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Mercantile Summary.

THE vote on the by-law in the town of Palmerston guaranteeing the debentures of the Farmers' Co-operative Pork Agency Co., amounting to \$25,000, was carried by a large majority.

THE price of crude rubber has been advancing for a good while. Another advance of 5c. per lb. was declared last week. The finest Para rubber is now worth \$1.05 the pound in New York, which is the highest price reached for twenty years.

THE results of smelting operations by the Hall Mines, Limited, of British Columbia, are as thus given us: In the four weeks, ending March 6th last, 2,458 tons of ore were smelted, yielding matte containing, approximately, 54 fons copper and 36,890 ounces silver.

According to a Chicago despatch of last Saturday, as a consequence of the increase in the price of steel and the consolidation of large steel and iron industries, the plough manufacturers of the United States are forming a combination. A stock company, capitalized at \$60,000,000 under the laws of New Jersey, will shortly be incorporated.

THE Canada Paper Company held its annual general meeting in Montreal last week. The statement of the year's business and report for 1898, were submitted to the shareholders and found satisfactory. The following gentlemen were re-elected directors for the current year: Messrs. John MacFarlane, Andrew Allan, Hugh McLennan, H. Montague Allan, Hugh A. Allan, W. D. Gillean and Chas. R. Hosmer. The directors chose Mr. John Mac-Farlane, president; Mr. Andrew Allan, vice-president; Mr. W. D. Gillean, assistant managing director, and Mr. John C. Young, secretary-treasurer.

AFTER keeping a general store for several years in Harriston, T. G. Seli & Co. moved to St. Mary's in July, 1897. At that time they showed a surplus of \$8,000. They had a branch store in Gorrie for a short time, which proved to be a mistake. After a couple of writs had been issued against them they made an assignment. Last November John M. Hamlin purchased the general stock of Thos. Hawkins at Port Albert. Previous to this he had been in the baking business. Now he assigns. The sheriff has seized the tailoring stock of Currie & Co., Sarnia, amounting to nearly \$10,000, and it will be sold.

Another of the American commercial combines is the Shipbuilding Trust, said to have been completed at Trenton, New Jersey, on March 17th. It is said to have gathered together all the ship-building plants on the Great Lakes excepting the Union Dry Dock Company of Buffalo and, the Davidson Yard, at Bay City, Mich. The charter of the company, as drawn indicates that not only are the ships to be built, but metals are to be mined and materials made. The company begins business with \$3,000,000 of cash capital, which is equally divided between James B. Dill, of New York city; Frederick W. Kline, of Cleveland, O., and W. T. Coleman Carpenter, of Orange, N.J.

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