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Mercantile Summary.

THE Port Arthur wheat figures for the last week are as under: Receipts, 118,191 bushels; shipments, 21,031 bushels; stocks, 2,272,670 bushels.

THE New Brunswick Board of Fire Underwriters, at their annual meeting in St. John, Jan. 11th, re-elected A. C. Fairweather president and Peter Clinch secretary.

The superintendent of buildings of New York city has called the mayor's attention to the fact that there are 3,200 unsafe buildings in the city. Most of these are occupied, and some of them are in a very dangerous condition. Many of them are buildings that have been weakened by adjacent excavations made for new edifices.

THE Valley Telephone Co. intend making extensions in their circuit in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia next spring. As soon as warm weather begins a line will be run from Annapolis to Bridgetown, via Round Hill. They have also on the carpet the extending of the line from Clementsport to Clementsvale and thence to Bear River, N.S.

THE lumber trade of the Canadian Pacific Coast has not been particularly active for some weeks past, but, nevertheless, the shipments of Canadian wood from Vancouver to the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia and South America, were larger in six months ending with December than for any previous similar period

On the authority of Mr. Harry Abbott, of the C.P.R., the statement is made that the taking over by that company of the Columbia and Kootenay steamers will be completed on 1st February, when a daily service will be established from Arrowhead down to Trail and Rossland, instead of a tri-weekly, and, besides this regular service, there will be extra freight boats on the lakes.

Petrolia's new water works system, which is to cost about \$175,000, was successfully tested this week by Chief Engineer Chapman, in the presence of the mayor and council. The pumping station is over 12 miles from the town, and is on the shore of Lake Huron. Streams were thrown over the flag staff on the tower of the town hall. These works were not commenced until July, 1896. The contractors were Messrs. Garson & Co.

Among the wonders of the deep related, among other things, by Mr. Harry Abbott to the Montreal Gazette the other day, was the story of a wonderful catch of halibut that came to his notice only a short time before he left Vancouver. A steamer with thirty men had just arrived, having 96,000 pounds on board, the work of twenty-four hours, and when it is known that 130,000 pounds is considered a great season's catch, the extraordinary luck of this steamer can be fully appreciated. These fish were caught on a bank between Queen Charlotte's Island and the mainland, or about forty eight hours' run north of Vancouver.

MR. GEORGE F. GALT, a son of Sir Thomas Galt, until lately Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and a nephew of the late Sir Alex. T. Galt, at one time Finance Minister of the Dominion, has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the board of directors of the Western Canada Loan and Savings Company in this city. He will occupy the place of the late Sir David Macpherson on the board, and will act as consulting director for Manitoba, where the company does an extensive business. Mr. Galt is a well-known wholesale merchant in Winnipeg, having large interests throughout the Province of Manitoba.

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