

O'Brien & Hill, saloonkeepers, Victoria, B.C., have dissolved partnership; S. O'Brien continues alone.

Louis Davis, of the late firm of Davis & Fleishman, has purchased from James H. Ross, assignee for Woods & McBride, the bankrupt stock of the latter estate at Donald, at 43 cents on the dollar, and \$100 for the building.

The estate of Wilson Bros & Co., founders, of Victoria, is now in the hands of trustees and it is the intention of the creditors to allow them to continue the business. If the concern does not prove successful in their hands it will be wound up. These trustees assume no financial responsibility. Liabilities are \$21,000 and the assets, plant, etc., are valued at \$33,000.

Affairs at the Westminster fish hatchery are progressing very favorably, and already a large number of young fry, about 1,000,000, have been hatched, and will soon be sufficiently well developed to be sent out to battle in the world of waters. Mr. Mowat, the Inspector of Fisheries, has put eggs to the number of about 4,000,000 in the different waters of the province.

The death has been announced at San Jose, Cal., of Joseph Spratt, a well-known citizen and pioneer of Victoria. Mr. Spratt was the founder of the Albion Iron Works, now the largest industrial institution of the province. He was also interested in shipping. The foundry was sold to a stock company in 1882, and about a year ago he undertook the establishment of a machinery depot at Victoria, in connection with A. Gray, an institution which was described a few weeks ago in this journal.

The Canadian Pacific Navigation Co. has cabled their acceptance of the terms of the shipbuilding firm on the Clyde for their new steamer, which, as before stated, will cost in the neighborhood of \$200,000, and will run between Victoria and Vancouver. In the course of a couple of weeks Capt. J. Irving will leave for Scotland and will personally superintend the construction of the steamer, which he states will be fitted out with every comfort and convenience, and furnished and ornamented with the best of material. The steamer will be completed and ready to go on the route by August next.

Capt. Clarke, of Winnipeg, who was in charge of the agricultural section of the Canadian exhibit at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London, 1886, of the Canadian exhibits at the Jubilee Exhibitions in Liverpool and Saltire, 1887, and will be in charge of the Canadian section at the coming International Exhibition which opens in Glasgow in the spring, is at present doing the province. He will visit the different settlements so as to be able to answer from personal knowledge the many questions asked him in the Old Country by intending emigrants, concerning British Columbia.

### General Notes.

There are now about 60,000 bales of raw cotton, in value about \$3,000,000, used annually in the Dominion—an increase in ten years of nearly fifty thousand bales. There are altogether in the Dominion about half a million of spindles employing about nine thousand hands, with an invested capital of about eight million dollars.

A number of failures throughout Ontario have resulted from the assignment of W. J. McMasster & Co., of Toronto.

Twenty-one creameries were in operation in Ontario last season, turning out an aggregate quantity of 764,630 pounds of butter. The average price obtained by the different creameries for the season ranged from 19½ to 22½ cts.

A stringent law against the fraudulent sale of butter substitutes has gone into effect in Great Britain. The law provides that such butter substitutes shall be branded with the real name, in a conspicuous manner, under pain of heavy fine for infringement.

The receipts of hogs in Montreal from Nov. 1st, 1887, to Jan. 10th, 1889, aggregate 30,011 head, against 22,610 head for the corresponding period last year, showing an increase of 7,401 in spite of which there has been an advance in prices over those of a year ago.

The *Illustrated London News*, (American edition) is to hand this week full of interesting illustrations, gathered from various parts of the world. With this number commences a new story of "Adventures in a House Boat," which cannot fail to be interesting.

Brazil coffee forms the basis of the supply for this country. The visible supply is 255,000. The expected Brazil crop due shortly is believed to be larger than ever. No fears are entertained of a scarcity.

At a meeting of the creditors of Thibadeau, Girard & Co., wholesale dry goods, Montreal, last week, a statement was submitted showing the liabilities \$37,953, and assets \$58,120. A proposition for quarterly payments was made and will probably be accepted.

