

Monthly Trade Returns.

Transactions at the Dominion Government Savings' Bank, Winnipeg, during the month of December were as follows: Withdrawals, \$21,806.23; deposits, \$21,776; deposits exceed withdrawals by \$169.77.

The inland revenue collections in the Winnipeg district during the month of December were as follows:

Spirits.....	\$21,562 10
Malt.....	1,592 28
Tobacco.....	10,081 26
Cigars.....	98 74
Methylated spirit.....	108 83
Petroleum inspection fees.....	118 80
Licenses.....	50 00
Seizure.....	110 00

Total.....	\$37,639 01
Total for December, 1895.....	\$36,429 75

Increase..... \$1,209 26

The following is the statement showing the value of goods exported and entered for consumption with duty collected thereon at the port of Winnipeg during the month of December, 1895, as compared with the same month in 1895:

Description	Value 1895	Value 1893
Exported.....	\$729,939 00	\$127,155 00
Entered for consumption, dutiable.....	109,906 00	112,458 00
Entered for consumption, free.....	48,037 00	51,144 00
Total for consumption.....	157,943 00	166,602 00
Duty collected.....	\$37,126 96	\$39,523 01

The Dry Goods Trade.

The Toronto wholesale dry goods house of J. S. McMaster & Co., formally assigned on Jan. 5 for the purpose of liquidation, to E. R. Clarkson. In a circular to customers announcing the approaching liquidation the firm makes a preliminary estimate of assets and liabilities in which the former are placed at \$330,000 and the latter at \$210,000 showing a nominal surplus of \$130,000. Most of this is in stock and the equity on the building and the surplus will of course be greatly reduced in liquidating. The house has been in business for over sixty years, being founded by the late Senator McMaster.

Badstreet says of the situation in the United States: "Jobbers have cleaned up fall stocks to a large extent, and are now busy opening spring supplies, to be shown with the new year. Printed fabrics and dress goods are active in this way. Cotton goods continue dull, and the market is unfavorable for manufacturers. The large surplus of print cloths unsold has a depressing effect on all brown cottons, and buyers are not disposed to purchase, as they look for lower prices. Dress wools are fairly ordered for spring, and the mills are quite busy. Prices are low, however, and it takes sharp competition to secure business. Men's wear wools are quiet. Samples of heavy-weights for next fall are being shown, but as yet they have not attracted much attention."

Silver

The situation still depends upon India exchange and the action of the India Council, the expected issue of a large amount of rupee obligations on January 1 having a considerable influence. The silver market at New York has been dull and featureless, although the price for bars per ounce declined a shade on Tuesday, both markets

showing a further decline on Thursday. Silver prices on Dec. 31: London, 29 18-16d.; New York, 61go.

Lumber-Trade News.

About a year ago a lumber trade trust was formed on the Pacific Coast, taking in British Columbia and the coast states. The trust was formed to regulate prices, etc., particularly for export business by water. Prices were for a time advanced, but lately there has been considerable cutting, prices having been reduced about \$1.50 per 1,000 feet. It is now expected the trust will prove a failure, though a number of the large concerns may hold together.

G. O. Buchanan is enlarging his saw mill plant at Kaslo, B.C. The shingle capacity has been increased from 20,000 to 70,000 per day and the capacity of the saw mill will be doubled. A complete wood-working plant will also be put in.

The British Columbia government is offering 10,314 acres of timber land on Queen Charlotte Island, the lease being for twenty-one years.

The British Columbia Mills, Timber & Trading Co., of Vancouver, made a shipment of fir recently to Gibraltar, Spain.

Literary Notes.

The first number of the Cosmopolitan for 1897 is a good one. The January number of this popular magazine, just to hand, is beautifully illustrated. It opens with an article on German students and their duelling customs, followed by an interesting article on the negroes of the southern states. "The Famous Fate at Vaux," deals with that period of luxury and extravagance in French history during the reign of Louis XIV. A new story by Conan Doyle, "A Memory of the Empire," appropriately follows the previous mentioned article. Other papers are equally interesting and the illustrations are many and fine.

