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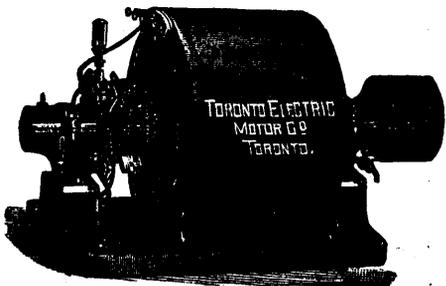
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Mercantile Summary.

Most of the lobster fishermen on the Strait of Canso, N.S., had their traps out on Monday last. Canneries are to be opened at Bear Island Cove and Steep Creek this spring.

THE returns which are now available show that during March Scotch shipbuilders launched 28 vessels of 41,040 tons, as compared with 24 vessels of 39,391 tons in February, and 27 vessels of 20,176 tons in March, 1895.

IN September, 1887, John O'Brien succeeded M. Brown in the boot and shoe business at Tamworth, but never made any progress, and now assigns—Elizabeth Lee, hotel keeper at Port Hope, also assigns.

MR. SAUERBECK, the statistician, reports the average price of forty-five staple commodities on March 1 at 61.4 per cent., taking the average of eleven years from 1867 to 1877, both inclusive, as 100 per cent. A year ago the average was 60 per cent., while in 1894 it was 63 per cent.

AN amalgamation of the Hamilton and Dundas Street Railway with the H., G. & B. electric road is said to be behind ex-President Myles' strenuous efforts to get possession of a controlling interest in the H., G. & B. road. Mr. Myles' lease of the Hamilton and Dundas road expires this summer.

AT Hawkesbury, Cape Breton, on April 13th, the first arrival this spring is reported, viz., schooner "Durna," from Halifax, with general merchandise. There was no ice in the Strait of Canso for the past two weeks and none in sight.

THE St. John Telegraph of Tuesday last learns that the St. John River ice had nearly all run out of the reach, and that the ice farther up the main river could be expected to break up nearly any time, as it is reported to be all honeycombed and in a very weak state.

ON Monday last, some seven thousand acres of Manitoba land were purchased by Henry Barber, in this city, at auction, at 15½ cents an acre. The lands belonged to the insolvent estate of Samson, Kennedy & Co., and a portion of them had been carried for thirteen years. One block of 1,200 acres, on the G.N.W. Central, it is said, through which the Oak River runs, was included in the purchase. This does not say much for the public appreciation of Manitoba farming lands.

THE New York Chamber of Commerce is placing its new stock in the market, subscribers to pay one-quarter on allotment, and one-quarter each in June, August and October. The total sum of \$125,000 in stock will be sold, leaving \$25,000 in the treasury for future use. The prospectus shows that the property will pay a dividend of 6.3 per cent. when the stock offered is sold. The present income is \$57,877, while the expenses are \$43,677.20, distributed as follows: Maintenance, \$16,800; taxes, \$7,000; insurance, \$1,127; interest, \$18,750.

THE general manager of the Grand Trunk Railway, Mr. Hays, told a Detroit reporter on Tuesday that "the work of organizing the Grand Trunk offices has been completed, and Detroiters need have no further apprehension as to the local officials. Mr. Atwater will remain, as he has been, in authority over all lines west of the river, under, of course, General Superintendent MacGuigan." And on Wednesday, during a visit to Toronto, he told another interviewer that the alterations among officials had practically come to an end. The new head officer, in his visit to the Toronto Board of Trade, made an agreeable impres-

WE are told that the railways have offered free transportation to the Montreal citizens who will go to Ottawa for the purpose of endeavoring to get the Government to make a grant towards the proposed World's Fair in Montreal in 1897.

THE St. John's News says that Mr. F. A. Mann, accountant of the Merchants Bank at St. John's for seven years, has been promoted to the management of the branch of the same bank at Hespeler, to be succeeded in St. John's by Mr. McGee, from Kincardine.

THE Halifax Chronicle of Tuesday, 14th, says that the special train with the English mails made the run to Montreal in 23 hours and 45 minutes, including stops. It covered the distance from Halifax to Moncton in four hours and 52 minutes, beating the record.

MONTREAL is to be congratulated on getting such a good price as 105 net for a 4 per cent. loan. In spite of the handicap of an extravagant and flighty city council, the confidence of investors in the continued prosperity of Montreal through the high character of its merchants is evidently unabated.

WE learn from a Halifax paper of this week that the premiums earned last year by companies comprising the Fire Insurance Board in that city were about \$300,000. Since the 1st January the losses have not been far from \$300,000, so that the outlook for a profitable business this year is not the brightest. The board embraces all companies doing business in that city except the Acadia, Halifax and Quebec.

THE Vancouver World says that Mr. John McQuillan has been appointed by His Excellency President Eloy Alfaro, of Ecuador, to the position of Consul of that Republic for the Dominion, with residence in Vancouver. "Consul McQuillan is one of our most energetic and successful business men, and will do honor to his new office," and the World thinks there are very good prospects for the opening of new trade relations between Canada and Ecuador.

THE Montreal Herald Company, we regret to say, is again reported in embarrassed shape. It would appear that the company, as reorganized several years ago with a strong directorate, who invested quite a substantial capital, has not proved successful any more than its predecessors. The merchandise liabilities are stated at about \$20,000, apart from which there are understood to be considerable claims for advances by the directors. It is reported that an offer of 25 cents on the dollar is probable.

EDOUARD DENIS, general merchant, at Rigaud, Que., is reported to be financially embarrassed, and a Montreal accountant is investigating his affairs. He moved there from Henryville in 1892, failed shortly after and offered 75 cents, which was refused, and estate was bought in by Mrs. Denis, whose name has since been used. Present liabilities are about \$4,000.—J. A. Heon, a carriagemaker, of St. Gregoire, Que., has assigned upon the demand of a Montreal firm. Liabilities are \$1,200 with assets of \$600.

FROM a prominent business man of St. John's, Nfld., who has been visiting Montreal, the Gazette learns that a company has been floated to develop the oil properties in the colony, which are said to give a good yield of rich oil. Mr. Noseworthy, of Newfoundland, part owner of these properties, visits Petrolea, Ont., to purchase machinery. Several other valuable properties in Newfoundland, it is added, have changed hands within the last few months, among them two hematite iron mines, now in operation by the Steel Company of New Glasgow, N.S., and one chromic ore mine by an English company. "The millions of tons of