

Mercantile Summary.

THE following Ottawa parties, John Rudolph Booth, Edson J. Chamberlin, Wm. Anderson, Andrew Walker Fleck, are asking incorporation as the Ontario Elevator Co.

BONUSES were carried by the ratepayers of St. John's, Que., on Monday, for \$25,000 in favor of the Parent boot and shoe factory at Terrebonne, Que., and \$10,000 in favor of the Swain cigar factory of Montreal. A few years hence, St. John's will probably be less fond of bonuses.

At Detroit, a few days ago, Judge Swan sentenced Benjamin Hunton, a colored railway porter, convicted of smuggling phenacetine and other dutiable drugs across the river, to nine months in the Detroit House of Correction, and to pay a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars. James Nevelles, arrested as a confederate, was allowed to go free.

MORE corporations were formed in New York State during 1897 than during any other year in the last twelve, or since the enactment of the statute taxing corporations one-eighth of one per cent. for the privilege of organizing in the State. There were 1,603 companies formed, and their aggregate capitalization amounted to \$150,352,295.

THE Hall Mines, Limited, give the results of that company's smelting operations for the five weeks ending 31st Dec., 1897, as below. In 25 days and 6 hours' smelting, 5,796 tons of ore was smelted, yielding 317 tons of matte, containing (approximately) 146 tons copper 92,170 ozs. silver, 238 ozs. gold.

NEW Year remembrances continue to flow in upon us. The Manufacturers Life send a pocket match box; the Dominion Brewery Co., a pocket reference book; Mr. F. H. Leavenworth, editor of *The Indicator*, Detroit, a portrait and a message of greeting, which we reciprocate; the Western Canada Loan and Savings Co., a calendar, illustrated by photography in natural colors; the Great West Life, brownie blotters; the Excelsior Life, a neat colored calendar.

THE Toronto City Commissioner issued last week a statement giving the following comparison of the live stock which passed through the cattle market during the last two years:

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Hogs.
1897	138,155	88,460	217,765
1896	104,887	95,675	194,104

There is thus an increase of 24 per cent. in cattle and 11 per cent. in hogs for the year. In 1897 the fees for weighing stock were \$5,792, in 1896 they were \$4,409.

A DETROIT letter of Saturday last, speaking of the enlarged business done by the merchants and factories of that city in 1897, the better collections resulting from good crops and the better feeling among storekeepers and citizens generally, adds: "Our trade with Canada is not going to be helped by this infernal seal-skin-seizing regulation that our bungling botches at Washington have imposed upon us, long-suffering people that we are. A man, or a woman either, is hardly going to come here from Windsor or Chatham in winter to shop, if his or her garment is likely to be taken and sacrificed to the Alaska Sealing Company."

NOTICE appears in a recent number of the Quebec official *Gazette* of an application by Robert Cowans, manufacturer; John McKerrigow, merchant; Kenneth W. Blackwell, manufacturer; Peter Lyall, contractor; John Forman, merchant, all of Montreal; Charles Riordon, paper maker, of St. Catharines, and John Roaf Barber, paper maker, of Georgetown, for letters patent incorporating them and others

as "The Shawenigan Manufacturing Company," for the production and sale of pulp and paper, carbide of calcium, acetylene gas, aluminum and electricity, and other objects incidental thereto, with a capital of \$500,000, with right to increase.

A PARAGRAPH about the Victorian Era ball in the Toronto Armories finds place in the *Baker and Confectioner*, the figures in which illustrate the enormous scale of that memorable spectacular event. Writing of the quantity of viands used during the evening, that journal says: "Amongst these were over a thousand pounds of turkey, 145 dozen quail, 75 gallons of ices, nearly 300 pounds of fancy wafers macaroons, etc., and sixty cases of champagne besides claret."

UNDER the heading of "Building and Loan Associations," *American Investments*, in its last issue, says: "Receivers galore. The beginning seems to have just begun. Scarcely a day passes without some association being reported as insolvent, some trusted treasurer missing, or some composite secretary so mixed up in his accounts that months are required to untangle them. It looks now as though these associations were undergoing a pretty severe test, which will result in the thinning out the bad and doubtful ones, and emphasizing a few fundamental truths which perhaps have been lost sight of in the intense shuffling for business. Thirty years ago it used to be the boast that no building and loan association had ever failed, but now, alas! failures are altogether too common. There is something decidedly out of joint, and in our next issue we will undertake to put our thumb on the big screw that is loose."

THE following figures, relating to the customs transactions of the port of New Westminster for the year 1897, indicate a large increase in the trade of that city and its tributary district. The total value of imports for 1897 amounted to \$742,457, showing an increase of \$230,596 over the preceding year. The dutiable goods imported were valued at \$501,623, an increase of forty per cent. and the duty collected, with other revenue, shows a proportionate increase, being \$149,612, as against \$92,311 for 1896. The goods imported on the free list also increased, from \$211,686 in 1896 to \$240,834 in 1897. The same gratifying increase is noticeable in the exports, which have risen from \$2,966,400 for 1896 to \$3,396,387 for 1897. This increase of about \$430,000 is chiefly due to the large export of Fraser River salmon, the figures for October reaching over one and a quarter millions.

THE Lake Bouchette Pulp Company applied to the Quebec Legislature for incorporation to make and sell pulp and paper in all its branches; to purchase, sell and deal in timber limits and timber, and to erect and construct sawmills, and make lumber to build and navigate vessels, on the Lakes Commissaires, Bouchette, Ouïatchouan and their tributaries; to keep hotels; to manufacture, sell and distribute electricity for lighting, heating and motive power. Head office, Quebec; capital, \$200,000. The petitioners are: Victor Chateauvert, Gaspard Lemoine, Rodolphe Audet, George Elie Amyot, Alphonse Letellier, Octave Jacques, Joseph Vermette, Narcisse Rioux, A. B. Dupuis, Jean Elie Martineau, merchants: Joseph Isaac Lavery, advocate, all of Quebec, and Damase Jalbert, trader, of Lake Bouchette. The first directors are to be Messrs. Victor Chateauvert, Gaspard Lemoine, Rodolphe Audet, George Elie Amyot, Alphonse Letellier, Damase Jalbert, and Joseph Isaac Lavery.

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