Mercantile Summary.

The Dominion Government has awarded the contracts for constructing wharves at Black Brook and Carleton, in New Brunswick.

Several towns are working hard to secure for themselves the head offices of the new furniture combine, but so far the matter has not been decided, though Berlin would appear to have a very good chance.

The Quebec and Ottawa boards of trade a few days ago sent a deputation to ask Sir Wilfrid Laurier to grant a subsidy of $6,400 per mile for a railroad to be built from Roberval, on the Quebec and Lake St. John Railroad, to James' Bay, a distance of some 380 miles.

The directors of the Knob Hill, Ironsides, Gray Eagle, and Granby smelter companies have concluded that it would be to their best interest to combine. Probably a new company will be formed, under the name of the Granby Consolidated Smelting and Mining Co., Limited, with a capital of $15,000,000, of which nearly $3,000,000 is to be held as treasury stock.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Canadian Electrical Association was held at Montreal on the 12th inst. It was decided that the dates of the annual convention this year should be the 19th, 20th, and 21st of June. A committee was appointed to arrange for papers and topics for discussion. A local committee was also nominated to make the necessary local arrangements for the meeting, which gives promise of being a most successful one.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has begun the construction of a branch line, nearly 60 miles in length, running from Lardo, at the head of Kootenay lake, by way of Duncan and Trout lake to Arrowhead, the terminus of the Revelstoke branch of the Canadian Pacific. Its construction will open up for development the entire silver-lead properties of the Slocan district, and give an outlet for the shipment of the ore taken from the large number of mines now in operation in that district, the principal of which is the Payne mine.

A news-letter from Digby, a short time ago, stated that the people of that town did not wish to be behind their neighbors, and were agitating for a steel shipbuilding plant. It is thought there that iron and steel ships can be built cheaper there than in Halifax, and that the town could give a shipbuilding company a splendid site for a shipyard, and, no doubt freedom from taxation for an indefinite period. They have iron in the North Mountain, within three miles of Digby, and at Moose River, in the adjoining county of Annapolis, there is an unlimited supply within 20 miles of the town. At Nictaux, about 50 miles from Digby, with good railway facilities, there is iron enough to keep many of the iron works supplied for years.