

### British Columbia Enterprise.

The following are some of the private bills which are before the British Columbia Legislature this session: A bill to incorporate John Hendry, David McNair, C. M. Beecher, William Norman Bole, David Oppenheimer, Campbell Sweeney and Richard H. Alexander, with such as may become shareholders, under the name of "The British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Company." The capital of the company shall be \$2,500,000, divided into 25,000 shares of \$100 each. Its object is to acquire the properties of the Royal City and Hastings sawmills companies, and to purchase, build and maintain mills, factories, machine shops of any description, to own steam vessels, railways, tramways, wharves, ferries, to collect towage, construct roads, acquire mines of any kind and carry on a general trading business. The head office shall be at Vancouver or at any other place decided upon.

A bill to incorporate Francis C. Cotton, Joseph Page and John Wilson a body corporate and politic by the name of the "News-Advertiser." The capital stock of the company shall be \$250,000. It may print and sell newspapers, periodicals and books, and carry on all business incidental thereto.

A bill to incorporate the Vancouver Street Railway Company and the Vancouver Electric Illuminating Company as one company to carry the business for which each company was incorporated to carry on separately.

A bill to incorporate James W. Horn, Chas. Hay, David H. Wilson, Robert W. Harris, David Anderson and John Wilson, of Vancouver, asking incorporation as the Pacific Coast Fire Insurance Company. The capital stock of the company will be \$500,000 object to effect insurance against fire and lightning.

A bill to incorporate the Westminster and Vancouver Tramway Company, petitioners, Benjamin Douglas David Oppenheimer and Henry V. Edmonds, purpose, to construct and operate a tramway between New Westminster and Vancouver, capital \$500,000.

A bill to incorporate Isaac Robinson, of London; Chas. D. Rand, and James Whetham, of Vancouver, as the Columbia and Carbonate Railway Company. The capital stock is to be \$500,000. Object, to construct and maintain a line of railway from some point on Columbia river, about seventeen miles up the said river and in an easterly direction from Golden, thence in a southwesterly direction to some point on the head waters of the middle fork of the Spallumcheen river, and some point at the junction of the Copper creek, thence to a point on the head waters of Copper creek.

A bill to incorporate Thomas R. McInnes, Senator and Arthur M. Herring, chemist, as the New Westminster Electric Light and Motor Power Company; capital stock \$100,000.

A bill to incorporate Harry Abbott, John M. Browning, and William F. Salisbury, of Vancouver, as the "Columbia & Kootenay Railway and Navigation Company, with a capital stock one million dollars; object, to construct a line of railway from the outlet of Kootenay lake, through or by the Selkirk range, to some point on Columbia river, at or near the junction of the Kootenay and Columbia rivers, and also for the purpose of building, equipping and maintaining a line of steamers on the Kootenay lake and Columbia river.

A bill to incorporate Benjamin Douglas, Henry V. Edmonds and Samuel McIntosh, as

the New Westminster Street Railway Company; capital stock \$250,000, object, to operate street cars in the city of New Westminster.

### British Columbia.

Price, O'Leary and Gardner, intend starting a cannery at Gardiner's Inlet.

James Harver, lately in the general store business at Nanaimo, died at Pasadena, Cal., recently.

Hobson & Co., canners, contemplate erecting several canneries this season, one on the Fraser, two on Bute Inlet and one further up the coast.

The pork packing industry lately established at Enderby by Knight & Shaw is competing in the markets with eastern and imported goods for the trade in cured meats.

W. H. Vianen has entered into a contract with C. J. Lindenberger to ship a large quantity of fresh salmon during the coming season to a fish dealing firm in Hamburg, Germany.

The Spokane Falls & Northern Railway is applying for a charter to continue its line into the Kootenay country, a rich mineral district of the province. A good deal of local opposition, however, is developing against allowing this road to come in, as it is claimed it will divert the trade of the district southward into the United States. Some people evidently think that it is better to have the country remain undeveloped than to lose a portion of a prospective trade.

