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#### Mercantile Summary.

STRATFORD expects a \$60,000 joint stock company to start a biscuit factory shortly.

THE first shipment of fresh dressed beef to Westminster from the North-West arrived last week from Calgary, consigned to the city butchers. The beef was refrigerated by means of ice packing.

THE Hudson Bay Company shipped \$10,000 worth of furs from Victoria to England on Saturday, 19th ult., going over the C. P. R. They were mostly seal-skins to be disposed of at the great January sales.

FORT WILLIAM, on Lake Superior, makes a return for six months and a half of navigable season, thus: 604 vessels of 688,000 tons reported and cleared; 202,500 tons of freight handled; 4,654,000 bushels Manitoba wheat.

THE Woman's Baking Company of Chicago has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$250,000. It is composed of W. C. T. U. women of Chicago, and is pledged to use only the purest materials, and to have the work done entirely by women.

From the development of language was evolved the art of writing, and very crude were the materials used, as they appear to us in these days of Japanese vellum and fine linen papers, says Mr. W. I. Way, in the Inland Printer. In an old school history of English literature, the author says, in substance, that when in some primeval forest a sinewy savage stood, many years ago, etching upon the inner bark of a tree rude pictures that told of the animals or birds he slew, the first steps were taken toward the making of a

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