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Mercantile Summary.

THE United Steel Trust has completed its first six months of existence, for which period its net earnings were nearly \$55,000,000.

THE rubber boot makers, employees of the Canadian Rubber Co., in Montreal, are out on strike, owing to dissatisfaction with the wages offered for that class of work.

THE Montreal Street Railway's total earnings for the year ending August last were \$1,867,909, as compared with \$1,641,955 for the year preceding. The city receives \$86,373 as its share.

OWING to an error on the part of a despatcher, an accident occurred on the Quebec Central Railroad on the 3rd inst., by which four men, all employees of the company, were killed, and several others badly injured.

THE Hastings Mill Company are constructing a railroad from Rock Bay to Salmon River, B.C. It will tap extensive timber limits, and when the lumber therein is exhausted, it is intended to use it for passenger and freight traffic.

It is pleasing to learn that the Belgian Government has published an exhaustive consular report on agriculture and colonization in the Canadian North-West. The regulations as to taking up free grants of land, and a resume of the agricultural methods pursued, are presented in an intelligent manner, and the pamphlet is said to be attracting considerable attention.

PROF. MACOUN draws attention to the fact that in the middle of the arid belt in the North-West, the Cypress Hills, which stretch east and west for 160 miles, possess hundreds of perennial springs, also many young trees. He suggests that the Government should conserve the water from these springs for plantation purposes, whereby the country would after a while have a more uniform rainfall. On the west side there is a large lake, five or six miles long, that receives all the waters from this slope, and a dam across that would give sufficient for the irrigation of the country in that vicinity. This could be utilized for grain and for trees.

THE Lake of the Woods Milling Company, Limited, held its annual meeting in Montreal last week. The annual report for the year was submitted to the shareholders, and was found to be satisfactory. A dividend of ten per cent. was declared on the paid-up capital of the company, for the year ending August 31st, 1901. The following were elected directors for the ensuing year: Messrs. Robert Meighen, W. A. Hastings, R. B. Angus, R. G. Reid, F. S. Meighen, of Montreal; John Mather, of Ottawa; and G. V. Hastings, of Winnipeg. At a subsequent meeting of the directors, Mr. R. Meighen was elected president and managing director; Mr W. A. Hastings, vice-president and general manager; Mr. G. V. Hastings, manager, Winnipeg, and general superintendent; Mr F. E. Bray, secretary; Mr. F. S. Meighen, treasurer, and Mr. W. W. Hutchison, assistant secretary.

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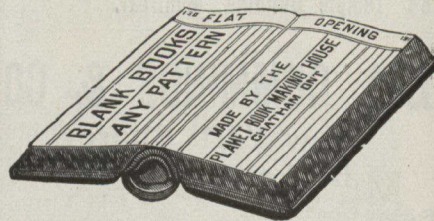
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