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# Mercantile Summary.

In Havana, Cuba, enquiries are being made at the present moment for building materials, plumbers' supplies, agricultural implements, etc.

THE Wentworth Knitting Co.'s works in Hamilton have been taken over by Geo. Bryl, the former concern having, we understand, gone out of the business.

ACCORDING to a Kingston, Jamaica, cable of September 6th rains and high winds have done serious damage to the banana and tobacco plantations on the north side of the island.

MR W. W. MOORE, of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, left a few days ago for Cape Town, South Africa, for the purpose of developing trade in the interests of the department. He will be absent until the last of January.

IN the Lake of the Woods district, we learn that several important mining deals have been made within the last few weeks. The Decca Co. and the Chemical Mining Co. have amalgamated under the name of the Combined Mining and Milling Company. They are erecting a 40-stamp mill at the Decca property. From W. D. Pettigrew a Scotch syndicate have bought a property near Ingolf station, and are carrying on development work there. The good transportation facilities, healthy climate, and the encouragement offered by what already has been done, should ensure a bright future for the Lake of the Woods region.

WESTMOUNT (Montreal) town council propose to take over a large piece of land contiguous to their present park, and to include it in one large pleasure ground. The estimated cost, some \$100,000, is large, but the originators of the scheme hope by this means to form one of the finest parks in Canada. We hope for the sake of the health and pleasure of coming generations that the plan will be carried through. Montreal is already somewhat deficient in public squares and parks, and the formation of a new one of the proposed size will help greatly in the cause of fresh air in the future and help the charm of Westmount.

A WRITER in the Montreal Herald draws attention to the successful work performed by the ice-breaking steamers built for Russia by the Armstrongs, and asks why the St. Lawrence River could not be kept open for navigation much longer than at present, by means of similar appliances. Up to about the middle of December, he says, the ice formed on the St. Lawrence is never more than from three to six inches thick, and after the middle of March there is no ice formed worth mentioning. If Montreal could be kept open for navigation for say nine months in the year, the benefit accruing to the whole Dominion would be very great. He thinks that the Government could well afford to build a strong ice-breaking steamer, something of the "Sampo" type, about 250 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 20 feet depth, to draw from 12 to 14 feet of water. One week's coal supply aboard would suffice, as she could always obtain coal if required at Three Rivers, Sorel and Montreal.

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