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Mercantile Summary.

THE largest shipment of American copper recently made, was the one per steamer "Spaandam," from New York for Rotterdam, on her last sailing. Its total value was \$72,522, and consisted of plates and bars. The trade in copper for export has been dull so far during this month, and is not encouraging.

SCOTCH shipbuilders launched in October 42 vessels of 31,082 tons, as compared with 20 vessels of 35,729 tons in October, 1896. To the total the Clyde contributed 29,262 tons, the Forth 1,330 tons, and the Tay 490 tons. The contracts placed during the month represent about 40,000 tons, and of the total 10,000 tons went to establishments on the East Coast.

FARMERS and fruit growers in the Hamilton district are getting \$2 and \$2.15 per barrel for apples. The Dundas Banner says: "The apple packers thereabout are pretty well advanced in their work. The crop is very good in some parts of Wentworth, one man in East Flamboro having about 3,000 barrels for shipment. John Nicholson has shipped about 1,000 barrels, mostly for the German market.

THE appended table shows the Spanish exports of mineral ores during the seven months ending with July last, as compared with the corresponding period of 1896:—

	Jan., 1897. Tons.	July, 1896. Tons.
Iron ore	4,187,743	3,958,781
Copper ore	473,051	421,096
Zinc ore	20,860	19,057
Lead ore	4,600	4,133

THREE sales by auction of bankrupt stock took place in Montreal. The stock of Drouin & Trudel, Abenakis, Dorchester County, valued at \$4,927, and the book debts, 361, were sold to E. C. Brochu for 65½c. and 43c. respectively, and the rolling stock, \$160, to Mr. Brochu for 55c. on the dollar. In the case of J. B. Prevost & Co., grocers, Quebec, the stock, \$1,000, was purchased by A. Toussaint & Co., for 73½c. on the dollar. In the case of Ernest Cloutier, trader, Notre Dame du Lac, the stock, \$827.37, was sold to Duchene & Co., at 57½c., and the book debts, \$442.71 to Methot & Co., at 25c. in the dollar.

A MEETING of the Ottawa Board of Trade was held last week, when a communication was read from the Guelph Board of Trade, asking the co-operation of the board in the way of petitioning the Government to appoint a fire investigating committee to ascertain and report upon every fire. An address delivered before the Guelph Board by Mr. O'Connor, of that city, suggests holding an investigation before any insurance money is paid. A committee will consider and report. A letter was also read from the Montreal Board of Trade which desires the passage of an insolvency law by the Dominion Government. The president, Mr. McRae and Mr. Scott will consider the matter. The annual address of President Ross will be discussed at the next meeting, Nov. 29th, as well as the adjourned question of a Board of Control for the city and the matter of insolvency legislation.

THE people of Canada have burdened themselves, says the Cleveland Marine Review, with a bonded debt amounting to \$80 for each inhabitant, in a resolute attempt to cut a way from the St. Lawrence to the Atlantic, and their efforts should be rewarded by a fair share of the immense export business that reaches the Atlantic seaboard by way of the lakes from the northwest, but it would seem that when their canals are completed they will be no better off than they are at present. "Their 14-foot waterway, great as its advantages may

be, on account of avoiding the breaking of bulk at any point through to Montreal, is probably already discounted by ships of 7,000 net tons capacity on the lakes, and by combinations in the grain business of the United States that will control freight and elevator charges all the way from the grain fields to the Atlantic seaboard."

CALCIUM carbide of American manufacture is finding more acceptance in Germany than that of German make, according to the *Iron and Coal Trade Review*. The German carbide is gray or black, porous and crystalline, and always gives a yield less than the theoretical. The American is like anthracite, dense and bright black, with a conchoidal fracture, and gives a yield which seems sometimes even to exceed the theoretical. Carbide of German make is not kept long enough in the electric furnace, so that impurities—carbon, lime, sulphur or arsenic compounds—remain in it, and the acetylene made has a smell like garlic, due to arsenic, while the American has no garlic smell at all. The apparent paradox of the yield being higher than the theoretical can be explained by the use of dolomitic limestone, which causes the calcium to contain some carbide of magnesium as well.

MR. JOHN SHIELDS is the contractor who owns the stage line that runs between Ashcroft and Barkerville, a point 300 miles north, and carries Her Majesty's mails to the Cariboo and Cassiar districts. "No, we do not expect that our business will increase to a burdensome extent owing to the Klondike boom," he said last week. "The greater portion of the people who go in by this route, which I think is the best entrance way to Klondike, will go in with pack trains. Horses can be purchased, Mr. Shields says, at Ashcroft for \$15 apiece and the trail is good all the way to Teslin Lake. A traveller takes the famous Cariboo route to Quesnelle, 230 miles; he then crosses the Fraser river by ferry and follows the telegraph trail to a point 450 miles further north called Telegraph Creek; from there to the Stikine river it is only 135 miles, and after that it is easy work to float down the river to Teslin Lake and on to Klondike. The navigation is first-class, and there is no difficulty in securing seven feet of water."

AT the Avonport brickyards, on the Bay of Fundy, owing to the extensive demands upon them by reason of the late Windsor fire, extraordinary activity prevails. Double gangs of men are working night and day to keep up with the orders that have poured in, and the material of which will be utilized in the rebuilding of the town.

FOR the first time since the new tariff law went into effect the receipts of the treasury from customs begin to show an increase over the receipts from the same source at a corresponding date last year, says *Broad-streets*. This fact has been noted with pleasure by the treasury officials, who expect that by the first of next year the Government will have sufficient receipts to meet current indebtedness.

IT is stated by the Whalerman's Shipping List that the total number of whales taken north the past season was 84, of which 58 are bowheads, and 26 right whales. Of the bowheads, five, as far as known, are on board the imprisoned vessels off Point Barrow, the bone from which may not be received this fall. The estimated quantity of whalebone received and yet to arrive, including trade bone, is about 170,000 pounds of all kinds.