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Mercantile Summary.

THE sum collected for customs duty at the Montreal custom house during February was \$794,363.12, as compared with \$781,828.21, collected in February, 1900, an increase of \$12,534.91.

BROCKVILLE rate-payers have voted in favor of a by-law to authorize the water commissioners to spend \$50,000 in improving the machinery at the pumping house, extending the mains, etc.

It is reported in Newfoundland, that, as the result of an interview between Premier Bond and Mr. R. G. Reid, the contractor, the basis of a satisfactory arrangement has been reached between the latter and the Government.

A DEPUTATION waited upon Premier Ross to ask for aid in the construction of a railroad from Sudbury, 100 miles north to Fort Matachewan, thence 60 miles to Abitibi, and from thence some 500 miles in a north-westerly direction to Lake St. Joseph, or 140 miles to James' Bay.

HENRY W. GARTH, L. J. Tarte, and others, of Montreal, are asking for incorporation from the Ottawa Government for the Laval Electric Power Co.; capital, \$100,000, the object of which is to establish a 100,000 horse-power powerhouse on Riviere de Prairie, to supply light, power and heat to the villages along the north shore of the St. Lawrence, and eventually to Montreal.

THE American Shipbuilding Co., of Cleveland, contemplates establishing a shipyard in the St. Lawrence, near Montreal. They have already in course of construction, at Cleveland, two vessels for ocean service, which will have to be cut in two and taken through the Canadian canals in sections, and then joined together lower down. We suppose the company's intention is to go a step further and utilize the plant which would be necessary in any case for the joining process, for a regular shipyard.

THE Orford Copper Co. has started operations at its new refinery at Sudbury, and the ore can now be reduced to a matte containing about 80 per cent. of metallic contents, instead of 40 per cent., as heretofore. The matte at this stage will be sent to New Jersey for final treatment, it being claimed to be impossible to absolutely complete the process in Sudbury owing to lack of necessary fluxes. The Canadian Copper Co., also at Sudbury, now employ 1,200 hands on their smelters, of which there are now four in operation.

AN order-in-council has been passed by the Dominion Government, providing that the price of quartz mining locations on Dominion lands be reduced to one dollar an acre, and that the necessary change be made in the several sections in which the price is quoted at a higher figure. The order also provided that all Crown patents issued for quartz mining claims situated in the Yukon territory shall be made subject to the townsite provisions of the regulations governing the administration of Dominion lands in that territory, other than coal lands.

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REMOVAL

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Toronto, 12th January, 1901.

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