

POLITICAL RUMORS.

Recently the name of Premier Robson has been associated with the Lieutenant-Governorship of the province. Whatever there may or may not be in the story, it seems to have had a sort of semi-official sanction from Ottawa. Besides, local politicians appear to have set some store by the announcement, and the subject of possible political combinations has been freely talked over. Several new Cabinet slates have been canvassed, among them one which may be termed the Davie-Higgins association, another the Turner-Wilson, and still another having Mr. Pooley as its figure head. Not being directly concerned in the business of forming administrations, it might be very possibly said that we are not posted, still we mention the matter for what it may be worth.

ALEXANDER MACKENZIE.

The amount of physical vitality displayed by some of the public men of this country is remarkable. In their full vigor—intellectual and physical—it was hard to down either the late Sir John A. Macdonald or his principal and most honorable rival, the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie. For long they both waged protracted conflicts with the King of Terrors; they fought gallant fights in their last controversy; but, all to no purpose, and the survivor of them, Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, succumbed on Sunday morning. He was a remarkable man, who, realizing that there was always plenty of room at the top, had climbed life's ladder from almost its lowest rung to within a very short distance of its summit.

He has been spoken of by some contemptuously, and by others with due respect and honor, as Canada's working-man premier, for he had labored as an artisan in his earlier days, and in his mature ones had been invited by Her Majesty to intimate what it was possible for her to do for him. But, like the Shunamite woman of old, and the late John Bright, the great tribune of the masses, he preferred to dwell among his own people, and without any patent of social, political or royal preferment, he will be borne to the tomb as plain Alexander Mackenzie. He will thus illustrate, despite the importance of the positions he occupied and the great services he had rendered the Dominion, the truth emphasized by Job when he reflected upon the nakedness in which man came into the world and in which he took his departure from it.

It is not our mission to sketch the career of this prominent character in the political life of Canada. Unfortunately he for long failed to appreciate the importance of Canada's great western country, and, to some extent stood in the way of what, despite all obstacles, has proved to be its wonderful advancement. That he acted up to his convictions as to the needs and capabilities of the country, no one will deny, while it is more than probable that his unwillingness to do anything that might be considered rash secured the satisfactory completion of Canada's trans-continental railway quite as speedily and

possibly more substantially than if he—a thoroughly practical man—had not been there to continually interpose his own views, experience and information. When history comes to be written hereafter, it may possibly be demonstrated more conclusively than ever how sincere and how earnest were the desires of this great man to have the best interests of the entire Dominion subserved and protected.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

CANADIAN cheese, appears, according to official reports from England, to be better esteemed than ever. It has held its own in the great market centering in the world's metropolitan country.

THE amount at risk last year in Canadian life offices reached \$148,000,000, and the premiums \$1,000,000. This shows a considerable and as events have shown a well-deserved confidence in Canadian life insurance offices, and must be eminently satisfactory to those who are connected with them.

THE three well-known cattle firms of Armour, Swift and Morris, of Chicago, who control over half the cattle trade centering in that place, have combined with the Union Stockyards Company, and therefore the consumers in the United States have every reason to expect that up will go the price of beef.

PRIVATE letters from representatives of Quebec timber firms now in Great Britain report the outlook of the trade for next summer as very good. A large quantity of timber and deals for delivery during the coming season has already been disposed of, and the European markets seem to be in a fairly healthy condition.

IT will be gratifying to many travellers between Victoria and Nanaimo to be informed that the company propose to make many improvements on the track of the E. and N. Railway. The filling in of some of the canons over which the road passes will be very gratifying news to many people who on their journeys have been accustomed to survey the abysses with alarm and to speculate as to their chances in the event of casualties. Whatever may be done by the company in the way of improvements to the roadway will be highly appreciated.

BRITISH Columbia fishermen—particularly those engaged in the catch of salmon and halibut—must be highly gratified by the extension of the market which they aim to supply with the fresh article. Indeed, as far as the Fraser River industry is concerned, they appear to have a demand from the East that will more than make up for the decreased consumption by the canning establishments. This is most encouraging to one section of the interested parties, while the cannery who concluded to lessen their production will in no way be more disadvantaged than they had expected to be.

THE danger of delay is well but expensively demonstrated in the recent experiences of the city of Montreal. The well known and extensive Bonsecours Market

was seriously damaged by fire, on a recent Sunday, on the Thursday preceding which after long delays and protracted discussion the council had resolved to again insure its various properties on which it had been the practice for some time previous to hold no policies. In the interval between the Thursday and Sunday, it had not been deemed necessary, if indeed, practicable, to take out the insurance and thus, despite the excellent intentions of the city fathers, the city was made a serious sufferer.

A CONTEMPORARY draws attention to a case which well illustrates the folly of a retail country dealer buying parcels of goods on credit from too many different persons. A merchant on a small scale in an Ontario town, whose assets are placed at \$9,000, owes only \$6,000, but owes it to "forty-two" different creditors, in various places. The dealer, through slack collections, fell behind in payments. An impatient creditor sued him, and the moment the writ was issued—and published—other creditors came down on him too. The result is failure. It is observed that if he had six or eight creditors instead of forty-two, he could probably have got the time he needed, as he showed a fair surplus.

PROVINCIAL TRADE NOTES.

G. B. Wright has been appointed managing director of the Ainsworth Land and Improvement Company.

Mr. Stirskey, sr., the New Westminster jeweller, will go to Nelson shortly, contemplating going into business there.

The Galena Trading Company are opening general hardware stores at Nelson and Pilot Bay. Mr. H. Byers is manager.

There is a large quantity of snow in the Slocan country, which renders the district very hard to reach, and will make it difficult of access until the end of May.

Carney & Barret's store at Nelson has been destroyed by fire. Everything, including the books, perished in the flames, and the loss, which is covered by insurance, is estimated at between \$7,000 and \$8,000.

The Nanaimo Free Press says that the New Vancouver Coal Company has struck the lower seam on Protection Island, and found it four feet thick, of superb quality—roof and floor excellent. The value of this discovery to the company cannot be over-estimated.

Deputy Sheriff T. J. Armstrong has seized the merchandise in the store-room of Gordon & Co., the shoe dealers, New Westminster, under execution of the Supreme Court. Mr. Joseph Wintemute held a mortgage on the stock, upon which claim the sheriff interpleaded and locked the store.

The Edinburgh American Land Mortgage Company, Limited, (Foreign), with a capital stock of £200,000, has been registered in British Columbia. The headquarters of the company will be at Vancouver, and they purpose carrying on a general land mortgage business upon both Canadian and American realty security.