

It is announced, that as an outcome of the visit to Ottawa of Hon. Premier Davie, an amicable understanding has been reached in connection with the railway belt dispute, while in regard to dyking along the Fraser River, the Dominion and Provincial Governments have arranged to appoint a joint commission to devise a comprehensive system of protection of the banks, similar action being contemplated with respect to the Columbia River near Revelstoke.

In compliance with promises recently made by Hon. Mackenzie Bowell and other members of the Government, an Order-in-Council has been passed authorizing a refund of 99 per cent. of the duty on articles entering into the manufacture of goods for export, instead of 90 per cent. as heretofore. The effect of the change will be to place the manufacturers of Canada in the most favorable position to compete with the manufactured products of adjacent and other countries in foreign markets.

Recent advices from Australia show business in the import market to have been void of animation; there was limited inquiry and poor prices. The weather had been variable, but there was reported to be a good show for the coming warm season. The New South Wales Assembly was considering a new land bill, while several important measures were under consideration affecting commerce and shipping. Confidence was being slowly restored, money was easier and property sales had been more numerous. Mining matters were quiet, the coal trade particularly not being as brisk as could be desired.

The contract for the Dominion Government buildings in Victoria has, we notice, been awarded to Mr. Frederick Toms, of Ottawa. They are estimated to cost \$190,000, in addition to the site for which \$75,000 were paid. Messrs. Elford & Smith, of Victoria, were some \$8,000 higher than the successful tenderer. It is said, that work on the new buildings will be commenced at an early date, and that it will be vigorously prosecuted. We hope so, as a work of some magnitude like this ought to give employment to a considerable number of people, whose prospects are not at present particularly bright. Mr. Toms is said to be a man who thoroughly understands his business, and, from a commercial point of view, is a thoroughly reliable man. He may be expected here in a few days, to make arrangements for going to work.

#### FOREIGN COAL SHIPMENTS.

The following are the New Vancouver Coal Co's shipments for the week ending November 3:

Date.	Vessel and Destination.	Tons.
28.	Tye, str., Port Townsend.....	45
30.	Montserrat, str., San Francisco..	1,473
1.	Harry Lynn, Roche Harbor.....	6
1.	R. E. Wood, bark, San Francisco	2,191
1.	Tacoma, str., Port Townsend....	46
2.	Tye, str., Port Townsend.....	81
Total.....		3,842

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