

## British Columbia.

J. Cohen, cigars, &c., Vancouver, has sold out.

S. J. Martin, hardware, &c., Victoria, has assigned.

J. Walsh, saloon, Victoria; succeeded by Carter & Rollin.

Wm. Eastman, cooper, Vancouver, admitted G. P. Clorin into partnership under style of W. Eastman & Co.

The end of the Columbia & Kootenay track is within a mile of Nelson, says the *Miner*, and is expected to be in the yard limits by May 28.

Thomas Dunn has sold his fine block on Cordova street to an English capitalist for a sum believed to be in the vicinity of \$80,000, says the *Vancouver World*.

Victoria sealers have cabled to Sir Chas. Tupper their protest against the passage of the bill to close Behring sea for a year, now before the British House of Commons.

J. A. Laidlaw is building a large cannery, with a capacity of about 25,000 cases, at the head of Woodward slough, Lulu island. It will be completed in time for this season's work.

Several improvements and alterations have been made to the machinery of Morse's saw mill, at Vancouver, and this mill will now be one of the best in the province. It will have a daily capacity of between 150,000 and 200,000 feet.

The Victoria Lumbering and Manufacturing Company has bought the United States barque "Colorado," of Boston, 1,200 tons. Capt. Gibson, formerly master of the ship "America" has gone east to bring her round. This is the first of a fleet of vessels which this company intend to purchase for the carrying of the product of their large sawmill now about completed at Chemamus.

A company has been formed in Victoria to work the deposits of quicksilver discovered on the west coast. The following are the members of the company: George Byrnes, Wm. Wilson, F. J. Claxton, H. S. Manson, Theo. Davie, A. C. Flumerfelt, F. G. Vernon, E. V. Bodwell, P. E. Irving, F. J. Barnard, E. G. Prior, and A. W. Vowell. The company is a strong one, and will prosecute development work with vigor.

The Council of Pharmacy for the Province, was held in Victoria recently. The session was chiefly passed in framing by-laws which will be submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for approval. It was recommended that examinations be held twice a year, in October and April. The first annual meeting of the Association for the Province will be held on the second Thursday in June. Thos. Shotholt, of Victoria, was elected president of the Council; D. S. Curtis, of New Westminster, vice-president, and M. G. Clanchard, of Victoria, secretary-treasurer and registrar.

At a meeting of the Victoria Agricultural Society the accepted plans of C. J. Soule were produced for inspection. They show a handsome main building, with a frontage of 180 feet by a depth of 60 feet, in the centre of which is a graceful circular tower, and the base of which is 95 feet from the ground. The roof rises to 139 feet, and is surmounted by a flag-staff, the top of which is 118 feet above the ground. There are 23,000 square feet of floor

surface in the main building, exclusive of that contained in the second, or art gallery, which is circular, 64 feet in diameter, and well lighted. The building is so arranged that additional wings can be added at any time they are found necessary.

*Westminster Ledger*: From time to time items have appeared in these columns respecting the canning of fruits in our province, an industry, which at no distant date is destined to attain large proportions. It is now learned that the Harlock Salmon Packing Company of Ladner's Landing intend forthwith to enter into this branch of the business. Workmen skilled in the packing of fruits have been engaged. No pains or expense have been spared so that the company may be enabled to turn out a superior class of goods. For the first season they do not expect to make a very large pack, probably several thousand cases, but this will depend on the quantity of suitable fruits to be obtained. British Columbia is *par excellence* a fruit growing country and heretofore too little attention has been paid to this branch of farming by the agricultural community, although of late many orchards have been planted. During next few years the number will likely be enormously increased. Now that fruit canneries have become an established fact here there need be no fear of over production of fruit, provided the right kinds are grown. British Columbia should successfully compete with California in the production of canned fruits.

## British Columbia Trade Letter

(SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.)

