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Mercantile Summary.THE Winnipeg Electric Street Railway
Company will spend some \$30,000 during
the summer in improving their system.We hear that the Byron flour mills, in
London, owned by Mr. J. W. Crouse,
were recently offered at auction, but that
the property was withdrawn, no bids be-
ing received.THE southern Ontario pea crop is said
to be seriously threatened by the ravages
of a bug called the pea weevil. Already
the acreage under this important crop
has been reduced considerably owing to
the fear of this pest.THE Canada Atlantic Railway Company
has decided to build a line from St.
Justine to Vaudreuil, nineteen miles, thus
giving the Canada Atlantic the shortest
route from Ottawa to Montreal. By the
new line the distance will be 108 miles.THE White Pass & Yukon Railway
Company has given out a contract for the
construction of three modern refrigerator
plants for the steamers "Dawson,"
"Ogilvie," and "McConnel," craft which
are to be operated this year between
White Horse and Dawson.THE Retail Merchants' Association,
Toronto, has adopted a resolution call-
ing upon the city council to pass a by-
law prohibiting the use of trading stamps.
This power was conferred upon municipal
councils by an Act passed at the recent
session of the Legislature.SIR WM. C. MACDONALD, who, by the
creation, of manual training schools and
otherwise, has already done much for the
cause of education in Canada, now has a
plan for improving rural schools and
keeping boys on the farm. Briefly, stated,
it is a method of teaching children,
especially in rural districts, to observe
nature, the phenomena of plant life, etc.,
and to initiate the system, it is proposed to
bring expert teachers from England.THE Canadian International Banking
and Investment Syndicate, of Canada and
Mexico, in return for a bonus of \$125,-
000, and 110 acres of land, offer to erect,
equip and operate four iron furnaces, with
a capacity of 150 to 200 tons per day, and
two furnaces of 30 tons each of precious
metal ores per day, and also erect, equip
and maintain rolling mills, with a capa-
city of 150 tons per day.THE following is a list of Canadian
patents recently procured: 70,904, Philisa
Boire, Montreal Que., means for locking
whips in whip sockets; 70,914, Joseph H.
Gagnier, Montreal, Que., car brakes; 70,-
925, Honore Dupere, Quebec, Que., gully
cleaner; 70,933, Etienne Poulin, fils., St.
Germain de Grantham, Que., railway
crossing frogs; 70,949, Gilbert M. Tate,
Windsor Mills, Que., pulp screens; 70,-
976, James W. McQuay, Valley River,
Man., reversing valve mechanism for en-
gines; 70,998, Odilon Feher, Montreal,
Que., window fastener; 71,039, George H.
Stokes, Bloomfield, N.B., milk account
books; 71,067, Napoleon Dussault, Mont-
real, Que., hand lasting tool; 71,079,
Louis Arsene Desy, Montreal, Que.,
dredge.**THE TORONTO GENERAL
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