

Mercantile Summary.

DURING the fiscal year 1897 the receipts for electric light inspection in Canada amounted to \$6,895 and the expenditure to \$9,021, of which but \$1,830 was for salaries.

ONE of the Cramps, of Philadelphia, denies the published statement that the William Cramp & Sons' Shipbuilding Company intends constructing a shipbuilding plant at Seattle.

A BUILDING 40 by 50 feet is in course of erection at Hartville, Hants county, N.S., in connection with the St. Croix Paper Mills, for the reception of machinery to be used in the manufacture of tar paper.

SHIPMENTS of cotton to Japan from the States continue in increasing volume. They are practically double what they were last season. There are said to be 15,000 bales in San Francisco awaiting shipment.

THE Klondyke craze is warm even in December. Word comes that the steamship "Elder" has sailed from Portland, Oregon, for Dyea with 125 passengers and 500 tons of freight. Fifty horses and 400,000 feet of lumber were refused.

A YOKOHAMA telegram of Tuesday last, says that owing to its failure to reconstruct under the Premiership of the Marquis Saigo, the remainder of the Cabinet has resigned. The newspapers demand the formation of a strong Ministry capable of coping with the situation in the east.

At a meeting of the British Columbia lumbermen held in Vancouver, B.C., December 27, a resolution was passed that the Canadian Government should place a duty on shingles and lumber, unless the United States places them on the free list, as the Canadian Government has done.

THE season for ore shipments that has just closed has established a new record for Lake Superior iron mines. Almost 2,000,000 tons more was shipped by water than in 1895, when the unprecedented record of 10,233,910 tons was made by the ore docks of Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. This year's total has gone quite beyond expectations.

In January, or at the latest by February, a new industry is to be established in Halifax. Messrs. J. P. Carritte, of St. John, and J. C. Patterson, Montreal, have contracted with the People's Heat and Light Company, for the company's total tar output, and will have a factory on the Northwest Arm for making tarred roofing and building paper, and all bi-products of tar.

THE Great Northern Railway will establish the same rates now in effect to Trail, Nelson, Kaslo, Ymir and Sandon, to Rossland, thus putting the latter city on an even footing with other Kootenay points. The freight rates to Rossland have always been higher than to any other point in the Kootenay district. The new rate will take effect on January 1st.—*Vancouver World.*

A big consolidation of woodworking interests in the States took place last week under the laws of New Jersey. The capitalization is \$4,000,000. The concerns interested comprise the following: Rowley & Hermance of Williamsport, Pa.; the Glen Cove Machine Co. of Glen Cove, L. I.; the Williamsport Machine Co. and the Lehman Machine Co. of Williamsport, Pa.; the Milwaukee-Sander Co. of Milwaukee; Hoyt Bros. & Co. of Aurora, Ill.; Goodell & Waters of Philadelphia, and C. B. Rogers & Co. of Norwich, Conn.

A NEW branding ordinance, it is thought, will give a good deal of trouble to ranchers in the North-West Territories. It provides, amongst other things, that on and after the first day of July, 1898, all brands heretofore recorded under the provisions of any ordinance shall be cancelled as recorded brands, and that any brand recorded prior to the passing of ordinance may (with the approval of the Minister) be allotted to the owner thereof if application for such allotment is received by the recorder on or prior to the thirteenth day of June, 1898.

AN order-in-council has been passed approving the terms of settlement of the dispute between the Dominion and British Columbia in regard to the administration of lands in the railway belt in that province. The lands were transferred by British Columbia in 1883 to the Dominion and it has been decided that sales or *bona fide* pre-emptions in the tract made previous to the period by the province shall be confirmed. A compromise has also been agreed upon as to the right to money received for land previous to and subsequent to that date, as well as in regard to land covered by cancelled titles.

UPON the demand of Messrs. Hudon, Herbert & Co., wholesale grocers, Montreal, an assignment has been made by Kearney & Faulkner, in general business at Papineauville, Que. They began business in 1893 on small capital, buying out two stocks, besides store premises, assuming a liability in all of about \$18,000, under which they have been staggering ever since.—R. Gagnon, general store, L'Anse St. Jean, Que., has arranged a settlement at 40 cts. on the dollar, and Philibert Gagnon, store-keeper, Grand Baie, has also settled at 50 cts.—The assignment is reported of Mrs. A. Roy, milliner at St. Lin.—Edouard Roy, general store, L'Anse St. Jean, has secured a cash settlement at 40 cents on the dollar, on liabilities of \$3,500.

A PROMINENT Toronto firm recently received the following letter, which although of few words, contains many errors:

"Dear Sir,—The estatesments received from You Yesterday was presanted to the commity to-day and considered more than they could Stand and was theirfor declined. Yours truly."

This letter was typewritten, evidently by a tyro, but the gentleman whose name it bears must shoulder the responsibility. It emphasizes the care that every business man should exercise in selecting his employees, and in reviewing letters that may be submitted by them to him.

THE New York *Shipping and Commercial List*, one of the most newsy and welcome of our exchanges, is about to be transformed from a weekly into a daily under the title of the *New York Commercial*, the change to take place at the New Year. The trade journal which thus leaves the ranks of weeklies, has the distinction of being the oldest commercial paper on this continent, descended directly as it is from the *N. Y. Price Current*, established in 1795, and it has further the deserved reputation of being editorially able, outspoken and worthy of respect. The owner of the new daily will be Mr. D. O. Haynes, the publisher of the paper of which the new daily is the outgrowth, and also of the *Pharmaceutical Era*. Its editor will be Albert C. Stevens, a competent man, long with *Bradstreet's*, of which for ten years he has been editor. His associate will be Charles R. Buckland, for the past five years editor of the *American Economist*.

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