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#### Mercantile Summary.

A FIRE at Victoria, B.C., on the night of 29th December, destroyed property valued at \$25,000.

THE Dairymen's Association of British Columbia will hold an exhibit of dairy produce, cattle, feed and dairy apparatus, at Ladner's Landing, B.C., on January 26th and 27th

THE Canadian Bank of Commerce has advised the Dominion Government that it is sending officers to establish a branch of the bank in the Atlin Lake district, of the Klondyke country.

THE youngest son of the late Jay Gould. whose name is Frank, bought a seat on the New York Stock Exchange last week for \$30,000, the highest price paid for a seat on the exchange for some years.

A MONTREAL clothing man, Louis Shindler, who has paid his way very satisfactorily for the past ten years, and had established for himself a good general credit, disappeared suddenly a few days ago, and is supposed to owe some \$7,000 or \$8,000, while the assets apparent do not much exceed as many hundred.

THE traffic returns of eighteen principal English and Irish lines, for the current half-year exhibit an increase of £879,471, or 2.6 per cent., while on the Scotch lines, up to mid-December, there is a gain of £129,628, equal to 3.7 per cent. The latter are calculated from August 1st, instead of from July 1st, as in the case of the English and Irish companies.

Some of the western coal miners in the States are in a state of unrest. The men employed by the Carlinsville Coal Co., of Illinois, stopped work last week, claiming that they were unfairly treated in weighing the coal they raised, having lost, they say, 150 lbs. to the ton in some cases. And a despatch from Massillon, Ohio, says that the railroad companies are laying in large supplies of coal to bridge over a possible strike, which may result from the enforcement by miners of the Jones Anti-Screen law.

THE announcement of the suspension of the well-known Montreal wholesale clothing house of E. A. Small & Co., was a distinct shock to the Montreal trade. As yet, no very close data are available as to the position of affairs, but it is understood that the business has not been really making a profit for several years past, and the recent balance sheet showed up so poorly, that the firm considered it advisable, in the interest of all concerned, to suspend payment, the more particularly as they had a large amount of paper to take up on the 4th inst., for which they did not see their way clear to provide in a regular way. A meeting of creditors will not be called until stock is taken afresh, and in the meantime, Mr. Archibald W. Stevenson, accountant, is in charge, in the interests of creditors. The merchandise liabilities will foot up over \$200,000, it is expected, and the indirect liability to their bankers must be very considerable, as they have done a business at the rate of about half a million of dollars a year.

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