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BRITISH COLUMBIA.**Vancouver Business Review.**

June 18, 1894.

It has been impossible to get a report through for the past two weeks owing to trouble on the line of the C. P. R. from late floods. The two weeks that British Columbia has been cut off almost entirely from Manitoba has already become an historical period in the history of the province, and in the future will be known as the year of the great floods. There is no doubt that a great calamity has befallen the province, but it is also true that the floods have not been so disastrous as one would be led to believe from newspaper reports. Thanks to the prompt action of the government and generous support of philanthropists in and out of the province not a settler in the valley has gone hungry, and the government are supplying them with seed and the citizens with means to rebuild their fences. True, the greatest number of farms have been demoralized for one season and a large number of farmers are without a dollar in the world, but some will get a half crop from their land, and next year the rich sediment which has been lying in the bottom of the Fraser for generations and deposited upon the land by the floods will enable the farmers to raise double crops. Already the government are busy devising a comprehensive dyking scheme to insure the valley against future desolation by floods, and though land is cheap at present, being several feet under the river, the farmers are already gaining confidence, through the encouragement of the paternal government, whose cabinet ministers were among the first on the scene, and personally supervising the distribution of necessities among the temporarily distressed farmers. The merchants have been getting barely enough from the United States to last them until the Canadian Pacific Railway freight trains are running; one reason for this was the fact that United States houses raised the price for export of all staple articles as soon as they realized that they were the only source of supply for the province. So that during the season of trial business in Vancouver was dull indeed. Otherwise Vancouver or Victoria were not materially affected or will they be by the floods, except by a rising advance in the price of some few lines of produce, and even this may not happen. Another advantage of the floods is that the salmon run is expected to be very large, and quantities of gold will be washed down by the mountain torrents. Some have gone so far as to say that the Fraser valley in the long run will actually gain more

Every Mackintosh

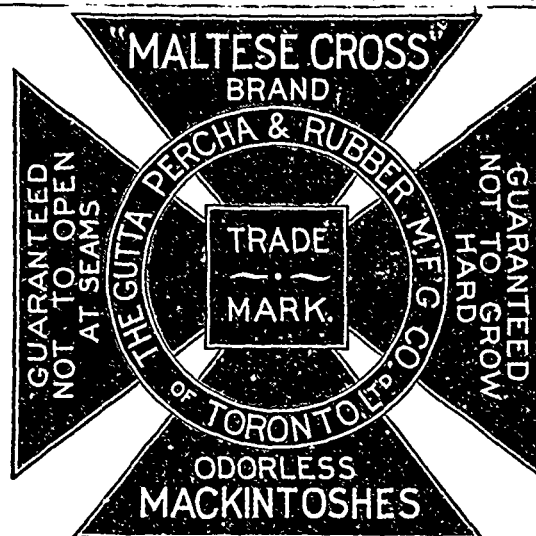
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than lose by the floods. Shipping is active in Vancouver, and traffic from the Orient and Australia is very large and increasing. The following is a brief statement of the cause and effect of the floods:—

