War Eagle—1500, 156.  
Republic—500, 99.  
Mont.-London—1000, 27.  
Dom. Cotton—50, 104¼.  
Dom. Coal pfd—5000, 111.  
Hoch. Bank—8, 185.

## MR. OBALSKI ENTERTAINED AT THE MONTREAL CLUB.

At the Montreal Club this afternoon the return of Mr. Obalski, inspector of mines for the province, was celebrated by a friendly luncheon party of several gentlemen interested in the Virtue Mining property. There were Senator Forget, Messrs. A. Wilson, G. Smithers, J. R. Meeker, R. Forget, C. E. Gault, Col. Henshaw and the guest, Mr. Obalski.

His report more than confirms the previous report given by Mr. Thurston. Mr. Obalski maintains there is gold in great abundance in the property. The getting of this is not a matter of days, but will take a considerable time since development work and output for dividends will go hand in hand. The luncheon was of all the more agreeable a character as the report of the property was so good and as the market advance of the stock to-day indicated large public interest in the mine.

It is said that the Virtue will be a very great mine, perhaps greater than any other.

### STRAWS.

Of currency notes issued by the Dominion Government on January 31, the total was \$26,175,996, as against \$26,898,805 on Dec. 31, and \$24,433,124 on Jan. 31, 1899.

## LONDON AND PARIS.

Feb. 20, 1900.

Bank of England rate .....	4
Open discount rate.....	3½
Paris Rentes .....	100-72½
French Exchange.....	257. 20
Consols, money .....	100½
Canadian Pacific .....	100
New York Central .....	137½
St. Paul .....	126
Union Pacific .....	77½

## LONDON CABLE.

O. Meredith & Co.'s Cable gives the following London quotations:

Grand Trunk, guaranteed 4 p.c.....	94
" 1st preference .....	91½
" 2nd " .....	65½
" 3rd " .....	25½
G. T. R. Com.....	
O. P. R .....	101½