

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, May 12, 1896.

Trade in British Columbia is holding its own from last week's improvements while collections are fair. The lumber trade is brisk. Three lumber vessels arrived last week and more charters have been taken. The present condition of the coal trade is causing interest, owing to the depressed state of the market. In spite of the gloomy forecast of the Manchester News and other papers which claim that a crisis is pending and in six months stoppage will take place, owing to low priced coal, starvation wages, and unprofitable mines, Nanaimo, B. C. looks hopefully on the situation. The Nanaimo Free Press says "that although Nanaimo has felt the wave of depression that swept over North America, the change has not been as drastic as in many cases where they had no backbone in the coal industry. A great many colliers have been let out, but the clouds are not as dark as some outsiders try to make out. Last month shipments from the Vancouver mine were larger than for some months past, and the order to shut down No. 5 shaft (thus throwing 150 men out of employment) has been cancelled. In April the Nanaimo collieries shipped 22,792 tons to foreign ports, the total shipments being 50,538, an excellent showing considering the state of trade throughout the world. In England mines are closing up, while in Australia by latest advices a colliery strike was imminent involving 10,000 miners. British Columbia then has no cause to complain.

Our fishing industry was never more active in the preparatory stages than it is now. New canneries, cannery extensions and boats are being built on a large scale. Everything will soon be ready for the supposed "oil year." It depends now upon the fish. Will they run?

Word has been received from different points along the Fraser river that there will be no dangerously high water, and farmers as well as those who are not farmers are very much gratified at the news. The prospects are very favorable for a good yield of fruit and roots. Abundance of fine potatoes are grown in British Columbia, but tons of them are rotting in the bins. They are sold here for \$6 a ton.

The work of establishing creameries still goes on. The farmers of North and South Saanich, near Victoria met at 11 in the morning, one day last week and talked creamery till 4 in the afternoon. They formed a co-operative association, which will be called the Victoria District Dairying Association. Shares \$5.

From reports current there seems to be great activity among Victoria capitalists in floating schemes for the benefit of the province. The latest addition to trade in the province is the Victoria stock exchange. The exchange opened for business yesterday in the board of trade rooms. The lists comprise provincial stocks and lands, banking and commercial institutions and mines.

The Vancouver board of trade has passed many important resolutions lately. They have endorsed the resolution of the Winnipeg board of trade, praying the Government to sanction legislation providing for a uniform rate of two cents per ounce on all letters for delivery in Canada and the United States.

The Dominion Government will be asked to allow articles purchased for consumption on a ship bound for a foreign port to be shipped at Vancouver free of duty. The board is also asking the government to increase the staff of customs officials, as the trade is not properly attended to, owing to the inadequate number of clerks, and the large increase in imports and exports recently.

The time has expired for claiming land sold for taxes a year ago. A large amount of property went to purchasers by default,

some of it very good east-end property. It is noteworthy that land can be purchased now lower than it will be possible to get it in the next 10 years in Vancouver east. West-end property has not depreciated in value since the fire, and probably never will, as it is the residential portion of the city.

British Columbia Mining News.

ROSSLAND.

The Nickle Plate mine has 800 tons of ore on the dump running \$60. This mine is owned by Spokane and Salt Lake people.

The Centor Star has struck a four foot vein of good value in a north cross cut.

The Iron Mask is taking out the highest grade ore in the camp. There is plenty of it.

The Le Roi ore is now running \$93.

The Dines syndicate, of Winnipeg, which recently purchased Centor Star No. 2 and North Star No. 3, are starting to develop their property.

The new Fool Hen mine has a big stowing of mineralized vein matter.

Three partners have started a claim of free milling gold, \$110, just back of the Seven Devils. They say they have a big thing.

The Iron Horse has changed hands for \$25,000 cash, and the purchasers were offered a big premium before they paid their purchase money.

The North Star has been bonded to Vancouver parties for \$15,000. The assays of ore in the North Star were as high as \$58. The principal vein is five feet wide.

Hy. Howard and his pals plumed \$1,000 in three days out of their "Big Hole" claim on Gold Stream last week.

During April the Le Roi exported 112 tons, valued at \$5,964 and the War Eagle 263 tons valued at \$14,870.

Deadwood under bond to an English syndicate is panning out well. A vein has been struck running \$10 to the ton.

