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Mercantile Summary.

The by-law imposing a tax of \$500 on commercial travellers doing business in Quebec City directly with the consumer, has been revised, and the tax will be only \$60 in future.

On the 25th of September, fire broke out in the Cecil Hotel, at Dawson, Y.T., and destroyed that entire block, besides several buildings on the opposite side of the street. Total loss about \$200,000.

The Owen Sound, Georgian Bay Park and Summer Resort Co., Limited, have decided to sell their steamship "Canada" by public auction. The vessel's dimensions are: Length, 123 ft.; breadth, 24 ft.; and depth, 8 ft.

Mr. C. D. Haines, of Kniderhook, N.Y., proposes to build an electric railway from Hamilton to Brantford, at a cost of \$225,000 to \$300,000. A charter was granted to a company for a similar purpose some time ago, but not used.

The Builders' Supply Company's works, in London, Ont., have been destroyed by fire. It started in the burning kiln and rapidly swept over the entire premises. The loss is placed at \$25,000; insurance, \$8,000.

Park, Blackwell & Company's pork-packing establishment, in Toronto, was on Saturday damaged by fire, and a large quantity of hams and other goods destroyed or spoiled. The loss is placed at \$25,000, covered by insurance.

Only a short while ago came the announcement of a \$50,000 donation from Lord Strathcona to McGill University, Montreal. Now he and Sir William Macdonald each promise \$25,000 towards the erection of a gymnasium which, it is estimated, will cost about \$100,000.

Mr. C. M. Bostwick has transferred his extensive holdings of lumber land, at Great Salmon River and Martin's Head, in New Brunswick, to the Penepscot Paper Co., Brunswick, Me. Included in the sale are a well equipped sawmill at Great Salmon River, several operatives' houses, two schooners, and other properties. The timber tract is estimated at 100,000 acres in area. The price is said to be between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

A report is extant that the United States Steel Corporation are seriously contemplating the formation of a subsidiary company in Canada, and the erection of a factory to cost, with equipment, between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000. It is believed that not only would a large amount of Canadian business be obtained, but that by so doing special facilities would be taken advantage of for the carrying on of the export trade.

We hear from St. John's, Que., that rapid headway is being made with the erection of the Singer Sewing Machine Company's big factory. Within the last few days, over one thousand carloads of material have arrived on the grounds. In the course of construction, some 9,000,000 bricks will be used, besides 100,000 barrels of cement.

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The Carney Lumber Company are about to erect at Owen Sound a large two-band mill with an annual capacity of 20,000,000 feet. It is considered that this is a step which will do much to establish Owen Sound as an important lumber centre in the Georgian Bay district.