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ON the 2nd inst. a disastrous fire took place in Ottawa, in which the Eclipse Office Furniture Company's large factory in the central part of the city was destroyed at a loss of about \$60,000. The insurance was \$40,000, on building, machinery and stock. We understand that the factory will be rebuilt at once.

Mercantile Summary

THE receipts from customs entries at Winnipeg during the month just closed aggregated \$216,895, as compared with \$200,379 for the corresponding month of last year.

MR. JOHN GALT, C.E., of Toronto, is preparing plans for a new waterworks system to be installed at St. John's, Nfld., at a cost of \$150,000, also for a new sewerage system and other improvements.

ON the 30th ult. the Prescott elevator was formally handed over to the new Prescott Terminal Company, the purchase price of \$28,000 having been paid. The original sum of money invested in this elevator was about \$370,000. The barges had already been sold for \$92,000.

IN a heavy storm at Fort William, Ont., on the 3rd inst., one of the large steel bridges of the Canadian Pacific Railway's new coal handling plant was blown down and wrecked, with a large portion of the plant. The loss is about \$30,000, and comes at a very inconvenient season of the year.

CHAS. H. CRAMP has resigned his position of president of the William Cramp Sons Engine and Shipbuilding Company, Philadelphia, with a desire, as he himself puts it, of "creating conditions more favorable to personal comfort." He has been chosen, however, as chairman of the board, a new office, and H. S. Grove has been elected president in his stead.

THE report of the Ottawa and New York Railway Company for the six months ending June 30th last showed passenger earnings of \$45,373, as against \$40,070 in the preceding year, and freight receipts of \$34,897, as against \$24,695 last year. With the mail subsidy this makes total receipts of \$83,167, as against \$64,465 last year. The number of passengers carried was 94,221, and the freight 105,049,075 pounds.

THE Canada Atlantic Railroad's gross receipts for the six months ending June 30th last amounted to \$868,226, an increase, compared with a similar period of 1902, of \$62,161. The number of passengers carried was 160,263, as against 158,345 the year before, whilst receipts from passenger traffic were \$135,175, an increase of \$8,143. The freight totalled 1,298,620,500 pounds as against 1,726,740,940 during the same period of the previous year, but receipts therefrom showed a considerable increase.

A NEW company has been formed to take over the Sentinel-Review of Woodstock, with "Billy" Taylor, late business manager of the Montreal Herald, as president and managing director, and A. Balmer Watt, who has been the city editor of the Sentinel-Review for some years, and who is a son of Sheriff Watt, of Brantford, as vice-president. Mr. A. Pattullo, M.P.P., and Mr. J. F. Mackay, the former owners of the paper, both retire. Under Mr. Taylor's energetic management we are sure it will even add to its reputation as a successful, up-to-date newspaper.

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