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Mercantile Summary.

According to figures compiled by the London Petroleum Review, the production of petroleum throughout the world during the past year was 28,577,900 tons, or 3,000,000 tons in excess of the quantity produced during the previous year. The above figure beats the record. Approximately the production of the various fields was as follows: America, 15,000,000 tons; Russia, 10,600,000 tons; Sumatra, Java and Borneo, 1,000,000 tons; Galicia, 827,100 tons; Roumania, 496,000 tons, and India, 804,000 tons.

The amount of taxable property in Vancouver, B.C., according to the last assessment returns is \$22,524,435, compared with \$19,564,895 last year. The gross increase is even more, amounting to over three millions and a half. This is made up of \$1,346,060 in improvements, and \$2,286,530 in real estate, but as certain exemptions are granted, the net increase, as indicated in the amounts upon which taxation is levied, is accordingly lower. In 1904, the total value of property in the city, both improvements and real estate, was \$24,688,855, while this year it is \$28,321,445.

The following were among the enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Office, 17 Victoria St., London, during the week ending 20th April, 1905: A cold storage company in the North of England wish to establish business relations with Canadian exporters of produce. A firm of manufacturers' agents selling joinery, wheelbarrows, skewers, roofing slate, etc., are desirous of representing a few Canadian houses. A Canadian firm of lumber exporters desire to hear from British and Continental buyers of maple flooring, bass broom handles, piano keyboards, bobbins, dowels, etc.

Dominion charters have been granted to the following: The Canadian White Company, Limited, to carry on the business of electrical, mechanical and civil engineers and contractors. Capital stock, \$1,000,000. The Duncan Electrical Company, Limited, to make, buy, sell and deal in all manner and kinds of electric supplies, and apparatus; capital stock, \$90,000. The Imperial Laundry Company, capital stock, \$20,000. The Montreal Furniture Company, Limited, capital stock, \$20,000. The Crescent Watch Case Company, Limited, with a capital stock of \$20,000, will have its headquarters in Toronto.

Further details of the proposed Michigan Central tunnel under the Detroit river are now to hand. There will be two tubes running parallel under the river, about 30 or 35 feet apart, and each about two miles long. Work will be begun and be prosecuted from the Canadian side of the river. Electrical locomotives are to be used for hauling trains through, thus removing the danger from escaping gases that frequently has proven fatal in tunnels where steam locomotives operate. Each tube will have a single track, using the third-rail electric system. One of the greatest provisions for safety will be that trains will only go in one direction through either track.

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