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Owing to the mildness of the winter ice on the coast is a scarce commodity. The Canadian Pacific Navigation Co. is getting a number of car-loads from Ashcroft, 200 miles inland. The cost of each car-load of 12 tons, laid down at Victoria, is \$100.

The Dominion Government has placed the sum of \$10,000 in the estimates for the improvement at the mouth of the Fraser river. The Government seems very slow to realize the importance of improving the navigation of the Fraser river, judging from this small appropriation. The Westminster council will ask for a larger grant.

The smelter at Vancouver has been completed, and operations will be begun at once. There are now 12 tons of ore at the works, mostly from the mine at Field. This is the first smelter in the province, and marks a new era in the development of the mineral wealth of British Columbia. To Vancouver's enterprise is largely due the success of this undertaking.

Vancouver News: A meeting of several of the citizens of Vancouver who are desirous of extending operations in the deep sea fish ries, was held last night. It was decided to organize a company by the name of "The Vancouver Fisheries Company, Limited," with a capital of \$100,000, of which \$25,000 was to be the first issue. Half of this sum was subscribed by those present. The outline of the organization was completed and a board of provisional directors appointed to take steps to incorporate the company and receive additional stock subscriptions.

The Victoria Times says:—Operations during the week in the expected pack of the approaching season have been unusually active, and of a decidedly cheering nature to cannery proprietors. The fact of San Francisco buyers competing has caused the English dealers to enter the field at an earlier period than usual and in order to effect contracts they have liberally outbid the California operators. Twenty-nine shillings and nine pence per case ex ship has been reached and possibly higher rates will be obtained for the few

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**British Columbia.**

Martin & Balfour, hotel, Vancouver, have sold out.

A. J. Marks, painter and paper hanger, Vancouver, has moved to the States.

Painters at Victoria have succeeded in reducing the hours of labor per day to nine hours.

E. M. Mathews, manager of the Hotel Vancouver, will sever his connection with that hostelry.

Real estate in the three coast cities is said to be active. Property is advancing in value at Victoria, Vancouver and Westminster.

Exports of coal for the month of January were 42,135 tons, valued at \$252,810. The freight rate on coal to San Francisco is \$3 per ton.

McArthur, Stevenson & McIver, who will succeed W. R. McGaw, general dealer, Kamloops, have purchased the bankrupt stock of Mrs. Morton, consisting of millinery, fancy goods, etc.