

supplies seem scarce here. Sheep quoted at 31-2c here.

HOGS—Practically there are none offering. Nominal at 43-4c off cars, for selected weights.

MILCH COWS—Prices range from \$25 to \$10.

HORSES—There is some demand for horses for the woods, but this demand is about over. One car of heavy draft and general purpose horses from the United States was received.

The Montreal Fire.

Montreal, Dec. 21.—The loss by last night's fire will amount to about \$1,100,000, on which was insurance of \$1,009,000. The entire block belonged to the estate of Duncan McIntyre. The value of the part occupied by Greenshields was between \$50,000 and \$60,000, and the stock of goods inside, which was very complete, and but recently materially added to by importations, is estimated at some \$600,000. The part occupied by McIntyre & Son is valued at \$30,000 to \$35,000, and the stock in the neighborhood of \$400,000. The Leggatt property, valued at \$50,000, was badly injured, though some of the stock will be saved. Their loss will be about \$50,000 altogether. In the case of the Greenshields and McIntyre the stocks and buildings are practically a total loss and in the Leggatt case will amount to a large part of the insurance.

THE INSURANCE.

The companies interested and the amounts are as follows: Aetna, \$15,000; Alliance, \$40,000; Atlas, \$50,000; British American, \$32,000; Calendonian, \$55,000; Commercial Union, \$60,000; Connecticut, \$25,000; Guardian, \$60,000; Hartford, \$10,000; Imperial, \$45,000; Lancashire, \$52,500; Liverpool, London and Globe, \$39,000; London and Lancashire, \$15,000; London Assurance, \$30,000; Manchester, \$10,000; North British and Mercantile, \$85,000; Northern, \$35,000; North American, \$10,000; Phoenix of Hartford, \$15,000; Phoenix of London, \$95,000; Quebec, \$121,000; Queen's, \$10,000; Royal, \$100,000; Scottish Union and National, \$10,000; Sun, \$20,000; Union, \$30,000; Western, \$42,000. Total \$1,009,000. Mark Fisher & Co. were damaged to the amount of \$5,000 and the city of Montreal lost \$25,000 by the destruction of the water tower and other fire apparatus.

THE BURNT BUILDINGS.

Montreal, Dec. 21.—The Greenshields block, destroyed this morning by fire, was situated on the corner of Craig street and Victoria Square and has been well known for years as one of the finest warehouses and office buildings in the Dominion. It was six stories in height and built of stone, each flat being one hundred by one hundred feet in size. The building was fitted throughout with thermostat electric fire alarms and had also electric burglar alarms. There were nine distinct departments. The basement and part of the second floor were devoted to cotton goods, on the third carpets and house furnishings, fancy goods and notions on the fourth, imported and domestic woollens, haberdashery and men's furnishings, on the fifth the small wares. The entry room was in the rear of the ground floor and below it was the shipping and receiving department. There were eighty people employed in the warehouse. Many firemen had miraculous escapes from death; several of them were on

the roof of the McIntyre building just before the fire wall fell in, but they managed to get down in time. The wall fell on the water tower which was playing on the building, completely wrecking it. The building occupied by S. Greenshields, Son & Co. and McIntyre, Son and Co., were entirely destroyed, while the falling walls carried away part of the roof and wall of the adjoining structure on Craig street, occupied on the lower floor by Napoleon Torangeau, dealer in artificial limbs, trusses, etc., and on the upper floors by L. E. A. F. Waters, printers and publishers, and Jas. Leggatt, wholesale boots and shoes. The damage to stock and plant of these people will be considerable.

British Columbia Items.

Kelly & McHugh, hotel, Vancouver, have sold out.

Annan & McDonald, hotel, Vancouver, are selling out.

John Lefevre, boots and shoes, has opened at Vancouver.

S. J. Mark, grocer, etc., Vernon, has sold out to Frank Gibbs.

A. J. Venn contemplates opening a general store at Salmon Arm.

The Royal Soap Co., Ltd., is applying for incorporation at Vancouver.

Gaine & Roy have opened a wholesale liquor and clothing store in Cascade City.

Hiram J. Robertson, hardware and tins, Slocan City, has opened a branch at Sandon.

