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Mercantile Summary.

A SCHEME is under contemplation for the transmission of power from Niagara Falls to Toronto.

THE turning of the first sod of the Lindsay, Bobcaygeon & Pontypool Railway, which is to connect Bobcaygeon with the C.P.R., took place at Bobcaygeon on the 19th inst.

SYDNEY ratepayers will shortly vote on the question of obtaining a loan of \$235,000 for waterworks, sewerage, schoolhouse and other improvements. The debentures are payable in 30 years, and are to bear interest at 4 per cent.

THE shareholders of the Golden Star Mining Co. have decided to reorganize on an assessable basis. A charter is, we understand, to be applied for, for a new company, with a capital of \$1,500,-000, to acquire the assets of the Golden Star.

THE Cowichan Improvement Company, Limited, has been reincorporated, under British Columbia laws, with a capital of \$24,000. The objects of the company are to improve the navigation of Cowichan lake and Cowichan river from Cowichan lake to the ocean.

THE first large deposit of gypsum to be found on the Pacific coast has been discovered on Chichagof Island, sixty miles west of Juneau. Arrangements are being completed for mining the deposit and putting it on the market, which will probably be to California, where it will be used for fertilizing purposes.

JAMES CUMMINGS, of Lynn, ex-president of the Dominion Millers' Association, has been appointed by the Dominion Government to visit Africa, as Canada's commissioner for the purpose of opening up trade relations there. Mr. Cummings will investigate all the conditions of trade, so that he can inform Canadians what Africanders consume of this country's products. He will leave some time in February.

THE La Compagnie Franco-Canadienne proposes to put on four new steamships to give a regular bi-monthly service between Havre and Montreal during the summer, and a monthly service to Halifax and St. John in the winter. They expect thus to be enabled to take advantage of the offer by the Dominion Government of a subsidy of \$50,000 a year for five years.

A SPECIAL to the Mail and Empire states that the Grand Trunk Railway authorities and the Brantford city commissioners have had some difference with regard to water rates, and the latter allege that the former turned the municipal water into their own pipes, with the result that on Monday morning there was a bad burst. Before the trouble could be stopped, the tracks were flooded within two or three inches of the platform of the Market street depot, and some of the streets were also invaded. In all 1,250,000 gallons were wasted, and the commissioners have placed the matter in the hands of the City Solicitor.

THE TORONTO GENERAL TRUSTS CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that a dividend of three and three quarters per cent. (33%) for the current half year, or equal to seven and one half per cent. (71%) per annum on the paid up capital stock of this Corporation, has been de clared and that the same will be payable at the office of the Corporation on and after Wednesday, January 2nd, 1901.

The transfer books will be closed from the 21st to 31st December, both days inclusive.

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