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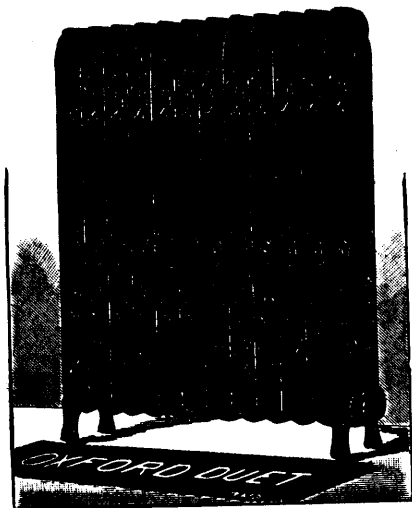
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Mercantile Summary.

VERY little flax was sown in the vicinity of Mitchell this year, as the result of a depressed market.

A SHIPMENT of 526 bicycles was made last Saturday to Australia from Toronto. The shipment was valued at \$31,600.

DIFFICULTIES with the Kingsville Natural Gas and Oil Co. have been settled by the town purchasing the entire plant of the company.

THE steamer "City of Naples" recently brought a big cargo of corn, consisting of 100,000 bushels, from Chicago to Owen Sound, Ont.

THE immense new basin built in connection with the Chatham waterworks, and which is 900 feet long by 300 feet wide, is said to be insecure.

SHERBROOKE proposes to purchase the waterworks from the Sherbrooke Gas and Water Company. Their value will be submitted to arbitration.

STRATFORD city council may construct a system of waterworks, as a result of a difference of opinion as to the price of the works by which the city is at present supplied.

THE Winnipeg city council, in a streak of economy, has dismissed the assistant city clerk, veterinary inspector, health inspector, and half a dozen other civic officials.

A NUMBER of wire-rolling mills in and around Susseldorf, Prussia, have formed themselves into a syndicate for the sale of their output. So far, eighteen works have joined in the combination, which will begin operations at once. The selling office has been opened at Hagen, and all sales will be made through it, the staff of the office being furnished by the members of the syndicate.

ANOTHER piece of gold-bearing quartz, which will yield fully 200 ounces of gold, was taken from the Touquoy mine. This quartz is much richer than that secured on Thursday. Within a week, from \$8,000 to \$10,000 worth of the precious metal has been taken out of this now famous property, which stands at the head of all Nova Scotia gold mines yet discovered.—*Truro, N.S., News.*

THE Dartmouth, N.S., *Weekly* says: "Large quantities of binder twine are being shipped to the North-West. This is unusual at this season of the year, and it is owing to the immense crop of grain in that region. There was over 1,600 tons of twine left over last year, owing to the small crop and overproduction; that has all gone and hands are working full time to keep up with the demand."

BRITISH COLUMBIA lumber dealers have a new field for enterprise in reaching out for a share of the business in connection with the Siberian railway. San Francisco has secured a number of orders for cargoes, which will be filled from the Columbia River for Vladivostok. It may turn out that some of the cargoes which recently left the province for Shanghai have gone to Siberia.

THE farmers of Portage la Prairie estimate that the wheat crops in that district will average twenty bushels per acre. Half the grain is cut and with favorable weather all the crops will have been saved within a fortnight. Most of the farmers are arranging to thresh and market early in order to secure the prevailing high prices; they say if the price should drop below seventy cents they will hold until winter.

IN 1895 there were only seven iron foundries working in the south of Russia, which consumed about 833,350 tons of mineral fuel, and produced 561,300 tons of cast iron. By the close of 1897 there will be twelve such factories, which will require about 1,167,700 tons of fuel, with the production of about 917,000 tons of cast iron. Besides these, during this year there will be working in that district about twenty iron boiler and other such works, which will export about 917,000 tons of manufactured goods, etc., by rail to all parts of the empire.

As compared with 1892-93 the value of imports of railway material into India rose by 333 per cent. in 1896-97, the total value standing at considerable over one crore. For the first time imports of railway materials and rolling stock on behalf of private enterprise are largely in excess of those on behalf of the Government. Although these latter in the past two years have greatly exceeded the value of imports in previous years, still for 1896-97 the total value for Government railway materials is less by nearly half a crore than that quoted against private importations.

THE auction sale of berth limits in the Algoma, Nipissing and Rainy River districts last week realized to the Government \$265,587 in bonuses. The prices obtained were remarkably good in view of the Dingley duty against lumber, and the possible imposition of an export tax by the Dominion Government. The highest price obtained was \$6,600 a mile for berth No. 4, in the township of Harmer, which went to Thos. Hall, of Pembroke, the total purchase price being \$51,150. None of the nine berths offered for sale in the Rainy River district brought any reasonable offers, and all were withdrawn.

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