Shotton & Mead, plumbers, Kamloops, have dissolved; style now Shotton & McClaughan.

A cigar factory will be opened at New Westminster by a firm composed of J. Molena and B. Wilberg.

Sheasgreen & Co., gents' furnishings, Vancouver, have had their stock damaged by fire; fully insured.

L. M. Livingston & Co., general merchants, of Deer Park, have opened a branch of their business at Niagara.

Clarke & Co., drugs, Kamloops, have amalgamated with the Kamloops Drug Co., Ltd.

Horses and dogs are in demand for Yukon and the interior mining camps. A number of pack animals have been bought up in the Kamloops ranching district for this trade.

McPhee & Moore, general merchants, Cumberland and Courtney, have dissolved. Jos. McPhee continues at Courtney, and is admitting his son, Walter S., as McPhee & Son. J. C. Moore continues at Cumberland in his own name.

John O'Leary, a well known railway contractor, who has been operating in Kootenay district for several years, was killed on the Robson-Penticton railway, upon which he had a sub-contract.

Christmas trade is very brisk and prices are stiffening, owing to the excellent demand for all lines of staples, as this upward tendency will last a few days only, it would be misleading to quote the changes in the market report.

It was announced this week that the Hastings lumber mills were to start again as soon as machinery could be installed. This is indeed, good news for Vancouver. It is estimated that every ship loading lumber at this port within the last ten or fifteen years has left \$2,000 among the merchants of Vancouver, to say nothing of the

large number of hands the mill has employed. The most modern machinery is to be installed, and the capacity of the mill very much increased.

The incessant rain in Vancouver has temporarily suspended building operations. The demand for dwelling houses continues unabated, unfurnished cottages are renting for \$25 and \$30, while furnished dwelling houses of the ordinary rent at \$40 and \$15 for short periods of from three to six months. The hotels are doing a rushing business and restaurants are becoming numerous. Similar reports come from Victoria. In Victoria and Vancouver this week were placed very large orders for supplies for the White Pass railway. Another very large order from the same source is promised for the near future for both cities.

Some of the latest business changes in the Kootenay are as follows: Chas. Guise has opened a clothing store at Greenwood, A. Skofesal, grocer, of Brandon, B. C., will shortly open a store in the Boundary country. W. C. Weitman has opened a barber shop and cigar store at Midway. John L. White, of Slocan City, is about to open a branch drug store at Greenwood. The Slocan City News Co. has closed its Slocan City branch, Hiram Robertson, hardware, of Slocan City, has opened a branch at Sandon. J. D. O'Neil & Co., hardware, has closed out at Slocan City. McLennan & Co., Slocan City, have sold their flour and feed business. Thomas & Gregor, of Rossland, have closed the Brooklyn branch of their liquor and cigar house.

Mining Notes.

James Hammond, of the Hammond Gold Reef Mining Co., Port Arthur district, reports 93 ounces of gold from the last clean up, being from 396 tons of rock milled in eighteen days.

The machinery for the av-stamp mill at Ymir has arrived. The work of erecting the mill will be proceeded with rapidly and the mill will be ready for operation by the middle of January.

The first ten days' production of gold for December, by the Portage district mines, exceeds all previous records of that district. Here is the production. Sultana, \$6,400; Regina, \$5,000; Mikado, \$18,000; Golden Star, \$3,000.

A nickel claim in Garson township, Sudbury district, has been disposed of to the Oxford Copper company, for the sum of \$53,000. Considerable development work has been done on the property, consisting of two shafts about 500 feet apart, and a smelting furnace is in course of erection.

The prospectus of the Dominion Consolidated Mines company has been issued. The company has a number of very promising claims in Fairview. The following is the directorate: I. Oppenheimer, Vancouver, B. C.; Stephen Mangott, Fairview, B. C.; John Love, Fairview, B. C.; A. R. Melnits, Toronto; John R. Barber, M. P. P., Toronto; W. J. Bickell, Toronto, President. Geo. H. Maurer, vice-president, A. E. Mason, secretary-treasurer, L. W. Shatford.

The Commercial staff were regaled by a box of delicious sweets from Paulin & Co. this week.

There is a big demand for nuts in eastern markets at present. Cables from Spain received report an advance of 1c in the price of Tarragona almonds.