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Immigration, Investment and Improvement Co'y of B. C.

**COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.**

Famine and typhus continue to spread in Russia.

France now possesses 30 ironclads, 26 cruisers, 15 despatch boats and 54 torpedo boats.

The Government has decided to again call for tenders for a fast line of steamships between Canada and Europe.

By the will of the late T. K. Tapling, M.P. for Harborough, a collection of postage stamps valued at £200,000 was left to the British Museum.

An influential committee has been formed at Rome for the erection of a monument to the poet Shelley at Virreggio, Italy, where the body was cast ashore in 1823.

At a speech in Edinburgh recently the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour said he did not think Great Britain would ever again see a monster agrarian conspiracy in Ireland fed by American funds.

Captains Boileau and Butcher have been dismissed from the British army in consequence of their conduct in connection with the Manipur massacre, but the officials decline to explain why.

Figures compiled by the Boston *Standard* show that from January 1st to November 20th the fire loss in the United States amounted to \$108,024,000, or an average loss of \$337,000 per day, and on this basis the loss in 1891 is estimated at \$123,005,000. Even if overestimated, the year will scarcely prove a fortunate one for underwriters.

North Dakota and Minnesota farmers continue to take up land in the Canadian Northwest.

The *Northwestern Miller* says there was a heavy decrease of the make of flour last week, the output being only 161,200 barrels against 205,585 barrels the previous week.

Over eight hundred thousand copies of the tenant farmer delegates' reports have been distributed in England. Excellent returns have resulted from the vigorous policy pursued in Dakota. Hon. Mr. Carling strongly favors the continuance of the bonus system assistance to immigrants, but only to bona fide settlers. The results of the season, it is said, will show great increase in the number of immigrants.

Capt. Gunn, late of Her Majesty's navy, representing a wealthy English syndicate, is said to have signed a contract with a New York firm for the construction of a line of railway to the port of Whitehaven, N.S., with a view of the said port being used as the landing point of Atlantic steamships. The scheme, if it is carried into effect, means the shortening of the mail route by something like 24 hours.

A prominent commission merchant who has just returned from a trip to Chicago, states that one thing most noticeable among the trade in that city is clannishness. There are many commission merchants doing business there, and everyone strives to see who can do the largest trade, but one cannot help noticing the absence of the cut-throat policy which is so prominent in other cities. The wholesalers in Chicago protect each other.—*Commercial Tribune.*

M. de Giers, the Russian minister, while in Paris, is reported to have agreed to an exclusively defensive alliance with France, the main object being to secure "respect for treaties," which includes the tightening of Russia's grip on Bulgaria and the evacuation of Egypt by England.

The small party of political soreheads who have been making Essex County, Ont., disreputable by their annexation fad received a blow last week which it is hoped will make them realize what despicable creatures they are. Just before the County Council adjourned, Clerk McKee rose and read the following resolution:—"Moved by Reeve Wintermute, seconded by Dr. King, that whereas certain persons of more or less prominence within the county have recently entered into an agitation for annexation to the United States, we the members of the Council, representing our loyal, free and enlightened constituents, desire to place on record our firm belief and conviction that no country possesses a better system of government or more admirable institutions than our beloved land, and that while desiring to live on terms of peace and friendliness with the great country lying to the south of us, we hereby repudiate all desire or intention of becoming identified with it, preferring to remain under the glorious flag beneath which our country has become great and progressive and to retain all our existing conditions, which have secured equality and justice to all creeds, nationalities and conditions of men."