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Mercantile Summary.

The Halifax municipality having agreed to pay a bonus of $2 per ton for ten years, and $1 per ton for the succeeding ten years on every ship built, the American Shipbuilding Co. will erect a plant in that city.

The Quebec Suburban Electric Railway is applying to the provincial legislature for incorporation, with power to build and operate a line from the city of Quebec across the parishes of Limoilon, bec across the parishes of Limoilou, Lake St. Charles; also to cross the St. Lawrence, and to build and run on the south shore a line in the counties of Levis and Lotbiniere.

The trade passing through the port of Quebec last year amounted to a total of $11,197,440, as compared with a total of $10,732,942, in 1899, or an increase of $464,498, in 1900. During the four years from 1893, the total trade, both import and export, only amounted to $34,875,468, while from 1897 to 1900 it amounted to $40,776,294, an increase of nearly $6,000,000 in four years.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Press Association will not be held in Montreal this year, as was intended, but in Toronto. It is expected that Montreal will be the place of meeting in 1902. The dates fixed for this year is the 21st and 2nd March. Invitations are being sent to all who signified their willingness to go to Montreal, and to all other members of the association.

A large meeting of prominent merchants of St. John was held a few days ago to discuss the question of steamer communication between that city and Sydney. There was unanimous approval of the idea that the board of trade should be requested to take immediate steps to secure at least one first-class steamer for the service between St. John, Yarmouth, Sydney and other Nova Scotia points.

The estimates of the Toronto Fire and Light Department show an increase of nearly $16,000 over the expenditures last year. Of this amount $5,098 is for increased cost of lighting the streets under the new contract. In the report, which came up at the meeting, the suggestion was made that in the Fire Department a system of marks for deeds of valor should be instituted, whereby the length of time elapsing before the increase of pay might be shortened.

On the 15th inst., a terrible explosion took place in one of the shafts of the Cumberland colliery, on Union Bay, B.C., by which it was completely wrecked. Some sixty miners, of whom about forty are whites, were entombed in the debris, and there is hardly the slightest doubt that they were all either killed in the concussion or burned in the fire which ensued immediately afterwards. Heroic efforts have been made to recover the bodies, but it is a work of much time and labor to work a way through the ruin. Acting on the presumption that the men in the mine must be all dead, the authorities flooded the mine on Monday.

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REMOVAL
The Law Offices of Thomson, Henderson & Bell have been removed to the General Trusts Bdg., 59 Yonge Street.
Toronto, 12th January, 1901.

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