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Mercantile Summary.

THE city debt of Boston has increased \$14,-500,136 in two and a third years, and now amounts to \$80,166,910.

THE director of the Ontario Bureau of Mines, Mr. Archibald Blue, went on Monday last to Thamesville to investigate an oil well which is said to produce 1,000 gallons per day.

THE first issue of United States war bonds is intended as a popular loan. Two hundred millions will be offered, interest 3 per cent., and it is expected that the public instead of the banks will take them.

IT is stated that under the authority of an Act of the New York legislature that State will establish a college of forestry. A conference has been held at Albany to decide upon the location of 30 000 acres of land to be purchased for the purpose, but the land is not yet bought

THE failure of McMillan & Haynes, manufacturers of saws at St. Catharines, was announced on Tuesday last and caused much comment. An assignment has been made of the firm's affairs to Mr. J. M. Wallace, of St. Catharines, and a meeting of the creditors has been called for June 20th.

A BONUS of \$12,000 has been voted by the town of Waterloo as its share towards the \$40,000 asked from Waterloo and Berlin by the Galt and Preston Electric Street Railway. The majority was 134. Total vote polled was 354. Berlin is expected to carry its by-law for the balance, \$28,000.

It is stated by the Victoria Times that Mr. A. B. Erskine, having accepted the position of manager for Vancouver for the Ames-Holden Company, retires from active participation in his Victoria business. The Victoria Boot Company, recently organized, with a capital of \$50,000, is to take over the Erskine business and also the footwear department of Messrs. Gilmore & McCandless. Mr. James Paterson is managing director of the new company.

It has been arranged, we are told, between the Ontario Government and the lessee of the binder twine plant at the Central Prison that the plant be added to at the lessee's expense, sufficiently to establish a rope walk, and rope will in future be made almost exclusively. The reason is the reduction in price of binder twine the American article now coming in at such low prices that the Canadian market is flooded.

THE St. John Globe states that Mr. W. A. An lerson, lumberman and ice dealer, is in financial difficulties owing to the hanging up of his cut of about 2,000,000 of logs on the Oromocto River. He is offering to compromise at 35 per cent.—A St John grocer named W G. J. Cosman, has assigned.



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