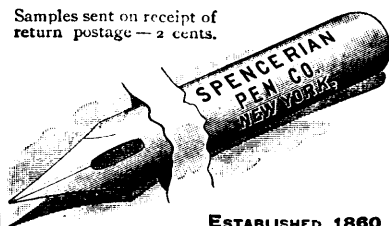


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**Mercantile Summary.**

A VALUABLE discovery of kaolin has been made in a swamp, near the village of Gouverneur, N.Y.

VICTORIA is still without telegraphic service says the *Times* of July 20th, the cable not yet having been repaired. It is now nearly a week since the break was first reported.

A SEVERE storm some days ago did a great deal of damage to the lobster traps on the north side of Prince Edward Island, and the shore at many places was strewn with wreckage.

A NEW boiler and engine for the Electric Light Station has reached Summerside, P.E.I. When the dynamo and other equipments are all in position, the station will have a duplicate of the plant now in operation.

WORD comes from London that the negotiations between the American Bimetallic Commission and the representatives of France and Great Britain have gone so far as to make it likely that Great Britain will agree to take part in a conference to be held in Washington in a few months.

MR. McMICKEN, of the Great Northern Railway, sends us a most attractive pamphlet entitled, "Alaska; Land of Gold and Glacier." It contains maps and plans, views of fiords, of mountains, of mines, and of "cities"—Circle City among them, because within the Arctic circle, and a queer looking collection of tents and log huts it is. If people will go to Klondike, Mr. McMicken's road will take them to Puget Sound on the way thither.

SINCE our last issue the brothers Thompson, partners in the John Eaton company of this city, have been arrested, and two of them were brought before the police court on Monday last, charged with conspiracy to defraud creditors. Bail was given in \$3,000 for each, and they are to be up for trial again in a week or two. Creditors are determined that the affairs of this concern shall be thoroughly searched into, and that those found guilty of fraud shall be punished.

ON Friday morning last Mr. Ira Cornwall, the well known secretary of the St. John Board of Trade and the Tourist Association of that city, disappeared from the hotel at which he had been stopping. Search was made for him, but without success until Monday last, when his dead body was found floating in the water near the Westfield wharf. The cause of his death is a mystery. His nerves had been unstrung of late, and he had worried over business matters, but no one knows of any troubles that should have driven him to suicide, as has been hinted. Mr. Cornwall was a valuable official and had many friends. He was proud of St. John, believed in her future and worked enthusiastically for her business associations.

THE Montreal Exhibition of 1897 opens on Thursday, August 18th, and continues till Saturday, August 28th. This alteration in the date of the fair, which has hitherto been September or October, was made because judged to be more convenient to exhibitors, and also with a view to securing more favorable weather. In addition to the regular range of prizes offered at this exhibition these several years past, we observe that there are two silver medals presented by the Hackney Horse Society, of London, Eng.; a silver cup for the best jumper, and a cup for the best Percheron stallion; special prizes for cattle, sheep, swine and poultry. A feature of the occasion will also be a race of messenger pigeons between Kingston and Montreal.

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