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Mercantile Summary.

A NEW drill shed is to be built at St. Thomas, at a cost of \$12,000.

THE annual convention of the Canadian Electrical Association is to be held in this city on August 29th, 30th and 31st. Some 400 delegates are expected.

THE Elder-Dempster Co. (Limited), at their first annual meeting, held recently in Liverpool, decided to pay a 15 per cent. dividend this year and to carry forward £13,246 to the reserve fund.

PARRY SOUND ratepayers on the 6th inst. passed a by-law granting a \$20,000 bonus to the James' Bay Railway Co. The work of constructing the line to Parry Sound is to be begun at once.

THERE was a shipment recently of lobsters from Halifax, N.S., to Havre, France, consisting of 25,000 cases containing 1,200,000 cans, the net weight of the lobsters being 600 tons. The value of the shipment exceeded \$250,000.

THIS continent is not the only part of the world in which railroad contractors keep their eyes on the "boodle." On the Siberian railroad, we learn, the sleepers, supposed to be of oak or beech, are really soft pine, and rotten at that; the rails employed are too light, and the work of construction was scamped throughout. The result is that the heavily laden troop trains can make no better pace than five miles per hour.

MARTIN & WARNOCK's grist mill, burned down in the big fire at Ottawa, is being rebuilt on an extended scale. The new structure is to be of four stories, 80 feet by 50 feet, and, including machinery, is to cost about \$55,000. Besides the flour mill, with a capacity of 200 barrels per day, and an elevator, with capacity of 100,000 bushels, there is to be an oatmeal mill with a daily capacity of 150 barrels.

DURING the fiscal year ending June 30 last, the consumption of cigarettes in Canada reached 123,267,042, as compared with 101,433,328 in 1898-99. It is interesting to note that Canadian tobacco is being used to an increasing extent even in cigarettes. Of the total number used last year, 121,370,922 were made from foreign leaf, 1,824,020 from Canadian leaf, and 72,100 from a combination of Canadian and foreign leaf.

AN interesting celebration took place in Hamilton last week. The employees of the wholesale grocery firm of W. H. Gillard & Co., in that city, called upon Mr. Gillard, in his office, and presented him with an illuminated address, bound in morocco, and a gold-headed cane, with an appropriate inscription. The occasion of the proceedings is found in the fact that they took place on the twenty-first anniversary of Mr. Gillard's going into business on his own account. By shrewdness, fair dealing and continuous attention, the firm have built up and maintained a large trade, and well deserve their success.

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