Hamilton, Brown & Co., wholesale clothiers, Montreal, assigned on Wednesday last, liabilities, \$40,000; assets, about \$24,000. The mysterious disappearance of Lawrence C. Rose, one of the partners, who was a defaulter with \$10,000, is the sole cause of the failure.

In an article on dairy produce in the *London Quarterly Review* the writer says: "Canada has doubled her exports of cheese, having improved the quality and gained in reputation, while the Americans have been ruining the reputation of their cheese by depriving it of cream and introducing lard and other kinds of fat."—The *Toronto Empire* sees in this an argument against commercial union.

*Montreal Journal of Commerce*: We have some complaints from Western traders concerning the quality of the yellow refined sugar in the market. They say it contains considerably greater proportion of moisture of late, and that its inferior sweetening qualities and impurities are beginning to tell upon the housewife's preserves. There is a gaining tendency toward the general use of granulated, which, since the recent organization, has been of uniformly good quality—from 99 to 99.5 per cent. of pure saccharine.

*Montreal Journal of Commerce*: The sugar combination has now succeeded in forcing all but one wholesale grocery firm in this city into its ranks. The combine's rate for granulated is now 7½c, less 2½ discount, whilst to non-consumers it is 7½c, or a difference of about 85c a barrel, which those outside the combine have

to pay. Yellow are 6½ to 7c, but there is hardly any obtainable. In addition to this, the only firm now outside the ranks is bound to buy two barrels of yellow sugar for every barrel of white they require, which in the present state of the supply, practically cuts them entirely off so far as Canadian refineries are concerned.

Henry Taylor, the defaulting president of the London Bank, was committed for trial at the assizes duly. The Grand Jury brought in a true bill on two counts, one for embezzlement of \$5,000, the other for \$10,000. The case was adjourned to the spring assizes.

### Western Trade Notes.

EDWARD LEE, shoemaker, Portage la Prairie, has commenced business in his line at Neepawa, Man.

A postoffice was opened on February 1st, at Langenburg, on the M. & N. W. Railway, with C. Hinek as postmaster.

The total amount of money realized at the late sale of lands for taxes at Fort William, reached the sum of \$4,709.36.

The Rat Portage Council lately passed a motion asking the C.P.R. to change its time table so that trains would pass that place in the day time, instead of at 11.30 p. m. and 4 a. m. as at present. Better station accommodation was also demanded.

A committee from Rapid City has arranged with the Municipal Commissioner for a settlement of the \$2,000 due by that town to the judicial district. One half the amount will be paid, and the commissioner has agreed to wait until the next tax sale for the balance.

An application for incorporation is being made by "The Chinook Belt and Peace River Railway Company," authorizing and empowering the said company to construct a railway, at or near to, or between Calgary and Gleichen, thence to at, or near the town plot of Edmonton, and thence to the Peace River in the Northwest Territories of Canada, with the usual powers to build a telegraph or telephone in connection therewith.

Calgaryites are greatly exercised over the natural gas question, and only lack of funds prevent the council from making a test for gas. The *Tribune* thus refers to the subject: "There is scarcely a citizen who does not believe that a test should be made, and not many would not be in favor of the Town Council making the test if they had the means to do it. As to that, the Town Council, if it was certain of making a successful test, would be quite justified in spending the money. There can be no doubt of that. But there is an element of speculation in such a test, and question is,—supposing the test was unsuccessful, could the town stand the loss? We believe ourselves that the test would be successful, and in such a case this town would be in a more blessed condition than any other on the continent. Out of the revenue that would be obtained from natural gas all the liabilities and current expenses of the town could be met and taxation practically done away with. Besides this the cost of fuel and light would be only a fraction of what it is now,—so cheap that if a manufactory or a smelter were about to be established in the Northwest it would necessarily come to Calgary."