VANCOUVER, June 1.—The leading event of the week in real estate matters was the sale of the C.P.R. townsite at Chilliwack, the proposed terminus of the Chilliwack railway. It took place Saturday and was attended by about 500 persons, principally from Vancouver. Mr. Beatrice, the auctioneer, sold \$22,500 worth of lots in a few hours, disposing of them at good prices as fast as they were put up. The average price paid was \$150 per lot, ranging from \$65 to \$350. Your correspondent had an opportunity while attend this sale to take notes of the surrounding country. Chilliwack, with the exception of the Delta, is the largest and finest section of agricultural land on the coast. There are nearly 100,000 acres of valley land, all of which is easily placed under cultivation with surprising results as to yield. It is also among the oldest settled portions of the province, and at this season of the year the valley presents a charming appearance. The prevailing green, the beautiful farms and farm residences, and the luxuriance of the orchard and garden vegetation, the whole being watered by the Fraser river, and backed by low mountains, form a striking picture of pastoral beauty. Fruit growing is the principal industry, although mixed farming is carried on extensively. Oats and hay are the staple and most profitable crops as yet, but with milling facilities wheat would do better than in many parts of Canada, some other parts of British Columbia, alone excepted. The new industries being promoted are hop growing, fruit canning, poultry, bee raising, etc., and with the advent of a railway this summer or next spring at the latest, great industrial prosperity must ensue. Of course, Chilliwack has always enjoyed daily communication with Westminster by water, but will now have direct communication with Vancouver by rail as well. The appear-

ance of prosperity is general. There is probably not a poor or badly off family in the whole valley, and with the excellent returns from the land and the rapid increase in values, most of the farmers have become rich. As an instance of this, acre property adjoining the townsite is held as high as \$850 an acre; too high, you will probably imagine for anything but speculation. The next real estate sale will be at Steveston, in Richmond Municipality, near the mouth of the Fraser, on Lulu island. I shall probably be able to describe important sections in my next. It is wonderful what an advance is being made in farm lands in the province. The laying out of town sites is simply an evidence of this in anticipation of what is to follow.

Business is fair; we are now starting upon the usual quiet season. Bailing is now opening up properly. There are eight, large, handsome new blocks now under way, upon which tenders have been asked. The foreign lumber trade is at present brisker than usual, while shipping continues brisk. The SS. Parthia arrived last week with over two thousand tons of freight; the West Indian from San Francisco with a large cargo. The meat market is being supplied with mutton from California now. This British Columbia should certainly supply itself, but unfortunately, the home article is limited. Several large firms are making application for the admission, duty free, of sheep herds, and if it will encourage home growing, the Government should by all means grant the application. As has been referred to previously by me, shipbuilding is one of the industries making rapid progress here.

Fish still remains scarce and high. Retail quotations are: Salmon, 15; trout, 20; cod, 10c; sturgeon, 10c, and smaller fish, 10 to 12c per pound.

New potatoes are in the market at from 1½ to 2c per pound, wholesale. Imported but is scarce; the California article is about out of the market and eastern creamery has not yet begun to move freely. Price generally 28 to 30c to dealers. Cheese is steady at 13½c, whole sale, and eggs 18 to 20c. Old potatoes are very scarce.

Flour—Manitoba patents, \$6.75 to \$7; Manitoba bakers', \$6.00 to \$6.25; Oregon, \$5.75 to \$6. Cornmeal is held at \$4, and oatmeal also at the same figure. Rolled oats are quoted at \$4.25 per 100 pounds, and oil cake at \$10 per ton. The prices of feed still remain the same—Shorts, 26 per ton; bran \$24, wheat, \$36 to \$40, 40 to \$45.

Sugar—British Columbia granulated, 7½c per pound; yellow, 6½ to 6¾c; cube, 8c. Maple syrup, \$1.25 per tin.

Fruits—Oranges, Navals, \$4.50 to \$5.50; Riverside seedling, \$3.75 to \$2.25; Los Angeles, \$2.50 to \$3.25. Scillian lemons, \$7.50, and California lemons, \$4.50 to \$5. Bananas, \$3 to \$4 per bunch. Rhubarb, 4½ to 5c per pound. Cherries have dropped to \$1.25.

Meats and lard—Dry salt, 11½c; roll lard, 11½c; breakfast bacon, 13½c; back 13; ham, 14c; pickled pork, bellies, 11½c; mess pork, 12½c. Lard, in tubs, 12c; in pails, 12½c; in tins, 13c; compound, 12c.

The exports of wheat from India since April 1 were 9,280,000 bushels, of which 4,120,000 bushels were to the United Kingdom and 5,160,000 bushels to the Continent. The total shipments for the corresponding time last year were 4,460,000 bushels, of which 2,980,000 bushels were to the United Kingdom and 1,480,000 bushels to the Continent.