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Mercantile Summary.

"Whalebacks," as the cigar-shaped steel freight boats of the lakes are called, are being sent from Lake Erie to Montreal. The whalebacks "Bayport," "Baden" and "Britannic," corn laden, have passed here for Montreal. After discharging cargo there, they will proceed to Boston to enter the coast-wise coal trade.

A despatch of Wednesday to the daily press states that the directors of the Imperial Steel & Wire Co., Limited, who met in their city office, decided to double the capacity of their works at Collingwood at once, making the output fifty gross tons of wire per day. The plant, it is stated, has been running steadily night and day since February last, when it was first put into commission. Additional boilers, engines and machinery will be ordered at once. The first interim dividend was declared.

The city of Windsor is growing in more directions than one, for it recognizes obligations imposed by increase in population and wealth. Last week Commissioner Black stated the assessable value of Windsor property in 1905 at approximately \$9,000,000. The population is a little over 14,000. The city is about to issue bonds to the amount of \$140,000, as authorized by the Ontario Legislature, to pay for improvements, mostly paving. In addition, bonds for \$20,000 will be issued, as authorized by the by-law carried on the 12th ult.

The assessment valuation of two Eastern Ontario towns was made known on Tuesday. Iroquois, near Prescott, with a population of 1,033, has a total assessment of \$341,000. Of this \$90,000 is on lands, \$217,000 on buildings, \$24,000 on business assessment, and \$7,000 on income. The exempted property amounts to \$88,500, made up of town property, and \$23,000 on four churches. The other town referred to is Alexandria, in Glengarry County, population, 2,270. Its assessment this year is \$100,000 higher than last year. Taxable property is placed at \$464,486; non-taxable, at \$23,000; business assessment, \$57,869; income, \$13,012; Separate School, \$279,381; Public School, \$147,105.

Our Halifax letter of 15th May described the Halifax and Yarmouth Railway in Nova Scotia. It is now announced that the portion of this road already built has been transferred to the Halifax and Southwestern, a Mackenzie & Mann road. The plan of the purchase is to ultimately make a direct line in Nova Scotia between Yarmouth and Halifax, and when this is done the line will enter into competition with the Dominion Atlantic Railway, running now along the north shore of the Province. The road purchased is 51 miles in length and runs from Yarmouth to Barrington. The Halifax & Southwestern, 194 miles in length, runs from Liverpool to Halifax, leaving an unconnected section of about 80 miles. Building is to begin soon on a connecting line and thus a direct route to Halifax from Yarmouth will be in operation.

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