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Mercantile Summary.

THE Dunnville Natural Gas Co., the Consumers' Natural Gas Co., of Dunnville, and the Imperial Natural Gas Co. have been amalgamated under the title of the People's Natural Gas Company, with head offices at Dunnville. Among the provisional directors are H. Cockshutt, of Brantford, and John Brown, of Dunnville.

THE following remark was made by Prof. Goldwin Smith in reference to the campaign for an unscalable tariff wall advocated for the moment by Mr. Tarte and some others: "I am not the least afraid that by hurling epithets he will lead Canadians to believe that they can make themselves richer by taxation, or that when competition is excluded they will get better and cheaper goods."

THE city of Vancouver is trying to make an arrangement on a satisfactory basis for the payment to it of a percentage of the earnings of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company. It already pays a percentage on the profit of its city line on a basis of from 1 per cent. on earnings under \$75,000 up to 8 per cent. for those under \$2,000,000, and up to the end of last October the city had received \$2,809 as its share for the current year. But no proper agreement had been made regarding a percentage on inter-urban railroad profits within the city limits, and this is what is now being arranged.

THE Dominion Government has granted letters patent to J. S. Brierley, Smeaton White, A. MacNab, of Montreal; John Ross Robertson, W. J. Douglas, J. A. Macdonald, J. E. Atkinson, J. S. Willison, W. F. Maclean, of Toronto; J. W. Dafoe and W. Sanford Evans, Winnipeg; J. H. Kellaher, Wm. Dennis, of Halifax; P. D. Ross, W. M. Southam and Alfred Wood, of Ottawa, incorporating them under the title of "The Canadian Associated Press, Limited," in a mutual and co-operative organization for the collection and interchange with greater economy and efficiency of intelligence for publishing in the newspapers.

NOVA Scotia Engines in Australia is the heading of an item which appeared recently in the Halifax Chronicle. Mr. D. H. Ross, commercial agent for Victoria, South and West Australia and Tasmania, writes to his father as follows. (His address is P.O. Box 140, Melbourne): "At the power house of the Perth Electric Tram Company I was pleased to observe two 300 horse power engines, manufactured by the Robb Engineering Co., of Amherst, Nova Scotia. These engines (Nos. 472, 473) have been working almost continuously 18½ hours daily for over three years. The engineer in charge intimated the excellence of their work. The general manager and engineer of the Perth Electric Street Railway is Mr. H. J. Somerset, formerly of Winnipeg, to whom I am indebted for many courtesies. Mr. Somerset is also engineer of the Kalgoorlie Tram Company, and the chief authority on electric traction in Western Australia."

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