THE COMMERCIAL.



## British Columbia.

Ploughing was going on last week in the Fraser river delta district.

The stock for the proposed street railway at Victoria, is being taken up rapidly.

The schooner C. H. Tupper has fitted out at Halifax for the Pacific coast fisheries.

The Bay View House, Nanaimo, has lately been completed and opened by Mr. Jenkins

The stock of Abrams & McKenzie, furniture and crockery, Vancouver, is in possession of the sheriff.

Real estate is beginning to move more freely. Several heavy transactions are reported at Vancouver.

The strike at the Wellington mine has been broken up, and the miners are returning to work. Some of the miners have left.

M. Philins & Co. wholesale liquor dealers, Donald, have given up business. The firm may resume business at some other point in the province.

The basiness institutions of Nanaimo continue to increase in number. E. R. Fraser and F. G. Manahan, from New Westminster, have opened a general store at this place.

The stock of Herman Peters, 'music dealer, Victoria, has been seized by the sheriff, under a chattel mortgage. The stock is valued at under \$1,000. Peters has gone to the United States.

Peters, the defaulting music dealer, of Victoria, cleaned his store pretty bare of goods before leaving. The goods remaining were seized under a writ for \$11,000, for money wanted.

Donald Truth : Ore shipments continuo from the Monarch mine at Field, a total of 700 tons having been sent to the company's smelter at Vancouver. The 700 tons represent a money value of \$35,000.

At the last meeting of the board of trade at Victoria, a lengthy communication was read from Mr. Fujii, Japanese consul at San Franciso, enquiring as to what extent trade could be developed between this country and Japan, and also whether in the opinion of the board

British Columbia presented a field for Japanese laborers.

Another trade change is reported from Kainloops. Robson & Lee, groceries and provisions, have dissolved partnership. R. H. Lee retires, and the business will be continued by Fred. H. R bson, under the style of Robson & Co.

Nearly 750,000 cigars were manufactured at Westminster last year, mostly of the higher qualities, as British Columbians prefer choice cigar. and it does not pay to manufacture poor qualities, in competition with cheap eastern goods. There are two cigar factories at West. minster, Wm. Tietjen being the proprietor of the largest factory.

The British Columbia Board of Trude, Victoria, has refused to change its name at the request of the Vancouver and Westminster boards. The two latter boards do not like the provincial name assumed by the Victoria hoard, while the latter board claims that it is a provincial in. stitution and is therefore justified in assuming a provincial instead of a local name.

Two and a half million of the salmon ova placed in the fish hatchery at Westminster, last fall are hatched out and the young fry are swimming about as lively as possible. It is expected that fully 90 per cent. of the ova laid in will be successfully hatched this year. Last year the capacity of the hatchery was overestimated and the result was that only 50 per cent. of the ova lived.

Victoria Colonist. With the beginning of the new year the real estate market, so long depressed, has hardened, and sales of important parcels are of daily occurrence. On Wednesday some \$50,000 worth of town and suburban land was sold, and several other sales are in treaty. This revival of confidence is most gratifying and is probably indicative of a brisk and profitable market during the whole year.

The first number of The British Columbia Monthly and Mining Review has just been issued. It is a 20-page publication, with tinted covers, well printed and filled with interesting articles pertaining to mines, miners, capitalists

JAMES PYE. FLOURMILL B CONSULTING ENGINEER. &c 218 Third Avenue South, MINNHAPOLIS, - MINN. A Manitoba Testimonial. l'ORTAGE LA PRAIRES, Dec. Sth. 1887. JAMEN PYE, ESG., Minnenpolis, Minn., U.S.A.: DERA STR. – In handing you our check for \$1,801.24, in full for balance oi your contract for building and enlarg-ing our mill, we without solicitation wish to state, that you have done your work in a manuer highly salistactory to this company. The capacity which you suaranteed at 275 birrels we find consucer by under the mark, as we are at present making ouer 300 barrels, and the qual-ity of the flour is all that we could wish for. Song, of our largest purchasers itankly tell us, it is equal to any flour made in either Minnesota or this province. The yield also we find very satisfactory. We must also bear testimoury to your pleasing and gestlemanly manner, and your willingness st alt times to neet our withes. This has made our busit-ress rotations pleu-ant and we can hon-"stly sav, that we recommend you to any person, require-ing anything in the u ill building or mill furnishing. Hire, Wishing you the success th taraight dealing merils, we are Yours very truly, THF, PORTAGE MILLING CO: Jas. MacLenaghan, Managing Director. PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Dec. Sth. 1887.

the province. In all it is a most creditable publication, and as its aims are to forward the interests of the province, it should receive a good welcome. J. M. Leet & Co. are the publishers, Victoria.

The reported discovery of gold at Texada Island is creating considerable excitement among mining mén. Mining men at Nanaimo are liecoming greatly interested in the reported find, and a steamer specially chartered, left for there lately, having on board a large number of practical miners, together with the discoverers of Texada's newly found wealth, all anxious to see for themselves and stake off claims if the reality was in any way equal to the description given. News from the island will be anxiously looked for.

Westminster Columbian : The machine shop lately started by the Royal City Planing Mills Company, is proving a great benefit to the city. Additional machinery, to the value of \$15,000. has now teen ordered, and when this new installment has been put in place the plant will be complete. The Royal City Mills Company, has also ordered a complete plant of ship building machinery of the most improved type. When the ship yards and machine shops are in full' running order 150 men will be employed between the two, which means several thousand dollars per month to be expended in Westminster.

We learn from the Kamloops Sentinel that the ranchers of that district have formed a cooperative and protective association. By-laws have been adopted, and the following officers elected :- President, Samuel Moore ; vice-pre-sident, J. C. Barnes; treasurer, John Hull: directors, John Wilson, Cacho Creek District : M. Sullivan, W. J. Roper, Kamloops District : John T. Edwards, North Thompson District; John Gilmore, Nicola District; C. O'Keefe, Okanagan District. The admission fee for joining the society was placed at five dollars. The directors were empowered to correspond with and see the superintendent of the C. P. R. and request that the company's fences be kept in repair where erected, and also that fonces articles pertaining to mines, miners, capitalists and crossings bo put up at places where re-and others connected with the productions of quired. At a subsequent meeting of the