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Mercantile Summary.

THE Quebec Government has sent one of its detectives to Bryson, Que., to make an enquiry in reference to the burning down of Dagg's premises in Clarendon, a couple of weeks ago. It is said the buildings were set on fire by some men sent purposely with that object in view.

At a meeting of the members of the Manitoba Farmers' Mutual Hail Insurance Company at Portage la Prairie, on the 17th inst., which was fairly represented from the Portage, McGregor and Bagot districts, for the purpose of coming to a decision whether to pay the assessments or let the promoters of the said company collect the same by process of law, the following resolution was carried: "Moved and seconded by D. W. McCuaig and R. Gibb, 'That we pay our assessments to the Manitoba Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, and attend the annual meeting to adjust matters in dispute, and hereby ask the co-operation of all the members throughout the province to be at the said meeting in person or represented by proxy.'"

A MEETING of the leading mill owners and lumber merchants of the Ottawa Valley was held on 15th inst., at Arnprior, when comparisons were made and steps taken to establish a uniform standard of grades. As a result of the discussion on the matter, it is likely such a standard will be arranged and adopted in the near future. This will benefit both the buyer and seller, as when a certain price is asked and paid for lumber, a common standard can be resorted to, which will put all the dealers on an equal footing. Heretofore, if the buyer agreed on a certain price, he might be buying on a different basis from different dealers, although the one grade might be agreed upon throughout. The past season's business was also discussed, and it was agreed by all to have been the most successful experienced in over twelve years. Prices, especially on the lower grades, were very high, and almost the entire season's cut has been disposed of. The mill owners are arranging to do a heavy winter's work in the woods, but owing to a scarcity of labor on some limits, there will not be as much timber cut as was expected.

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