

Westminster's Progress.

The *Columbian* of New Westminster, B. C., tells the progress of that place as follows:—

A freight train of 12 cars heavily loaded with the produce of Westminster city and neighboring districts, was dispatched east this morning over the C. P. R. The train analysis showed five carloads of salmon for Montreal and London, two of lumber for the Territories, and five carloads of miscellaneous produce for distribution throughout the east. The steamers *Rainbow* and *Dunsmuir* arriving here yesterday afternoon brought heavy consignments of freight, which were incorporated in this train. Five more carloads of freight bound for the east will be despatched from the city to-morrow morning.

An examination into Westminster's trade, export and import, for 1890, would furnish some astonishing and gratifying statistics. The increase in business in all departments of the city's commercial interests during the year has been marvellous, and far in excess of what could have been anticipated from the trade of last year and former years.

The shipments of rough and dressed lumber this year have surpassed anything known in the past. The establishments in and near the city dealing in this class of goods, in spite of their vast capacity have been kept working, virtually, night as well as day, to keep pace with their orders. As may be readily believed, the output from the sawmills in consequence of this prodigious amount of steady labor has been well nigh incalculable.

In the salmon canning industry a very satisfactory showing is noticeable for the year. The season has been remarkable in more ways than one; in it has been smashed the old tradition that a successful year was always followed by a poor one. As is well known, 1899, was signalized by, perhaps, one of the greatest catches on record, and those who had faith in the above mentioned tradition anticipated with every confidence a poor run of salmon in the Fraser this year. This expectation has happily been proved quite fallacious, and it is putting the case moderately to say that all the canneries have done well this year. The quality of the fish was also up to the famous Fraser River standard, which leads the market.

Another new departure, at least more seriously now in this line of business than ever attempted here in years gone by, was the canning of a large quantity of home grown fruit by the *Bon Accord* Canning Company. That the company's enterprise has been rewarded with the most flattering results will be learned with pleasure by our citizens. Complete success crowned the venture and its repetition next year is down on the programme of 1891 as one of the absolute certainties. The company will then engage in the enterprise on a scale of magnitude never before attempted in this Province. This will prove a splendid outlet for the superabundant fruit harvests from the fertile ranches of the Fraser valley.

Never in the history of the building trade in this city has such a demand for its valuable services been recorded. Aladdin with his wonderful lamps and the puissant assistance of his familiar genies could not have accomplished such astonishing changes in the appearance of the Royal City as the builders have done since the commencement of this memorable year. The old, decayed and unsightly hovels of former years on some of our business streets have, in

many cases, been torn down and swept away and supplanted by noble edifices of stone and brick. Vacant lots, that were like unwholesome patches on the city's face, have been obliterated by towering, magnificent business blocks, wherein the busy hum of commerce can be heard the livelong day. Evidence of prosperity, the most incontestable and the most satisfactory in the form of pretty cottages, handsome villas and splendid mansions, have sprung up all over the crest of the hill behind the business streets.

The furniture trade has been excellent during the year and enlarged factories and store rooms will probably emphatically mark the success which has smiled upon the trade during 1890.

Among the shipping a revolution in carrying records has marked this season. The freights to and from the city have been invariably heavy and valuable. The amount of farm produce on the city wharves this summer beats with ease all records of the past, and the steamers plying between the up-river ports and the city have frequently been taxed to their utmost to accommodate their consignments. To Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver and Puget Sound a great increase in traffic has been noted.

The great extension just completed in the telephone system speaks loudly in favor of the city's advance on the path of enterprise and improvement. There are now no less than 145 instruments in use in the city.

The Southern Railway is now an accomplished fact and has ten miles of track laid to the boundary. Before the year is out the British side of the line will be completed and regular passenger and freight trains running between Westminster, Seattle and San Francisco.

