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Mercantile Summary.

THE market fees in Brantford have been sold by auction for \$1.7:0.

Advices from Calcutta say that the Bengal jute mills were trying to come to an arrangement for short time, with a view to preventing a further fall in the prices of jute fabrics.

THE Bessemer Steel Association (billet pool) of the United States have decided that until market conditions are more favorable there will be no arbitrary restrictions placed on members regarding prices.

THE demand from British Columbia for provisions and produce is much better than it has been for several years past A Toronto firm, Messrs. D. Gunn, Brothers & Co., sent several car loads of eggs and meats to the Pacific Coast this week.

THE "Warrimoo" sailed from British Columbia on the 10th inst. for Sydney, N.S.W., via Honolulu and Suva. She had a fair cargo, including 650 tons of flour—13,120 bags—valued at \$40,00. All this flour was sold by cable through Johnson & Burnett, as brokers for the Ogilvie Milling Company.

As an instance of the great demand for hay in some portions of the mountain districts of this province, it is stated that one man in Liliooet has refused \$60 per ton. As he is supposed to have some 500 tons on hand, he must have great confidence in a further rise in the price of this product.—New Westminster, B.C., Columbian.

A REMARKABLY fast run was made by the C.P.R. beef train, which passed through London about ten o'clock last night, en route from Chicago to Montreal. The train consisted of 21 car loads of dressed beef weighing 100,000 tons, and covered the distance between Windsor and Montreal, 566 miles, in 25 hours. Distance covered, 846 miles.

ANOTHER reform of German sugar legislation is being proposed and meets with the support of the agrarians. The agrarians are clamoring against the syndicate arrangements of the sugar makers. At a meeting of the raw sugar makers held in Hanover recently, it was declared that the present legislation needs thorough reform, and the abolition of the bounties and a reduction of the tax on consumption were advocated.

THE Japanese Government has appropriated, it is said, the sum of £12,800,0 0 in the extension of telephone lines. The work of construction is being rapidly carried out at various important places, the intention being to complete by 1898 the expansion of the service connecting Tokio, Osaka and Yokohama, as well as the new constructive work in other cities, and to establish a telephonic connection between Tokio and Kobe.

Dun's Review for December 12th shows a decline of bank clearing-house transactions at ten out of fourteen cities in the United States for the week ending December 10th, compared with the corresponding week of 1895. The three western cities of Minneapolis, St. Louis and Kansas City are the exceptions, and they show an average improvement of 4 per cent. New York, Philadelphia and San Francisco show respective declines of 25, 20 and 23 per cent "The aggregate of bank exchanges for the week at the thirteen leading commercial centres in the United States outside of New York city is \$373,929 606, a loss of 6.1 per cent. compared with last year, and of 12.8 per cent. compared with the corresponding week of 1892, the latest vear of ordinary business conditions with which comparison can now be made."

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