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Mercantile Summary.

THE Hamilton City Council has passed a by-law prohibiting the use of trading stamps after January 1st next.

A BY-LAW to grant a bonus of \$2,500 to J. C. Mundell & Company, furniture manufacturers, was submitted to the ratepayers of Elora, last Friday. The by-law carried, 164 for, and 18 against.

THE Natural History building, on the Toronto Exhibition grounds, was last week destroyed by fire, which is supposed to have started from sparks from a passing locomotive. Loss about \$4,000, with insurance of \$1,500.

THE Dominion Iron and Steel Company's third blast furnace was blown in on 26th ult. The first cast made weighed 40 tons, and was a complete success. Numbers one and two furnaces are now turning out over three hundred tons each a day.

It is stated that the money value of new buildings and improvements to old ones in Stratford thus far this year amounts to more than \$100,000. The rebuilding of the Hodd & Cullen mill is included in this; so also improvements to the Easson mill.

MR. E. M. BLACK, representing a syndicate of Buffalo capitalists, has negotiated the purchase of the Peterborough and Ashburnham electric railroad for \$150,000. The road is now six miles in length, and will be, it is said, extended to Lakefield.

THE result of the survey work on the route of the proposed Temiscaming railroad has been so satisfactory that it is stated that the Ontario Government will commence the work of construction northward from North Bay next spring. To the head of Lake Temiscaming, the line would be about 100 miles in length, about one-third of the distance to James' Bay.

THE creditors of W. H. Brown, who has been in general trade at Pugwash, N.S., for twenty years, have had made them an offer of 25 cents on the dollar. This is owing to loss by the recent fire. In 1898 he was burned out, with only partial insurance, when he is said to have made a compromise arrangement with most of his creditors, and a few weeks ago his store and stock were completely destroyed, not even his books being saved, and he is said to have no insurance whatever.

THE following is a list of Canadian patents recently issued: Fire lighter, Henry Braby; fish-cleaning machine, the Alaska Packers' Association; fuel composition, J. D. Oligny et al; moth-ex-pelling paper, H. F. McKichan; artificial fuel, F. C. Von Heydebrand; chair seat and back, J. B. Detwiler; charcoal burning attachment for stoves, Robert Fletcher; charcoal burning stove, Robert Fletcher; charcoal device for stoves, Robert Fletcher; broiling or toasting device, B. J. Karrer; bath and basin waste, H. M. Weaver; clothes suspending device, Agnes E. Wagner; animal trap, James B. Lindsay, et al.

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