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## Mercantile Summary.

At the annual dinner given by Mr. T. H. Estabrooks to his travelling staff at St. John, N.B., Mr. Stephen Hustwitt, the firm's chief representative in the Canadian west, was present; also Mr. H. R. Arnold, of Winnipeg.

At a meeting of the Halifax Board of Trade held last Friday, new by-laws were adopted. Hereafter at the annual meeting a president, two vice-presidents and council of nine shall be elected. Afterwards these shall meet and select seven others, from lines of trade not represented in the original number, the whole to form the board's council of nineteen. This is designed to make the board more representative.

An important visitor reached Victoria, B.C., last Friday in the person of Mr. K. Nagai, manager of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha Company, of Japan, who arrived by the steamer "Kanagawa Maru" on his way to St. Paul to discuss traffic arrangements with President J. J. Hill, of the Great Northern Railway. The Japanese company has a traffic arrangement with the Great Northern, and it is with regard to an arrangement to join interests with the monster Hill liners, "Minnesota" and "Dakota," that the Japanese steamship official is to confer with Mr. Hill.

In our insurance column we have referred to the new arrangement made by Mr. R. A. Donald. Besides representing the company referred to, the R. A. Donald Agency is to be a common centre, which will direct a number of industrial concerns in which Mr. Donald and his associate, Mr. Geo. H. Campbell, are interested. The companies concerned are as follows: The Canada Wood Manufacturing Co., of Farnham, Que., makers of furniture; the Canada Process Co., of Toronto; the Smokeless Fuel Saving Co., and the Universal Spring Motor Co. Other enterprises may be added, but the four above named are now in working order. It is thought by those interested that it will prove more economical to have the policies of the various industries decided upon in the one office without in any way interfering with the successful working of each of the plants.

We understand that steps are being taken to combine the several large electrical and power companies doing business in and around Ottawa. Their combined capitalization at present stands at about \$7,000,000. The scheme contemplates the pooling of interests of the Ottawa Electric Company, the Ottawa Electric Railway, the Consumers' Electric Company, the Hull Electric Company, including the street railway of that city, the Capital Power Company of Deschene, the Hull and Ottawa Power Company, and perhaps the Metropolitan Electric Company. Plans, so far as they have been divulged, involve the development of the water power of the Chaudière. Hydraulic engineers for months have been at work on the details of the proposal. There is an admirable power at Britannia, owned by the Metropolitan Company only partially developed. It is intended under the scheme outlined to develop this also when necessary.

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