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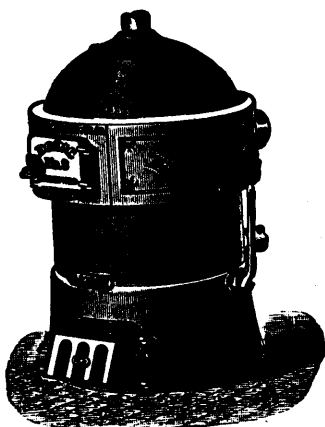
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Mercantile Summary.

CHATHAM'S tax rate this year will be about 22½ mills on the dollar.

THERE is talk in Brantford of an electric road thence to Paris, a distance of seven miles.

THE Verity Plow Company of Brantford, propose building a new factory in that city, to cost \$40,000.

MANY of the Quebec shoe factories are running overtime to supply the demands of the jobbing trade.

THE Medman head and staving mill at Glenrae is being moved to Southwold Station, owing to scarcity of timber.

PEDDLERS in Springwells township, Ontario, will be charged \$15 in future, an example which other municipal bodies could follow with advantage.

THE insurance on the broom factory at the Central Prison, Toronto, burned on Monday? was \$21,500, and on the binder twine factory \$32,500, in fourteen companies. One-fifth of the total is on the building, and the remainder on machinery.

STREET vendors and peddlers, says the *Fredericton Gleaner*, are very prevalent in the city at present. The license collector has introduced himself to a few of them, but there are many others doing the city, who he proposes shall be made to pay the fee of \$5 weekly, as provided by the city by-law.

WORD comes from Montreal that two banks, one of which is the City and District Savings Bank, have raised the rate of discount on call loans from 3½ per cent. to 4. Stock brokers were not taken by surprise on the announcement, for the money market has been showing a firmer tendency of late. It is not unlikely that a similar advance may be announced by several Toronto banks.

BERLIN is one of the most live and enterprising and progressive towns in Ontario, says our correspondent. New buildings and improvements on old ones are continually in progress, especially in the manufacturing line, for which Berlin is noted. The evidence of prosperity is seen on every side. Among the improvements and activities to the business block is that of the old firm of A. O. Boehmer & Co., Limited, dry goods, now the A. O. Boehmer & Co., Limited, who have lately extended their premises which are now 154 by 48 feet, and four stories high, which includes a millinery and other departments. They have been in business some 26 years.

FROM Victoria, B.C., comes intelligence that the seals of Behring Sea are migrating to the islands on the northern coast of Japan. The sealing schooner "Casco," returned to Victoria after ten months' cruise off the Japan coast, Coffee Islands and the Komandorski Island, brings news that seals are very scarce and scattered. While last season they were to be found in herds by the hundreds, as many as ten have not been seen together this year. Catches have consequently been very small. The "Casco" took altogether 1,064 skins, of which over eight hundred were taken on the Japan coast. None of the Victoria schooners on the Japan coast have made a big catch this year.

A DEPUTATION of citizens of Cornwall have visited Ottawa to ask the Government to lease to that town a patch of land, about twenty-five acres in all, on the south side of the canal, just west of the town. This land is to be leased to a manufacturing company, who are considering the establishment of a large industry in Cornwall.

THE Paris Roller Mills, of Paris, Ont., have been purchased by Mr. W. H. Meldrum, of Peterborough, from Messrs. Crane and Baird, the well-known flour and grain exporters of Montreal and Toronto. Messrs. Wm. and J. G. Greey, the mill furnishers, will install a complete new plant, of 200 barrels capacity on the plan sifter system. It will be completed by the 15th of November.

A SERIOUS CONFLAGRATION.

An unusually long period of dry weather for this season of the year has prevailed throughout Canada, and has been the cause of disastrous fires in different parts of the country. In the eastern portion of Manitoba the ordinary prairie fire guards were of no avail. Human forethought could not prevent loss in the gale of wind and fire. In the neighborhood of Beausejour many of the settlers are reported homeless, and about a half dozen lives were lost. Cattle, sheep, and horses were also corralled in the flames and many died. South-west of Winnipeg and in other parts of the province, thousands of tons of hay have been destroyed. A farmer near St. Charles is said to have lost about \$3,000 in grain implements, etc. Another fire started west of Bagot and destroyed J. C. Lowrie's store, McMillan's elevator, and 20,000 bushels, with several box cars, and a number of houses were burned. Another serious fire was started in the bush near Casselman, a village of about 700 inhabitant, on the line of the Canada Atlantic Railway, south-east of Ottawa, and completely destroyed the greater portion of the place, leaving about one hundred families homeless. Among the more valuable properties destroyed were: Mr. A. McLennan's saw-mill and some two million feet of lumber. His loss is \$12,000. Mr. J. N. Coupal, flour and lumber mill, a loss of \$15,000; Casselman Cold Storage Company, building and stock, \$8,000; insurance, \$4,500; filled with cheese and meat. E. N. Hurtubise & Co., general store, loss \$3,000; J. Benoit, general store, dwelling and warehouse, loss \$15,000; insurance, \$8,000. Pelon Bros. general store, loss \$10,000; partly insured. P. Bissonette, general store, dwelling and warehouse, loss, \$10,000; G. A. Guertin, foundry and dwelling, loss \$5,000, partly insured. Jos. Charlebois, hotel, loss \$3,000. Besides these there are probably a dozen or more stores burned. Among the churches burned are the Roman Catholic, valued at \$12,000, and the Presbyterian, \$2,000. South Indian, about eight miles nearer Ottawa, lost by fire about sixty houses, two saw-mills and two small stores. Four lives were also destroyed. Cheney, a small village on the Rockland branch of the same railway, is wiped out, including the station, saw-mill, and several thousand cords of wood.