Dr. Alfred S. Johnson, editor of the quarterly review, Current History, published at Buffalo, N.Y., which has frequently been noticed in our columns, has been elected to membership in the Society of Mayflower Descendants. He is a Canadian by birth, a graduate of the University of Toronto, and was formerly a fellow of University college under the late Professor Young.

Option Trading.

The new law in Germany prohibiting option trading, goes into effect in that country on January 1, 1897. The London Times Berlin correspondent records the extreme irritation manifested by business men that the regulations for stock and produce exchanges, invoiced in the bourse bill and coming into operation on the New Year, were only published thirty six hours before the end of the year. "The whole of the regulations," says the Times correspondent, "are pervaded by a drill sergeant's spirit of an acutely galling character. The measure is a gigantic experiment instituted in the hope of satisfying the demand of the Agrarians. The produce exchange at Halle has already been dissolved and the Stettin and Brunswick exchanges have decided to create free associations to replace the bourses. Everything points to a struggle between the government and the commercial community. The members of the Berlin bourse at a meeting recently attended by all the firms interested in the grain trade, unanimously decided to establish a new private organization despite the difficulties raised by the government."

British Columbia Business Review.

VANCOUVER, B.C., Jan. 4th, 1897.

Business is recovering from the disturbing influence of the holidays very quickly, and prices are becoming more uniform. Eggs are weakening much in price owing to the mild weather, while flour and feed are advancing. It is reported that hay will go much higher, as the crop is short. Potatoes are cheaper in Victoria than Vancouver, owing to a large consignment being shipped there from San Francisco, which is the signal for lower prices here. Advices from California have been received that oranges will be 25 cents cheaper.

British Columbia Mining News.

Although little is being done in socks, prospect and development work is very active around the mercantile centres, while the principal hotels have, and have had for the past month numerous names of mining engineers and representatives of British capital on their registers.

Of the mines operated from Vancouver perhaps the most prominent ones at present are the Occidental group. These are free milling propositions in Fairview, a camp very active at present. They comprise the Mayflower, the Occidental and the Blackhawk. The Mayflower has two ledges, one 50 feet wide with an ore body of two and a half to three feet. Mill tests from four tons of the Mayflower ledge ran \$32 in gold. The west ledge contains a vein five to six feet wide and a shaft 25 feet deep. The ore is rose quartz carrying free gold and galena. The vein in the Occidental is four to five feet in width with a thirty feet shaft. The walls are well defined and the vein clean cut. The Blackhawk has a ledge 65 feet wide, and the character of the ore is quartz carrying free gold galena ore and copper pyrites.

About Vancouver within a few miles from the city limits claims of great promise are being staked out, perhaps the most interesting ones being the Albion group of mines, silver propositions, 13 in number, on Bowen Island. A gang of men are at work on these claims and will work them all summer. The bullion can be secured from the rock at less than \$10 per ton.

Wool.

Badstreet's says of the United States wool market: "The feeling is that after the turn of the year wools in many grades to be ordered, and that this will induce manufacturers to buy raw material. Territory wools are selling on the scored basis of about 30 to 32c. for fine-medium and fine, with choice staple lots at 31 to 35c. The market for fine fleeces remains steady, and combeds are also firm, but medium clothing grades have shown an easier tone of late."

A later report from Toronto says it is understood now to be likely that the McMaster estate will not pay more than 60 cents on the dollar. The result houses, mainly supported by the McMaster company, will be forced to assign.

The Dominion Gazette contains an application from Victoria, B.C., parties asking for a charter for a railway from Lethbridge through the Crow's Nest Pass to the Columbia river, and thence to a point near the Fraser river or the straits of Georgia, or any arm or inlet of the same at tide water or seaboard. This adds another to the list of applications for a railway via the Crow's Nest Pass.