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Mercantile Summary

A NICKEL claim has been located by Messrs. J. A. Leckie, M.E., and A. Shaw, near the headquarters of the Tulameen river. The deposit is believed to be quite extensive, and is noteworthy, as nickel heretofore has not been believed to exist in British Columbia, except in traces.

THE court which was convened to enquire into the circumstances of the grounding of the H.M.S., "Indefatigable," in the St. Lawrence, last month, reported that the accident was due to a grave error of judgment on the part of the pilot.

CUSHING'S ice-house, at London West, has been burned to the ground. Loss between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

AN associated press despatch from Washington says that the American Consul, at Dawson has reported to the State Department that fraudulent mining companies are being promoted at Dawson, and that worthless stock is being sold in the United States. Consul McCook says prospectuses are being issued giving as reference prominent Government officials and others in Dawson, without their authority. He adds that the promoters actually pay unearned dividends in order to sell the stock, invariably getting together a lot of claims of very little value.

MR. SIMPSON McCORMACK, of Kingston, Jamaica, writes to the Toronto Board of Trade, pointing out the facilities for shipping direct to Canada such fruits of that island as oranges, pines, lemons, bananas, etc. In his letter, he says: "The trade exchange between the neighboring island of Trinidad and Canada has recently developed by leaps and bounds, and, the trade conditions and shipping facilities being similar with this island, it has occurred to me, if Canadian manufacturers be open to give the same facilities to the Jamaica trade as in the case of the United States, that much of the business could be diverted, and it is with this in view that I have addressed you." It may be said that the development of trade between Jamaica and this country has been by no means so rapid as it should have been during the last year or two.

DR. SAUNDERS, of the Government Experimental Farms, returned last week from his annual tour of the western experimental farms. He states that returns as to the threshing of eight different varieties of wheat show from 32 to 35 bushels, 20 lbs. to the acre. One variety of barley gives 46 bushels to the acre, the other 44 bushels. Oats varies in yield from 64 bushels, 24 lbs., to 82 bushels, 32 lbs. pr acre. Peas have given a yield above the average, hay has been very heavy; the awnless brome and western rye grasses have done particularly well. Indian corn is an unusually heavy crop, potatoes are giving an abundant yield, and are of high quality, while field roots are very promising. He believes that the Manitoban Government's estimate of a wheat crop averaging a little over 24 bushels to the acre is likely to be realized, while in Eastern Assiniboia the crops are even heavier than in Manitoba.

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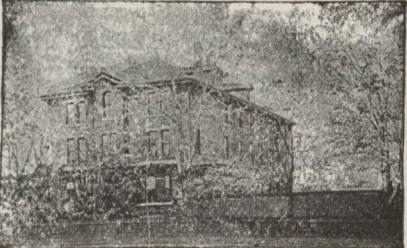
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