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Mercantile Summary.

THREE by-laws will be voted on in Dundas on Monday, August 30th, one to raise \$5,300 to rebuild the Ewart dam, one to build a fire hall with rooms and accommodation for three men, at a cost of \$3,500, and one to reduce the number of councillors from 12 to 8.

At a meeting of the St. John School Board last week the tender of J. C. Mackintosh, Halifax, for \$25,000 of 3½ per cent. bonds, running 25 years at 96.575 was accepted; also that of D. T. Johnston, Chatham, for \$10,000 at 97.75, and of Mr. Carr for a \$500 bond at 98.

A GLASGOW letter makes a poor mouth over the presumed effect of the American tariff on the trade of Scotch cities. Dundee jute merchants will feel it, for one thing, as well as the southern towns that make cloths and plaids. The Glasgow trade in chemicals, thread, linen, cotton and woolen will be affected materially.

THE steamer "Campana" took, on the return trip to Montreal from Summerside, P.E.I., 1,100 boxes, or about 79,500 pounds, of cheese, shipped to Mr. Dillon to parties in Montreal; also 300 boxes from Charlottetown. And the steamer "Fastnet" from Summerside took to Halifax 769 cases of lobsters, valued at \$6,700, for the English market.

THE city of St. Hyacinthe, Que., has closed a contract with a Sherbrooke concern for two pressure filters, with a capacity of 750,000 gallons each in twenty-four hours. The Jenckes Machine Company has completed the balance of the saw mill machinery for the Montague Paper Co., Lake Megantic, which intends to start its new mills at once.

We learned too late for last issue that Mr. Gibbons, of London, acting for C. Pearce, dry goods merchant, of Petrolea, has been negotiating with Messrs. Thibaudeau Brothers, the largest creditors, for an extension, but the extension without security was refused. The firm, however, offered to take 75 cents on the dollar for their claim, and now the other creditors are asked to accept a like figure.

THE forty-sixth annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science opened in Detroit last Monday. The attendance of members was about 200 at the opening, and about twenty members of the British Association occupied seats on the platform. Many of the members who could not attend both sessions have come to the session of the British Association at Toronto, this week and next.

THE Winnipeg Board of Trade has discussed the shipment of Manitoba products to the West Indies, and the proposal made by a Halifax man, that a competent man be sent to the Indies to report on the trade there, and what is necessary to increase the exports of Canadian products. The council appointed a committee to look into the matter and secure the necessary data before deciding to make recommendations to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

THE whole (with the exception of fourteen pages) of the July number of *Money and Risks* is devoted to the description and illustration of the rise and progress of the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Company. There are portraits of the manager, directors and officers of the company, also pictures of the offices in Waterloo and in Toronto, and of groups of agents. This lengthy history of one of our best known life offices forms an interesting chapter in the annals of Canadian life underwriting.

A WEEK ago, the Canadian Government commissioner to Mexico and South America, Mr.

E. E. Sheppard, handed his report concerning possible trade with Mexico to Sir Richard Cartwright. Mr. Sheppard says we can sell lumber, fish and some manufactures in Mexico if proper arrangements are made, but at present the duty on fish is exceedingly high. In return Mexico can send us sugar, tobacco, coffee and products of that nature. Mr. Sheppard has left Toronto for British Guiana, thence to Brazil, Montevideo and Argentina.

IN Toronto one failure to write about occurred last week. J. W. McAdam & Co., started first to deal in shoes in 1885. In 1889 they assigned and the stock was sold. After that business was again started in the name of Mrs. McAdam, and in this manner it continued until 1893. Then Fegan & McDiarmid became owners and continued as such until last March, when J. W. McAdam, his wife and one Henry J. Cox bought back the stock. Now they have failed again with assets and liabilities about the same.

ACCORDING to advices received from Japan, a hint that might be useful to Canadian manufacturers is that in sending catalogues out to Japan the approximate prices of goods invariably be given. Without prices catalogues are so much waste paper. Government officials, in making up specifications, are bound to give some approximate prices in order to obtain a vote for the amount, and unless prices are specified, time is lost in communicating on the subject. Doubts are expressed as to the permanence of American competition in machinery, nails and pig iron.

E. E. SHEPPARD found Canadians in Mexico doing as well as Canadians always do when they go abroad. Among those he met were Col. Geo. N. Green, of St. John, N.B., the man who stopped Maximilian. Dr. Green holds a High office in the Mexican army. W. H. Dill, who went there from St. Catharines, occupies an important position as a railroad manager. A young man named Bailey, from Toronto, is managing a large electrical business in the city of Mexico, and "Jim" J. McLeod, of Woodstock is keeping a store in that city. Dr. Fraser, who married a daughter of Hon. David Mills, has a large practice; also Dr. Burrell, formerly, of London. Mr. McLeod, who is a brother-in-law of Mr. Alex. McLaren, M.P., wrote Mr. Sheppard a letter on the subject of trade between the two countries.

WORD comes from Ottawa that an order-in-council has been passed, giving the Burley Gold Mining Company, of Ottawa, the right to build a crib in Lake of the Woods, opposite the Sultana mine, for the purpose of sinking a shaft. This company, composed chiefly of Ottawa men, holds a mining location under the surface of Lake of the Woods, which is believed to include the prolongation of the Sultana lode beneath the lake. If true, the property is very valuable, for the Sultana is worth \$1,500,000. The Burley Company last winter made several borings with the diamond drill, utilizing the thick lake ice as a working surface, and they are believed to have found the Sultana lode. The question then arose as how to get at the lode. The company own a small island close by, but not available for working the lode except at great expense. They accordingly applied to the Dominion for a permit to put a crib in the lake at a point where the depth is 20 feet. By law, no "obstruction" is allowed in navigable waters without special permission. This permission has now been granted, and the company will get to work to put down the crib-work, beneath which to sink a shaft to the ore vein, over a hundred feet beneath the bottom of the lake.