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## Mercantile Summary.

MR. WM. HUTCHESON, who is to have charge of the Canadian exhibit at Osaka, Japan, hopes to demonstrate that Canadian hard wheat flour will make more bread to the barrel, probably twenty pounds more, and bread of a better quality, than is obtained from the flour the Japanese now import from Oregon. The sales of flour from the United States in Japan amount to four million dollars yearly.

THE Ontario and Durham fifteenth annual Exhibition took place this week at Whitby. This was an almost unique Fair, there being no side-shows or fakes and no racing. It was a model, purely educational Exhibition. One of the most interesting features was a piece of ground (the site of the old speeding ground), planted with different classes of roots, corn, grasses, etc., which were examined, judged and lectured upon as to their merits and demerits.

A FIRE, which broke out on the 22nd inst., at the Snowdrift spice warehouses in Brantford, Ont., spread to George Watts & Sons' wholesale grocery store, and caused a loss of \$20,000 to the former and \$70,000 to the latter house, which owns the building. Insurance covers most of the loss. Another fire took place on the 18th at the Warton Lumber Company's premises at Barrow Bay, Ont. Loss, \$6,000; insurance, \$2,000. On the same day, Gladman's sawmill, at Carling, Ont., was destroyed loss, \$12,000; partly insured. At London, Ont., T. Trebilcock & Son's livery stables were burned down at a loss of about \$6,000; insurance, \$4,000, and at the same time adjoining establishments were injured to the extent of something like \$8,000. Mr. T. S. Carman's steam yacht was destroyed by fire at her wharf in Belleville on Monday last. She was valued at \$6,000, and insured for \$3,700. The Bridgewater, Ont., grist mill was another victim to the flames last week. It had been purchased by the Deseronto Milling Company only the previous week, and was worth about \$4,000. Incendiarism is suspected.

A CONSIDERABLE degree of improvement has set in in the activity of British Columbia mining propositions. In Fairview stock, several thousands of shares have changed hands during the last few days. The shipments of ore the week before last from the "Giant" mine, Rossland, reached 130 tons, with an average value of \$18, which is a marked improvement on previous showings. Another rich ore body was struck, we are told, a few days ago, with an average width of 5 ft. and a value of \$22. On the Maude E, in the Noble Five group, the ledge has been struck and drifting is now being carried forward. There is a showing of six inches of clean ore, and shipping will be begun soon. The Deadman ledge, which has now been uncovered, shows from 2 to 4 ozs. of 175-ounce ore, carrying 74 per cent. of lead.

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