

British Columbia.

The. Wall and J. Hough will open a hotel at Nanaimo, to be known as the Banimoral.

Daniel J. Nicholson, of Nicholson & Scott, proprietors of the Globe Hotel, Nanaimo, is dead.

A Mr. Heap is establishing a large furniture factory at Vancouver. He has secured a lease of property on Gold Creek, for the purpose.

The by-law placing a special license tax on commission merchants, at Vancouver, may be withdrawn. In the meantime efforts to collect taxes under the by-law will cease.

An indignation meeting of parties interested in the sealing industry in Behring Sea was held at Victoria, recently. Resolutions were passed asking for compensation for vessels already seized, for protection in the future and for a speedy settlement of the difficulty.

Owing to the death of the late Andrew Welch, a number of changes have taken place in the firm of Welch, Rithet & Co., of which the deceased gentleman was the head. In future the Victoria business will be carried on under the firm name and style of R. P. Rithet & Co. The name of the firm in San Francisco will remain as before—Welch, Rithet & Co.

Westminster Columbian:—It is understood the salmon packers of the Fraser river are making up an exhibit for the Toronto industrial exposition, which will be in every way worthy of the greatest industry of the province. All the principal packing establishments will be represented, and the whole exhibit will present a pyramid 30 feet high, which, without doubt, will prove one of the most interesting features in the whole exhibition. The exhibit as an advertisement will prove of great value to the exhibitors.

At a recent meeting of the Vancouver city council, Ald. McConnell gave a notice of motion as follows: "I hereby give notice that I will, at the next meeting of council introduce a motion to cancel the bonus of \$25,000 offered to the B. C. Smelting Co., also that their forfeit of \$5,000 be forfeited and placed to the credit of the city." The English syndicate which constructed the smelter, has so far failed to operate the works, hence the action as above stated. A considerable expenditure has been made on the work, which will be lost to the company, as well as the bonus, unless the works are put in operation at once.

Vancouver News:—The three blocks on Hastings street belonging to Dr. Lefevre, Capt. Tatlow, and W. E. Thompson, are being put up very rapidly considering their substantial character and the work which is being expended on them. They all give promise of being very handsome buildings and will be a credit to the City. Other handsome brick blocks through the City are also rising quickly. The Dunn-Miller block, Struther's, Delbruck's, Horne's, Turner's, Whotham's and others which, when finished, give an appearance of solidity to the City perhaps never seen in any other town of the same age as Vancouver.

The Fraser river hatchery is being put in readiness for the reception of salmon ova. Mr. Mowat expects to place 10,000,000 salmon eggs

in the hatchery this season. Mr. Mowat reports that the run of sockeye salmon up the Fraser has been something immense, and the Indians had no trouble in securing all they required for the winter's use. The Indians congregate from far and near and do their fishing in the Yale canyon, using dip nets with which they were able to bring out 8 or 10 fish at each dip, so plentiful were the fish. The water in the interior is very low for this season of the year, and, consequently, the conditions are very favorable for salmon spawning. The fish, owing to the low water, cannot get very far up the streams and are forced to spawn only a short distance inland from the principal rivers. In consequence of this the ova will be deeply covered with water when the fall rains begin, and will thus be protected against damage by frost when the cold weather sets in.

The last shipping report, issued by Robert Ward & Co., Victoria, dated Aug. 1st, says:—The freight market has remained firm throughout the month, and at the close owners are reluctant to accept current rates in the expectation of a further advance. Quite a number of charters have been written for lumber cargoes to Australia and more tonnage in this line is enquired for, at our quotations. The British ship Titania, from London, and Danish ship Doris Brodersen, from Liverpool, with general cargoes and the German barque, J. H. Hustede, with coal for the navy, have arrived and are under engagement to return with canned salmon. The salmon season opened fairly well upon our Northern rivers, and will probably yield a pack of 90,000 cases. On the Fraser river the catch has been excellent and continues at this writing; and fully 300,000 cases will be packed before the season closes, nearly the whole of which has been placed for the United Kingdom, with moderate lines for Australia and Eastern Canada.

The Westminster Columbian says: Many of the Indians who have been employed in the canneries during the past two months are leaving for their homes to harvest their crops and prepare for winter. Every day many canoes, loaded to the water's edge with ickus of all kinds, leave for the up river reservations, or for the Indian villages up the coast. This refers principally to the Indians who do a little farming. Those who do not take kindly to the tilling of the soil are departing for Washington Territory and Oregon to take part in the hop harvest, and unusually good inducements are held out to them by the hop growers this year. The Christian Indians, as usual, are accompanied by a priest who will remain with them and watch over their spiritual welfare till they are safe home again. This is considered very necessary by the church, as many of the Indians congregating on the hop fields are heathens, and unrestricted intercourse with these is certain to bear evil fruits. As far as possible the sects are kept separate, but it requires unremitting watchfulness on the part of the clergyman to maintain the strict order of no intercourse.

The Westminster Columbian says:—"Few persons, even in Westminster have any idea of the wages earned by fishermen during the past couple of months. Those fishermen who were lucky-enough to obtain licenses made as much

money in four weeks' fishing as a well paid mechanic makes in a year or fifteen months. The highest amount earned by any fisherman on the river was made by an Indian who fished for Ewen's cannery. In one month this man caught 14,000 fish, for which Ewen paid him in cash \$1,400—an average of over \$50 per day for every day's fishing. Other fishermen earned from \$600 to \$1,200 during the same period. These figures are enough to excite the envy of even a newspaper man." The money earned by the Indians is spent pretty freely with the local dealers, as will be seen by the following item from the same paper:—"This morning 92 Fort Douglas Indians with their canoes and outfit, and accompanied by their band, left on the steamer Irving for home. They took with them no less than 25 tons merchandise, purchased with the earnings of their summer's work in connection with the fishing industry. The Fort Douglas Indians live at the extreme northwestern end of Harrison Lake, and are as reputable a lot of Indians as any on the coast. They have an excellent brass band, which accompanies the chief of the tribe wherever he moves from one point to the other. The band was mustered on deck this morning as the steamer passed the river front and played a number of lively airs as a parting salute to tillieums who remained behind."

Fur Trade Notes.

The Fort William Journal says: Two cars passed through here the other day, the value of their contents reaching the nice little sum of \$117,300.25. They were loaded with furs of almost every conceivable variety, representing black and brown bears, badgers, beavers, ermines, fishers, red, cross and silver foxes, lynx, martins, minks, musquash, otter, racoons, skunks, weenusks, wolves and wolverines. Of this quantity Rat Portage furnished \$33,062.16; Wabigon, \$26,242.66; Savarrie, \$11,060.87, making a total of \$70,365.68. The other car hailed from Winnipeg, and contained furs to the amount of \$46,935.57.

The drying up of the ponds and small lakes during the last few years has been most disastrous to the muskrats. All over this western prairie region a series of dry years has been experienced, which has quite changed the appearance of the country. In sections where ponds and small lakes were numerous, now no surface water will be met with in many miles. Even some of the larger rivers and ponds have practically disappeared. Ducks and water fowl have also been affected by the drying up of the lakes and streams.

Big grain yields are now in order. The following is reported by the Westminster Columbian: Thirhill, of Lulu Island, B.C., tried an experiment with fall wheat last autumn, and the results have been even better than were anticipated. He sowed 14 acres last fall and when the spring opened the shoots soon made their appearance and continued to flourish till harvest time. A few days ago the wheat was threshed, and on measuring it was found the yield averaged 65 bushels to the acre, which, though large, would have been still greater but for the drought in July.