The Monte Cristo was sold last week to F. C. Loung for \$25,000 cash. A strong vein appears on the surface of this mine, and a 50 foot tunnel has been sunk.

The War Eagle has shipped altogether ore valued at \$592,800, and the Le Roi \$501,000; both are paying big dividends.

SLOCAN.

The total Slocan shipment of ore to date from here is \$1,100,244.

One of the Gooderhams of Toronto has an expert examining the famous Noble Five group with the object of purchase.

Slocan papers warn pilgrims that the going wage is: Miners, \$3.50; Laborers, \$2.50, and they want no cheap men.

The Reco paid a dividend of \$30,000 last month.

Messrs. Dunbar, Pluntalt and Spragge of Vancouver arrived at Slocan Lake last week and did some pretty heavy bonding. They secured the refusal of the "Two Friends" at \$10,000, making a large deposit, and started 16 men to work. They next bonded the Crusader group for \$50,000 paying \$500 for 60 days. The Ocean, Heather, Bunker-Hill, Sullivan, Thompson and many other groups were also bonded, the total investment being \$375,000. R. Marpole, the C. P. R. man, about the same time bonded the Alpine group for \$35,000. In New Denver everybody has money and a banquet the day of the big sales, was given to the boys, that did New Denver proud.

R. Marpole has bonded the Oxberry group for \$0,000.

The Hall mines smelter is running through 115 tons a day.

GENERAL MINING NEWS.

Alberni, Vancouver Island, prospects look bright at the "Constance." A new shaft has been sunk.

The Cataract claim will be rushed this week. Great expectations. More rich strikes have been made at China Creek and excited prospectors are looking for suitable places to locate.

Revelstoke returns for last week were. Idaho, 20 tons, \$3,871.20; Monacer, 40 tons \$6 550; Alamo, 40 tons, \$1,757. Total, \$14,618 20.

The Bunker Hill and Blackwood mines are to be worked by a newly organized Vancouver Co., capitalized at half a million dollars.

The Van Anda Copper and Gold Co., of Seattle has been incorporated to work British Columbia mines. The capital stock is \$5,000,000.

The Knight Templar Gold Mining Co., of Spokane has also been incorporated to work British Columbia mines. Capital \$500,000.

There is great excitement at Dear Park, situated on the eastern shore of Lower Arrow Lake. Several free milling gold quartz claims have been discovered.

The Joy claim in gold mountain is assaying from 99 to 163 ounces of silver and \$1 in gold.

The whole bed of the Fraser river between Harrison and Sadners has been leased by miners in anticipation of works being started in Westminster for the extraction of gold from the sands of the Fraser.

Six or seven millionaire mine speculators are in Kootenay spying mines. One Glasgow scotchman is among them.

British Columbia Business Notes

Cressell & Foster, tinsmiths, Nanaimo, have dissolved; M. F. Cressell continues.

James McK m. general store, Union, has sold out to Simon Leiser.

Gosnell & Co., Butchers, Victoria, have dissolved; Joseph Gosnell continues.

P. T. Johnston & Co., seeds, etc., Victoria, have assigned.

The stock of J. A. Ritchie, flour and feed, Victoria, is advertised to be sold by the sheriff.

The stock of W. N. Patton, drugs, Wollington, is advertised for sale.

John Clark, ship builder, Victoria, has assigned.

Grain and Milling News.

The following is reported as a take off on the many contradictory crop damage reports circulated of late: Special message from Topeka, Kansas. A farmer just in says that chinch bugs last night ate up all his crop, barns etc., and started in on his wagon and ate it all up but the king bolt, and when he woke up he had that in his hands.

The Schwartz grain elevator Altoona, Man., collapsed recently damaging a large quantity of wheat.

Meldrum & McAllister's flour mills at Peterboro, Ontario were consumed by fire on May 14. The damage will exceed \$100,000. Insurance about \$98,000.

Dairy Trade Notes.

The council of the Regina board of trade has voted \$100 to be invested in twenty paid up shares in the Regina Creamery Association.

La Borderie & Co., Ltd., of the Outterburn Man., creamery, are doubling the capacity of their factory. They expect a large delivery of milk this season. The price to be paid is 75c. per hundred pounds.

A. T. Wood, A. C. Bruce, H. A. Gillard, and J. A. Bruce will represent the Hamilton board of trade at the congress of chambers of commerce in London, in June.