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Mercantile Summary.

MR. JOSEPH HOWARD, of Howard's Station, Newfoundland, is organizing a company to be called the St. George's Lumber Co. Mr. Howard owns and operates 50 square miles of timber lands on the line of the Newfoundland Railway, and is building a large steam saw-mill. He has found of late a considerable exodus of workmen to Sydney, which made labor scarce in the Island. The lumber business was very good and in general the island was prospering exceedingly.

A SPECIAL from Grand Forks to the Vancouver World, of 22nd inst., says that Jay P. Graves, general manager of the Granby smelter, has submitted a proposition to acquire the city's waterworks and electric light plants for a period of 25 years. He agrees to pay the city \$70,000, besides spending \$30,000 in improvements to both systems. He also wants exclusive street railway privileges for a similar period. The city voters will pronounce on these. Mr. Graves has also submitted a proposition to the city of Columbia for providing waterworks, electric lights, and a trolley line for that city. He seeks in return a bonus of \$30,000.

COLLECTOR A. R. Milne, at Victoria, has received the balance of the money indemnifying sealers for seizures made by American cutters under the modus vivendi, in the years 1894, 1895 and 1896. The total of these reimbursements, as awarded by the Behring Sea Commission of 1897 was over \$300,000, of which all but \$14,300 has already been disbursed. This latter sum has now arrived, and with the exception of \$13,000, will be turned over to the Indian Department to satisfy the claims of the Indian hunters. Different claimants have been found in South Africa, on the Bonin Islands in Yokohama, and in other remote corners of the globe, and it has been largely due to the trouble of locating these, that payment of the money has been deferred so long.

THE business managed so successfully and so long in Toronto by Mr. W. B. Hamilton, for the manufacture of boots and shoes, and which of late years has been known as W. B. Hamilton, Son & Co., will henceforth be carried on as a limited company, the W. B. Hamilton Shoe Company, Limited, share capital, \$200,000. Mr. Hamilton, Sr., is still at the head of the business, for we observe that the provisional directors named are: William Buchanan Hamilton, and his wife, Almira Brown Hamilton, Chester Brown Hamilton, William Anthony Hamilton, and Arthur Wayling Blachford. The firm of Brown & Childs, of Montreal, was prominently known in Canada forty years ago and more; and its western branch, Childs & Hamilton, became equally well-known in Toronto and Ontario. By conservative and honorable methods, the Toronto concern has prospered and built up a good connection, which doubtless the company will make every reasonable effort to retain.

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