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#### Mercantile Summary.

What is described as the largest single order for ploughs ever given was received the other day by a Pennsylvania firm. It was for 18,000 eight-horse ploughs for breaking up virgin soil in South Africa.

MR. G. R. BOOTH, of Ottawa, will this season for the first time in many years engage in square timber operations. A large gang are at work on his Mattawa limits getting ready an extensive shipment for the British market.

HON. JOHN CHARLTON, M.P., says he feels tolerably sure that next session would see the American Congress adopt lower duties on Cuban products, and cut the present two-dollar duty against Canadian sawn lumber in two.

On Tuesday and Wednesday of the present week was held at Berlin the annual meeting of the Medical Health Officers of Ontario. Some thirty-five of these officials were in attendance and many subjects in the line of their vocation were discussed.

THE penalties of war are heavy. It appears from a statement issued by the British War Office that deaths in the army in South Africa numbered 21,-942. There were 5,774 killed in action, and 16,168 died of wounds, disease or injuries sustained otherwise than in battle.

At the Cordova gold mine in Peterborough County, Ont. a compressor has been installed, the air being sent through a 12in. main two miles and a half long, the greatest distance it is said that compressed air is sent for such a purpose ou this continent. Ten shafts have been sunk and a 30-stamp mill is already in constant operation.

THE production of iron on Lake Superior has become enormous. Advices from Duluth say that shipments of iron ore from Minnesota alone this year up to September 1st, show the enormous gain of 3,011,549 gross tons over shipments up to the same date last year. The record for this State is likely to be upward of 14,000,000 tons for the season, as compared with 10,769,376 tons in 1891. The total forwarded to September 1st is 9,843,048 gross tons, as compared with 6,832,499 gross tons on the same date a year ago.

THE Halifax, N.S., Tram Co. is making rapid headway with its new power house. This is 40 ft. high, has a frontage of 127 ft. on the shore, and is 110 ft. wide. The engines which are to come from Providence, R.I., will give 1,500 horse-power, while the generators of 2,000 voltage, were made by the Canadian General Electric Co., Toronto. The chimney flues, which are now being put into position, were made by J. Matheson & Co., of New Glasgow. When the new power house is in operation, the old building will be turned into a machine and repair shop, and the car sheds will be enlarged. The capacity of the newly equipped station will be 25,000 horse power, and eventually 35,000 horse-power. ESTABLISHED 1845

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