There are three high tides on the Fraser river, British Columbia, every year, in March, April and June respectively, caused by snow on the mountains melting, and swelling the seasonable rise of the waters. In 1882, as well as the present year, there were no high tides in March or April, and on account of unusually cold weather, snow did not melt until May 22nd, when the weather became suddenly hot, and mountain rivulets for a hundred miles were changed into roaring torrents, three high tides as it were being thrown into one. The Fraser river farmers, for the past twelve years, since the great floods of 1892, have been rapidly settling on the bottom lands close to the river and building dykes to protect them from the high waters. The closer the river they got the more productive was the soil, accounting for the large number of farmers in a comparatively thinly settled country, who have been ruined by the present floods. Now that the worst is over a more accurate account can be given of the actual damage done. Your correspondent has been through the entire flooded district, collecting statistics from a number of old pioneers, and is able to present as accurate an account as can possibly be given as to the damage done. The direct loss to the Canadian Pacific Railway, according to the railroad officials, will not be over half a million dollars, but of course a much heavier loss will be sustained through stoppage of traffic, and hotel expenses for all delayed passengers, etc. On the Thompson, Bow, White, Spillamachine and Spillamachine the loss in British Columbia territory is estimated at about \$150,000. Of the Fraser river a more detailed account can be given. Commencing on the south side near the salt water, is a settlement called Ladners, 220 acres in extent. Here the land is comparatively high, and the loss to crops did not amount to more than \$5,000. Surrey municipality, ten miles square, 4,000 settlers, comes next. Loss to crops in Surrey is not more than \$6,000. Langley, the next municipality, is ten miles square, with 3,500 settlers; loss, bridges, \$5,000; crops, 30,000; chattels, real estate, cattle, etc., \$30,000—total, \$65,000. Matsqui is ten miles square, with 600 settlers; nearly all the settled section was inundated, through the dykes giving way; loss crops, \$20,000; fences, bridges, chattels, \$25,000; stock, \$8,000—total, \$53,000. Sumas, size, twelve miles by seven, five hundred settlers. All overflowed. Cattle were saved by being driven to mountain side, where the settlers bivouaced for one week. Loss from crops, \$50,000; bridges, fences, etc., \$5,000; cattle and household effects, \$50,000. Total, \$105,000. Chilliwack, the district most badly flood-

ed, prides itself in a town of about four thousand inhabitants, and was the first place settled on the Fraser valley. It is the richest section in British Columbia, being very highly cultivated. The crops and fruit farms of Chilliwack were an entire loss. To illustrate the height of the water at its highest point in Chilliwack it is sufficient to put on record that the steamer Courser sailed across lots to the Harrison hotel stables; took on 100 head of cattle and regained the main channel again by steaming down front street and out of the Slue. A conservative estimate of the damage to crops and fruits in Chilliwack is said to be \$500,000; household effects, bridges, cattle, etc., \$100,000. Total, \$600,000. On the north side of the river the first municipality is Richmond. High land loss not more than \$5,000. Next comes the Delta and South Vancouver. Total loss, \$20,000. Burnaby total loss, \$5,000. Coquitlam, nine miles square, settled by fifty people. Total loss by fences, bridges, etc., \$25,000. Maple Ridge, thirteen miles square, inhabited by 1,200 people, five miles from the Fraser, near Lillooet river. Latter river was backed up by the Fraser and did \$75,000 worth of damage. Mission, nine miles square, settled by a thousand people. The whole front facing the water was inundated, and \$150,000 worth of damage done. Dawdney, eight miles square, settled by 1,000 people; loss, \$10,000. Nicomen, not a soul left in the settlement; total loss estimated at \$100,000. Twelve miles between Nicomen and Yale is thinly settled, but the loss in this section is not less than \$50,000. In Yale district, including Kats Landing, the loss has been fully \$50,000. These figures aggregate about \$2,000,000, which is a very conservative estimate of the damage done by the floods.

B. C. Market Quotations.

BUTTER—Australian butter 26 to 28c; California cheese, 14c; California butter, 23 to 25c.

CURED MEATS—Hams, 14c; breakfast bacon, 14c; backs 13c; long clear 10c; short rolls, 12c. Lard is held at the following figures: In tins, 12c per pound; in pails and tubs, 11c; mess pork, \$18; short cut, \$22.

FISH—Prices are: Spring salmon, 7c; steel heads, 6c; flounders, 4c; smelt, 6c; seabass, 5c; cod, 6c; halibut, 8c; smoked salmon 12c; smoked halibut, 10c; blotters, 10c; kippered cod, 10c; colicans, 6c.

VEGETABLES—Potatoes, old, \$24; potatoes, new, \$39 onions, red, 1c; cabbage, 2c; carrots, turnips and beets, 2 to 1c a lb.

EGGS—Fresh, 25c.

FRUITS—Lemons, California, \$2.75 to 3.50; oranges, seedlings, \$2.75; Australian apples, \$1.75 to \$2; bananas, Honolulu, \$1.75 to 2.00 per bunch; pineapples, per dozen, \$2.50; cherries, per box, \$1.10; strawberries, per box, 15c.