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Mercantile Summary.

J. R. BOOTH, of Ottawa, has purchased timber limits from Thomas McTierman & Co., to the amount of \$130,000.

THE New Brunswick Steamship Company feel so encouraged by the result of the first trip of their vessel, that they are disposed to buy, or to have built, another steamer to take the place of the Cedar Grove, recently lost,

THE first train was run over the Essex Centre Cut-off, of the Canada Southern Railway, last Friday. The contractors who have had the work in charge finished their contract on Wednesday. They have had in their employ on the work an average of 377 teams of horses and 632 laborers.

WITH respect to the prizes for designs for Christmas cards offered by Messrs. Barber & Ellis, the judges who have counted the artists' and art critics' vote, and also the popular vote, find No 74 entitled to both first prizes, amounting to \$300. The successful artist is W. Cruickshank, of Toronto.

What is called a chemical pulp-mill for preparing material for paper-making, is to be erected at Fenelon Falls, by Messrs. Scott & Henry, who have bought a piece of land for the purpose. Exemption from taxes for ten years has been extended from ten to twenty years on the representation by the company that they intend ultimately to manufacture paper as well as pulp.

It is not often that a man gets the present of a piano before he gets a wife. But the employees of the Montreal Gazette reversed the usual order of things when they assembled last week to present Mr. R. S. White, the commercial editor of that journal, with a handsome piano, in anticipation of his approaching marriage. We would add our congratulations on the interesting occasion.

A MERTING was held in Portland, N. B., last week to consider a proposal that that municipality should give \$2,500 towards the proposed centennial exhibition at St. John. Mr. James Harris pointed out that the forthcoming exhibition being a Dominion exhibition, there will be competitors from all parts of Canada, and that Portland would share in the benefit. The Dominion has given \$10,000, the Province \$10,000 and the city \$5,000, but the meeting decided against making any money grant.

Montague Banks carried on the drug business in Winnipeg for several years and made an awkward failure. Then he became a clerk. About a year ago he bought a small grocery and liquor business and opened it in his wife's name. Now she has assigned, with liabilities of about \$8,000 and nominal assets of \$5,000 or \$6,000. Montague had not much business capacity, and could not reasonably expect to make money without it in a wide-awake city like Winnipeg.