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## Mercantile Summary.

Mr. John A. McGowan has just launched from his yards, at Shelburne, N.S., a new steamer to ply between St. John, N.B., and Westport.

THE Canadian Pacific Railroad Company has awarded the contract for double-tracking their line from Rat Portage to Fort William, to Foley Bros. & Co., the Winnipeg contractors.

THE Pacific Steel Company, according to a report from Victoria, B.C., have made the last payment for the Sareta iron mine near the Alberni canal. It is intended to build wharves, bunkers and a tramway, and possibly a smelter.

THE Montreal Harbor Board has decided to call for plans to be prepared for permanent steel sheds with concrete floors, they having become convinced that while wooden sheds were only temporary at best, in case of fire they might be the means of causing millions of dollars worth of damage to shipping, etc.

A SERIOUS fire occurred in Halifax on the 28th ult., Moir, Son & Co.'s bakery and confectionery, at Halifax, N.S., together with several small buildings nearby, were destroyed by fire at a loss of over \$150,000; insurance, about \$60,000. The works will be rebuilt. On the same date the Board of Trade building in Port Arthur, Ont., was gutted, the loss being \$6,000; partly insured.

THE Cariboo Goldfields Company is about to spend \$80,000 in opening up its gold gravel properties near Barkerville, B.C. A shaft will be sunk 200 feet down through bedrock, and then a drift formed of some 600 feet before pay dirt is expected to be reached. A large contract was recently given to the Vancouver Engineering Works for machinery. Most of the shareholders in the above company are English.

A NEW office has been created in the Grand Trunk system. Mr. W. W. Ashald has been appointed superintendent of telegraphs and telephones, with headquarters in Montreal. The despatching and operating branches of railroading will now be brought under more vigilant supervision than heretofore, and one of the duties of the new superintendent will be to periodically visit the several despatching offices and inspect the work and records.

THE Vancouver Province recently gave some particulars as to the state of the mining industry in Atlin district. Boulder Creek, it says, is showing up richer than ever and La Societe Miniere is working ground which yields an average of 12 ozs. to the set. On the Otter Creek there is now a hydraulic plant. On the Coronation group, the Upper Pine, Loup, Green & Co.'s claims, development work is going on apace, and some satisfactory ore has been found. On the south benches of Pine a number of drifts are being run, all showing good ore.

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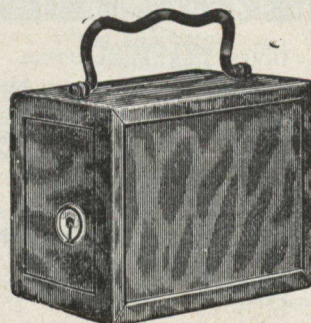
FIRE | Of Philadelphia | MARINE

Cash Capital .....\$ 3,000,000.00  
Total Assets ..... 10,702,583.61  
Surplus to Policy-holders..... 4,988,589.05  
Losses Paid since Organization, 111,857,073.92

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THE St. John Tourist Association has elected officers, as follows: O. H. Warwick, president; W. E. Raymond, of the Royal Hotel, vice-president; W. Frank Hatheway, second vice-president; Mrs. Rupert E. Olive, secretary.

OWING to the constantly growing demand for their cases, the Canadian Show Case Co. is making preparations to move into larger premises at 120-124 Richmond street East, Toronto. It is the intention to instal new and modern machinery. They will have in their new shop about three times the floor space now occupied at the Church street premises.

THE building of the Manchester (Eng.), canal was a means of developing a large direct trade between Canada and Great Britain. It is pleasing to note, therefore, that that canal is gradually becoming a profitable enterprise. Last year the revenue was \$1,720,000, compared with \$480,000 in the first year after its opening. Some years, however, must naturally elapse before it can hope to pay interest on all its bonded indebtedness.