With the Surrey side of the river there will soon be sure and comfortable communication; the ferry boat soon to be launched will be a vessel worthy of pride. She will make regular and frequent trips, and on the south side of the river a fine wharf and plank road will make access to the main highway a matter of easy accomplishment.

But of all that has happened to Westminster in the year, nothing, perhaps, merits greater praise than, or is of such substantial and lasting worth as the street improvements. Never were funds more appropriately expended than the city's wealth upon her beautiful streets, parks, avenues and squares. Queen's Park alone is a work of municipal genius. Work upon the park is being kept steadily going and with patience and perseverance our beautiful recreation ground will ere long blossom as the rose.

In closing, it may be remarked that the projects under way now are: A system of water works; a steamer to make a daily round trip between Victoria and Westminster; an electric city railway; an electric tramway between this city and Vancouver; a new public library; new police headquarters; a little further in futuro, a high-level steel traffic bridge between Westminster and South Westminster; a court house, a new ferry steamer, several big business blocks; an electric lighting plant, and, possibly a railway bridge across the Fraser. So it will be seen that the future of this city is bright and clear and that she is bound to flourish.

A cable on Friday reports that the Bank of England rate of discount has been advanced to 5 per cent.

Manitoba Wheat.

A sample of wheat grown near Birtle last year and ground at the mill there, was sent to the London *Miller* and by the management of this journal submitted to W. A. Thomas, a flour expert, for testing. This gentleman reports as follows:

"I find the flour to be from spring wheat of exceptionally fine quality. It is a patent grade of the highest class, medium low ground, and very finely dressed. I have tested it dry, wet, and by baking, along with five other spring wheat patent brands of flour from the best mills in Minnesota. Compared with the five other samples tested dry, this patent grade is whiter, finer textured, purer or freer from specky matter, but is inferior to all the others in the yellowish tint we call 'bloom.' This is due to the milling and not to the wheat. The bloom is there in the flour, but hidden by the finer state of division of its particles compared with the higher ground larger particles of the other samples.

The wet test consists in compressing, side by side in an apparatus, a small quantity of each of the six samples into thin, long, and narrow slabs, immersing in water for a few seconds, removing and keeping covered from dust for about twelve hours. The samples are then dry, their surface a semi-solid dough which the light effects equally. So treated, the verdict as to bloom has to be reversed. The Birtle sample has then a yellowish color, such as is seen only in the finer grades of Hungarian flour, and the other samples beside it are practically bloomless, greyish and specky. Tested by water as to strength or bread yield, the Birtle wheat flour is over the average in strength, beating four of the five samples, but beaten by one of them two quarters—8 lbs.—per sack of 280 lbs of flour. The second place as to strength I believe is also due to the milling. The miller, in aiming to "beat creation" by grinding low and dressing fine, has excluded from the flour much of the strongest parts of the wheat.

The baking test included a sample of Hungarian along with the others, and confirm the wet tests as to bloom and yields. The Hungarian was best in flavour and color, but lowest in volume, the Birtle was best in volume, texture, and silky skin, and beat all the other spring samples in color and flavour. The bread was very fine. I believe this Birtle wheat well cleaned, ground high and dressed moderately fine, would give a flour unsurpassed by any I have seen. I have, from the flour, formed a very high opinion of the wheat, and I believe that on this side of the Atlantic there is practically an unlimited market for such wheat, or flour from it."

A committee of the Yankton, South Dakota, chamber of commerce have made a public protest against untruthful and damaging statements as to failure of crops in South Dakota which they claim are fully up to the average of the best agricultural states of the Union.

The September number of the *Farmer's Advocate*, Winnipeg, is to hand. It is a fine number. The full page illustration of the Brandon Summer Fair is an excellent engraving, while the illustration of Hope farm, St. Jean Baptiste, is no way behind it as a work of art, and shows what a Manitoba farm may be made by a little taste. There are also two lithographs of pure bred stock. The reading matter is of interest and value to all who keep a cow or farm an acre of ground.

