

Mercantile Summary.

TWENTY miles of the Inverness and Richmond railway in Nova Scotia were located last week by the engineers.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOOK-KEEPER.—Pay up our subscription for THE MONETARY TIMES to 1898. Also see price list of calendars, page 703.

It is said that the formal transfer of the Drummond County Railway to the Government will not take place until about the middle of December or about the 1st of January.

THE total customs duty collected at the port of Toronto for the month of November, 1897, was \$276,877, as against \$228,561 for the same month of 1896, an increase of \$48,316.

WHAT is termed a Christmas excursion to the Old Country, is announced by the Beaver Line of steamships, which has put on the 5,000 ton steamer "Gallia," to sail from St. John, December 8th, and Halifax, December 9th.

SOME of the people of the Nova Scotia town of Westville, think they ought to have more liberal banking facilities than are afforded by a brief session of the Bank of Nova Scotia representative on Monday and Thursday of each week.

THE partnership between Addison Bowman and Howard N. Shaw, doing a tanning and grocery business at Hawshaw, N.B., has been dissolved. Mr. Shaw will continue the business, while Mr. Bowman intends going into business at St. John.

WE learn that the firms of Thos. Marks & Co., George Clavet, and Dobie & Co., all carrying on business separate at Port Arthur, Ont., until recently, have formed a joint stock company under the name of the Marks, Clavet, Dobie Co., Limited.

MR. HUNT, the chairman of the Summerside town council, has received from Prof. Lee an estimate of the cost of waterworks and sewerage for that town, reference to which is made elsewhere. The estimate for the waterworks system is \$72,000, and for the sewerage \$30,000.

WE are told that the eastern excursions over the C.P.R. will this year be run from the 6th to the 31st of December. The rate will be \$40 between Winnipeg and Montreal, and west thereof in Quebec and Ontario. Tourist cars are to be put upon all trains over the branches and main line.

THE editorial page is the chief thing that keeps a journal above the level of a purely commercial enterprise, says *Profitable Advertising*. The mere selling of news is much like the selling of potatoes. A newspaper without honest opinions, ably and frankly expressed, is like a body without a soul.

ACCORDING to the *Westville Free Lance*, the Drummond and Acadia coal mines were running full time last week, and the shipments from the Drummond Colliery for October amounted to 26,000 tons. The long north levels in the Drummond Mine are completed; a distance of 3,500 feet.

THE Minister of the Interior was presented at Rossland with an address which, among other things, asked the Government to give British Columbia representation in the cabinet by creating a department of mines. Mr. Sifton in reply said: "The question of adding a Minister of Mines to the cabinet was one that deserved serious consideration." His personal views, he said, were favorable to the proposal.

OUT of six tenders made for the waterworks debentures of Windsor, Ont., that of G. V. J. Greenhill, manager of the Merchants Bank, acting for the Standard Life Insurance Co., of Montreal, was accepted as the highest. The amount is \$20,000, to draw 4 per cent. interest, and the city receives \$400 premium.

THE first shipment of Canadian domestic fruit to the West Indies was made on Saturday last, Messrs. T. Carpenter & Son, of Winona, sending forward about two hundred packages. The fruit was all specially packed and was shipped by way of Halifax. The shipment was an experimental one and consisted of apples and pears.

A LETTER from Roger's Hill, Nova Scotia, to the *New Glasgow Chronicle*, announces considerable excitement over the alleged discovery of gold at the head waters of the Six Mile Brook. It has long been known that there are indications of gold here. This summer a company from Truro came and mined a quantity of the quartz. It is reported that it contained gold to the value of \$48 per ton, and that the company is sinking a shaft in order to test the merits of the property.

A DISASTROUS fire broke out on Sunday, the 21st ult., in Melbourne, Australia, and a number of the prominent merchants of the city were burned out. Within three hours, an entire block of buildings, bounded by Elizabeth, Flinders and Swanston streets, and Flinders Lane, with the exception of two buildings on the Swanston street front, was destroyed. The insurance companies lose £730,000, of which amount £500,000 will fall on British companies. Australian companies lose the remaining amount.

IF the following announcement from St. Louis be true, it is something very unlike what George Gould's father, the late Jay Gould, would have done in his life-time. The despatch says: St. Louis, Mo., November 26th.—It is announced to-day, that as a Thanksgiving present, George Gould, of the Missouri Pacific system, has advanced salaries along the line ten per cent. The advance, which will date back to November 1, affects 15,000 employees and will result in an additional expenditure of \$900,000 a year.

A WEEK ago, the preventive officers discovered and raided an illicit still in a yard in St. Henri, near Montreal, where whiskey was being made out of rice. The still was smashed. The owner is missing. Later in the same afternoon, 187 Moreau St., in the East End, was raided. On the first floor a still was found in operation. There the officers discovered thirteen barrels of fermenting liquor, a still in full blast, and three barrels of whiskey. Pierre Robidoux was taken into custody, and remanded by the police magistrate.

ANOTHER consolidation of manufacturing interests perfected last week, says the *Shipping List*, has been that of the St. Louis Stamping Company (Neidringhaus Brothers) and the Granite City Steel Company. The plan is to concentrate at St. Louis the manufacture of enameled ware, which will hereafter be entirely under the patents of the Neidringhaus concern. While the interests involved are most heavily St. Louisan, there are also other companies which will be under the control of the new corporation. The other plants are located as follows: Two in New York, three in Chicago, and one each in Milwaukee, Baltimore, Boston and Philadelphia. The total capitalization of the new corporation will be \$25,000,000. The president of this huge concern will be F. G. Neidringhaus. The other officers have not been selected.

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