The Vancouver News speaks of the proposed canning industry as follows: "It is always a matter of satisfaction to record a step towards the utilisation of the natural resources of the province. In the past many thousands of dollars have been sent out of British Columbia for articles of consumption, which with ordinary enterprise could be produced here, thus keeping large sums of money in circulation in the province, giving employment to our own people instead of to those of a foreign land, and enriching the whole community. An enterprise that will be in this direction, and that under judicious management should attain to large proportions, is about being started in this city under the style of the British Columbia Fruit Canning & Coffee Company. Its objects are the preserving, canning and evaporating fruit; manufacturing extracts, cordials, vinegar, pickles and sauces, and the roasting, grinding and packing of coffee and spices. The factory will be situated on lots 35 and 36, block 85, Homer Street, will be two storeys in height and ready for occupation in the course of this month. The motive power will be furnished by a Pelton water motor, while the machinery is on its way from New York. The copper utensils for preserving and evaporating are being shipped from England and the factory in all its departments will be ready so as to deal with the different varieties of fruits and vegetables as they come to maturity during the season. Communications have already been opened with fruit growers, gardeners and farmers, so that an ample supply of all kinds of produce of the particular description and qualities required will be forthcoming. The success of this enterprise will be of great benefit to fruit growers and others and will stimulate that industry while assisting the efforts of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association for the extension of what is destined to be one of British Columbia's main sources of wealth in the future."

### Canadian Packers.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Canned Goods Packers' Association held at Toronto recently was largely attended. The meeting was the most important held by the association. The president's report referred to the rapid progress of the canned goods industry. In the course of his remarks he said that at present we produce finer flavored fruits and vegetables than our neighbors to the south. Not only do we now supply our own market, but we are also exporting to the States, Europe, West Indies, China, Newfoundland and Japan. They had reduced the pack of 1889 so as to allow the heavy output of 1898 to be worked off. Since its organization the association had secured the removal of the duty on tin plates, an amendment to the Factory Act, lower prices for labels, and the box shooks and machinery for the factories are now made in Canada. A large can making establishment is now in operation in Hamilton. A protective tariff has been placed on canned goods coming into Canada. An efficient canned goods law has been adopted. Here recommended the association to still further limit the pack to the requirements of the country. He had attended the meeting of the United States packers at Indianapolis and referred to the depressed condition of the trade there, where goods were being sold at 20 to 30c per dozen less than the cost of production. From what he learned there he was strongly opposed to any closer business relations with the United States.

All the old officers were re-elected as follows: President, W. Boulter; vice-president, B. R. Nelles; secretary-treasurer, J. B. McLean; executive committee, W. A. Ferguson, W. P. Innes, S. Fenton and D. W. Douglas.

### Progress in Northern Alberta.

In his annual address to the Edmonton board of trade, John Cameron, president says: "The business of the town is in a perfectly healthy condition. There have been no business failures whatever, and there has been a constant endeavor by business men to reduce the amount of outstanding obligations on both sides of the book. So that to-day, although the volume of business is as great as ever, there is probably less owing by or to the business community of Edmonton than ever before. The lowering of freight rates has admitted of a corresponding lowering in the cost of necessities, and made living cheaper and better. The crops although not as abundant as could be wished have been fair especially wheat, and the grain of excellent quality. There is every prospect that railway construction towards Prince Albert next season will furnish a good market for our surplus. The amount of gold taken from the river during the past season was much greater than ever before, and there is every assurance that the washings will not be exhausted for many years. The fur trade has perhaps fallen off slightly, but prices are still fair and Edmonton becomes a more and more important depot of that trade each year."

Over 4,000 tons of nickel is the annual output of the Copper Cliff mine, near Sudbury, Ont. This is a larger production, says the *Engineering News*, than that of all other nickel mines in the world combined. It is to be hoped that the increased production may result in a decrease in the price, now about 80 cents per pound, since the metal is so largely used in plating the best class of mechanical work.