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Mercantile Summary.

A despatch from Albany says that Superintendent Boyd has fixed upon Saturday, November 26th, at midnight, as the date for the closing of the New York State canals. This is a few days earlier than usual, December 1st having been the ruling date for many years. The authorities expect severe weather early in December.

A despatch from Newfoundland, dated Friday last, says that Henry M. Whitney, of Boston, president of the Newfoundland Timber Estates Company, has transferred to Sir Alfred Harmsworth & Bros., the London publishers, lumber areas in this island on which the Harmsworths purpose establishing large pulp mills. The price paid was \$500,000. The Harmsworths propose to spend \$2,000,000 in erecting pulp mills.

A letter from Amherstburg, written on Thanksgiving Day, 17th November, gives some information as to matters in the southwestern portion of Essex County: "The weather has been exceedingly dry; until a few nights ago some flowers were still blooming in the open. Our farmers hereabout do not lose much time or energy over elections. They are killing their hogs even now, and it is not likely that the next election will be on before a good many hogs are on their way to Montreal. Money should begin to come in plentifully soon, probably during December. Then, again, the corn will be selling in considerable quantity probably by the first of January." This news about the Indian corn crop is satisfactory, especially as there had been no maize to speak of for the two years preceding. In 1903, the wet spring prevented its planting till late, and it did not ripen; while in 1902 the conditions were unfavorable and the crop was extremely limited.

The adjourned annual general meeting of the Lake of the Woods Milling Company, Limited, was held in Montreal last week, when the following board of directors was elected: Robert Meighen, Thos. Fyshe, Robert Reford, Hon. Robert Mackay, Albert McLaren, Ottawa; Cyrus A. Birge, Hamilton; W. H. Murray, St. John, N.B.; Robert Thomson, St. John, N.B.; David Russell, Montreal. The officers are: Robert Meighen, president and managing-director; Thomas Fyshe, vice-president; G. V. Hastings, general manager; W. W. Hutchison, eastern manager; F. E. Bray, secretary; Frank S. Meighen, treasurer; R. Nelson, assistant secretary.

Montreal papers announce that D. B. Martin & Co., of Baltimore and Philadelphia, have purchased the East End Abattoir, Frontenac street, across the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks from the Angus shops, in Montreal. The firm make stearine tallow, size, etc., the bi-products of an abattoir, and have a branch manufactory on the canal bank near the Western Abattoir. Mr. Cook, the firm's manager, says that the property is worth \$400,000, and that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, which held the controlling interest, and the minor shareholders had been bought out.

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The council of Sydney has arranged with Mr. J. C. McIntosh, of Halifax, for the sale of town bonds and debentures. A telegram says that the 4 per cents. are sold at 92, and the 4½ at 96, with accruing interest, which is better than other Cape Breton towns have received. The council voted the issue of bonds for streets, sewerage and water-works.