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Strong efforts are being made by commercial travelers to induce the railroads to issue a 5000-mile interchangeable ticket, or, in other words, a mileage ticket that will be good on all roads. The general passenger agents of the eastern roads will give full consideration to the problem.

The Indians are reporting poor luck in hunting muskrats this spring. White hunters having broken open the houses during the winter, thus allowing the water to freeze over. The rat not being able to come up to breath many of them have been found drowned. Rat skins in winter are worth only 5 cents while in spring their value is double.

The Evening Telegram says: "The French are fitting out an unusually large fleet of fishing vessels for the Newfoundland Banks and Treaty Coast, and it is obvious that 1896 will reveal a keener competition from that quarter than we have had since 1860. In addition to the big outfit at St. Malo, Dunkirk and other places are sending across the water this season scores of ships, some to prosecute the Bank fishery, and others to resume operations at their old stations on the 'French Shore,' many of which have not been occupied for several years."

In Virginia the weather has been clear and cool. Tobacco plants have grown slowly but well. The cold spell has brought out the fly, and farmers are being cautioned against the use of Paris green at such a juncture, which they are liable to use too freely. The condition of the soil for crops is excellent and rains have been timely withal through the month. A good sound crop appears to be contemplated. There is yet, for this season, quite a good proportion of 1895 tobacco in interior dealers' hands, taking the aggregate stocks.

Letters from London, Ont., say that the outlook for fruit and garden vegetables is exceedingly good in that part of Ontario. Most of the small fruits will be extremely common and good if the weather does not change sharply for the worse, and if the present unusual warmth and moisture continue the early vegetables will be wonderfully abundant long before the usual time.

Prof. Prince, of the Marine and Fisheries Department, says that the same complaints are being made this season as have been made during the last two years, that Lake Rousseau, the best of the Muskoka lakes, is being seriously depleted of fish by illegal netting. Anglers are complaining of the scarcity of fish, and steps are being taken by the Department to detect and punish the guilty parties.

It seems somehow singular for Canada to be importing apples from Australia, but it must be remembered that their summer is our winter, and it is not therefore so surprising that the Miowera, on her inward trip, should bring several hundred cases of Australian fall apples for Calgary, Winnipeg, and other points in Manitoba and the North-West. The Miowera also brought large quantities of bananas from Honolulu.

The Dominion Meteorological Service has just issued the weather map for the month of April. It states that in the Province of Ontario the mean temperature of the month has been decidedly above the average. The weather in Ontario was generally cool up to about April 13. At this time, however, the temperature suddenly rising from 15 to 20 degrees, vegetation made exceptionally rapid strides, more especially in the districts bordering on the Georgian Bay, where the mean temperature for the month was about ten degrees above average.

Those American statesmen who are deeply agitated over the land grabbing propensities of Great Britain will do well to give their attention for a time to France, a highly enlightened republic which has lately grabbed Madagascar, and which now proposes to cancel the commercial treaties entered into by the Hova Government with the United States and Great Britain. The purpose of this is to secure for Frenchmen alone the trade of the island. This is the policy France has applied to some other of her possessions; it is the policy which Spain applies in large measure to Cuba, and it is the policy of their traditional allies the Russians. But all British possessions extend the same trade facilities to foreigners as to British subjects.

A suit to recover insurance on the life of Hamilton Dieston, a Philadelphia millionaire, who died April 30, may be brought. If legal action is not taken, it is certain that the big insurance companies will make radical changes in their laws. James Kincaid, of New York, a special agent of the New York Life, is now on the spot to gather data on the Dieston case and on other cases, with a view to changing the company's by-laws. He said that a few weeks before his death Mr. Dieston secured an additional \$600,000 policy. He gave a cheque for \$25,000 in payment of the premium and died several days later of heart disease. Company officials claim there must have been traces of heart disease at the of examination, and are making an investigation. Asked if the company is likely to pay the \$600,000 policy, Mr. Kincaid said he supposed it would. If it is paid, he said, the insurance companies will amend their rules to cover cases where a heavily insured man dies within a few weeks after the policy is issued.