

Business at Vancouver.

Vancouver, July 11.

The small-fruit season is now almost over so far as strawberries are concerned. The crop of these berries in the neighborhood of Vancouver and along the Fraser river generally came into the markets in large quantities and was as a rule marketed at fair prices. Raspberries and currants are now on the market—the supply being fully equal to the demand. Experimental shipments of strawberries, currants and cherries were made this season to Winnipeg and as regards strawberries these will be on hand for the fair week. Considerable quantities of small fruit have also been shipped this season to various Manitoba and Territorial points. As far as the shipments of strawberries, currants and cherries are concerned, shipments to Manitoba are yet in the experimental stage, but plums and apples will in early autumn be shipped in large quantities, as it has been proven that properly packed, they can be received in excellent condition. The hay crop is now being harvested in good condition and in larger quantity than usual, which with the better prices now prevailing, gladdens the hearts of the farmers of the coast district. The oat crop is also maturing well, but a considerable amount of the local production of this cereal is by the smaller holders, cut green for immediate fodder purposes. The root crops look exceptionally well and the earlier promise of an excellent year for this district of the province will almost certainly be more than fulfilled. Oatmeal has declined somewhat in value, in view of the expected large crop which will shortly be gathered. Flour is also declining somewhat in sympathy with wheat. The general demand for food products is rather quiet, this partly resulting from the comparatively small volume of travel now making north, the reduction being largely due to adverse reports concerning the state of the trails. The attempt to combine interests among the canners with a view to reduce the pack of the season, is meeting with difficulties, due to the fact, that some of the smaller ones are apparently reluctant to curtail their opportunities. The sockeye run has already begun fairly and some of the more important canneries of this district are already well at work. Considerable quantities of fresh salmon have this week been sent from the north coast to Fraser river canneries, where the fish, which were brought down in tubs on the steamer Tees, will be packed. General indications suggest that the pack of 1898 will be at least an average one. Meanwhile advices from England report that prices are rather firmer.

Building operations are unusually active throughout Vancouver, and it is expected that by autumn the needs of the residential and business communities will be fully supplied, notwithstanding the steady growth of the city's population.

Hardware and Paint Trade

An eastern exchange says that the outlook for the cooking stove trade is promising. Not for years has business been as brisk as during the past season. One of the largest stove manufacturing firms in Canada has sold about 2,500 more cooking stoves than it had up to this time last year.

All the makers, it is said, are ahead of last year's business. In consequence of this condition of affairs, stocks are unusually low, and it is the opinion that a shortage will be experienced before the season closes. In view of the threatened shortage, manufacturers are asking dealers to place their orders as early as possible, in order that when the busy season commences matters may be as easy as possible.

A Montreal report says: There is no sisal binder twine to be had in the market at any price. At the factory round lots of Manila have sold at 13 1-2c, and mixed at from 11c to 12 1-2c. In rope the feature of the week has been the offerings in this market of some round lots of New Zealand manufactured stock at 9 3-4c, and as this price is 1 1-4c per lb. lower than local values for sisal it is meeting with a fair sale.

At a meeting of the Paint and Oil Associations, Montreal, the scarcity of white lead formed an argument for higher prices, but as most of the manufacturers appeared to have covered their own wants at present prices, no advance was made and the summer schedule therefore remains unchanged.

A Business Woman.

Some time ago a well-known merchant was doing business in a very extensive way in this city, and being a prominent member of one of our churches, was also a leader at the evening prayer meetings, at one of which the wife of his largest creditor was present. After the meeting this lady hastened home to her husband in a very disturbed state of mind, and upon seeing him she exclaimed: "David, how does your account stand with Mr. B—; does he owe you much money?" "Yes," replied her liege lord, "his indebtedness is pretty heavy just now; but why do you appear so concerned over this matter, my dear; surely you have not heard of his being in any financial trouble?" "Oh no," rejoined his wife, "but I feel certain he is going to fail, because when he prayed so earnestly for the Lord 'to save us from impending calamities,' he appeared so distressed that I could see he was praying chiefly for himself." The next day Mr. David made enquiries, and discovered that his debtor had not been as prompt as usual in meeting his obligations, and consequently he at once commenced reducing his account, and managed to get out pretty well before the "impending calamities" of his friend ended in a bad failure. Thus it was that the shrewd observations of a woman saved her husband from a heavy financial loss.

Canned Salmon.

The salmon situation on the coast is thus reviewed by the San Francisco Trade Journal in its issue of July 1st: "Prices for Fraser River salmon are on the basis of 93 1-2 cents for talls and 87 1-2 cents for Skeena and other northern river salmon. They are fishing and packing on the upper rivers in British Columbia, but we are not informed as to the run. Fishing will commence on Fraser River and also on Puget Sound, July 10. On one or two streams emptying into Puget Sound fishing for the market is reported, with good runs of salmon. Advices received from Columbia River by large handlers in this city state that the pack of chinook to date is less than at

the corresponding time in 1897 and that the pack of bluebacks in halves on the basis of 62 1-2 cents, but little doing on the basis of \$1 for talls. If these fish are the same as the sockeyes then the difference in prices for Puget Sound and Fraser River sockeyes and Columbia River bluebacks is too large."

A Growing Business.

The Thos. Davidson Manufacturing Co., Montreal, is making alterations to its warehouse and works, to increase shipping facilities. Part of the present factory will be rebuilt and converted into a large warehouse adjoining present warehouse. To replace the space taken from factory the company is putting up a new addition, which will be modern in every respect. The Davidson Co. explains that the present system of doing business necessitates the carrying of an immense stock to supply the 12,000 or more different articles which are made in the factory. This large increase of space is therefore necessary to allow of the prompt filling of orders.

New Stoves.

The McClary Manufacturing Co. are showing several new lines of stoves this season. One new stove is called the Yukon Heater. This is a wood burning stove made on the same principle as their Magnet furnace. It is made in one size only and is a large, handsome stove, suitable for stores, schools, large halls, etc. It has steel flues for taking the cold air off the floor. The hot air pipes for conveying heat to another room can be attached, in addition to the draft pipe. They are also putting a new air-tight heater on the market. This is quite a neat stove, handsomely decorated, with nickel railing and air tight joints made of Russian iron body and lined with sheet iron and cast top. Fire can be kept in a dormant state in this stove for twenty-four hours.

In ranges they are offering a new line of steel ranges, two sizes, called the Kootenay, which is intended to sell, where a cheaper range is wanted than their old line of Famous steel ranges. The latter are being made in all sizes from four to twelve holes. Another new range is called the Model, and is adapted specially for burning different kinds of fuel, hard or soft coal or wood. They have also introduced a new gas stove, which is having quite a large sale in the city.

Their steel enamelled ware factory is kept busy and they are now making a great variety of goods in this class of ware, including about everything in kitchen utensils. One new line in steel enamelled ware is sinks, which are designed to replace common iron sinks. They made a fine display of these and other lines at the fair this week.

New Farm Implements.

A. C. McRae, dealer in carriages and implements, had on exhibition at the fair this week several lines which he has recently added to his business. One of these is the Canadian steel air motor, made in Toronto by the Ontario Wind Engine & Pump Co. He also exhibited the Bradley gang and walking plows, a new line of plows which he is introducing in this market, made at Bradley, Illinois. In carriages he also had a fine exhibit.