

A London cable says: The privy council has granted British Columbia leave to appeal from a judgment of the supreme court of Canada respecting the title to minerals in the railway belt within that province.

R. W. Allbee has bought out the stationery stock of A. Reid at Vancouver and has authorised A. M. Beattie to sell it out next week. It will be sold at private sale for a few days and then it will be finally closed by auction.

A large and influential meeting was held at New Westminster on Tuesday. The suggestion of the board of trade to send two delegates to Ottawa to impress upon the Government the desirability of at once taking steps to improve the entrance of the Fraser river was unanimously adopted, and the delegation appointed, and will leave at once.

Capt. Armstrong has returned to Golden from Montreal accompanied by Austenout, mechanical engineer, who will shortly commence the construction of two new steamers to ply on the Columbia river. The largest steamer is to be fitted up in style, with an eye to carrying passengers who are expected to visit this picturesque and rich mineral region the coming season.

The annual meeting of the Vancouver, B.C., board of trade was held last week in the board rooms, at which there was a large attendance. A most exhaustive report was presented by the President, Mayor Oppenheimer, and the secretary made a full report of the work of his office. The retiring officers were re-elected by acclamation and a vote of thanks passed to the president.

Vancouver News: The work on the new C.P.R. shops is being pushed forward, and the foundations for several of the machines are already erected. The boilers and furnaces are being built and the engine erected. The latter is 10 horse-power. The round house and turntable are completed and occupied. At the works the scene is a busy one, and gives the visitor a good idea of the enormous sums of money the C.P.R. is expending in Vancouver, and the immense benefit the shops will be to the city, employing as they will 300 or 400 men steadily.

Two Chinamen who applied for licenses as pawnbrokers, at Victoria, and were refused, brought suit against the corporation. Judgment was given with costs against the corporation. The Chief Justice intimated that the Legislature has not the power to pass a law discriminating between applicants for pawnbrokers' licenses and could not give the council the power of exercising a discretion, although the wording of the Municipal Act might give a discretion, still it was an implied duty on the council's part to issue the license and that the resolution of the council in this case was an arbitrary and unreasonable exercise of a discretion, even if given and could not be sustained.

New settlers have rather a novel way of providing themselves with habitations. They just turn the stump of some huge tree into a house. The following is from the *Westminster Columbian*: "On the road between Langley and Sumas there is a settler who lives in the stump of

a huge hollow cedar, and although this may seem a rather primitive and uncivilized abode, still the occupant is as happy and comfortable as if he dwelt in marble halls, and possibly more so. The cedar was cut some fifteen feet from the ground, and the circumference at that height is thirty feet and diameter ten feet. The stump is arranged into 'three divisions, having a cellar twelve feet square underneath the roots, then a kitchen and dining room on the ground flat, and, lastly, a bedroom on the second storey. The house is arranged with a door and two windows, and though the latter are not plate glass, yet they give sufficient light to answer all purposes. In the kitchen is a fire-place, which serves for both cooking and heat-purposes."

The Appeal to the East.

The following is the reply received from the Montreal board of trade, in answer to the resolutions of the Winnipeg board:—

In reply to your letter of 10th ult., enclosing copy of resolutions passed at the recent annual meeting of the Winnipeg board of trade, I am to say that the council of this board is deeply sensible that the question of adequate railway facilities for the prompt movement of crops is of the utmost importance to the province of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories; it also recognizes that the more eastern provinces of the Dominion, and especially Ontario and Quebec, are scarcely less deeply interested in a question so vital to the general prosperity.

That serious inconvenience has been suffered during the past two or three months by those who handle your crops, from their inability to obtain cars, does not admit of a doubt.

The council believe, however, that the management of the Canadian Pacific Railway is entitled to say that the demands upon the road owing to an exceedingly bountiful harvest, suddenly grew beyond all expectation, and also that severe snow storms have greatly retarded their efforts to afford relief. It further appears evident to the council that no system of railways can be expected to move the great harvests of the Northwest in a few months; relief should therefore be sought from increased storage facilities along the line of the road as well as from increased rolling stock. The council would point to the experience of railways in the American Northwest (where the lack of transport has also been severely felt) for proof that extensive elevator and warehouse capacity are essentials to the smooth workings of the several railroads as well as to the best interests of the farmers and grain merchants.

While recommending this, the council does not hesitate to say that adequate railway facilities ought to be supplied, so that the prosperity of the Northwest, which is our prosperity, shall be as little likely as is humanly possible, to be interrupted by a recurrence of the present state of things.

In conclusion, I am to assure you that the council is prepared to heartily co-operate in any legitimate way with your board in its efforts to promote the interests of a province with which Montreal desires to cultivate the closest and most friendly relations.

In acknowledging the communication the Winnipeg board says:—

"That this board desires to assure the board at Montreal that as soon as the province is in possession of those adequate railway facilities with which they state we ought to be supplied, then increased storage facilities and prompt movement of grain will immediately follow.

"That until the railway question of the province is settled it is difficult to induce anyone to invest capital in the erection of more buildings, whether for the storage of grain or other purposes.

"That this board is glad to feel that we can look to Montreal for that hearty co-operation, in future efforts to promote the interests of this province, it has so kindly promised."

In reply to the resolutions received from the Toronto board, the secretary of the Winnipeg board writes:—

"I am directed by the council of this board to inform you that the following resolution was passed at a meeting held yesterday afternoon: 'Resolved, that the council of the Winnipeg board of trade has with great pleasure received the resolution passed by the Toronto board of trade with respect to the grain blockade existing in Manitoba, together with other disabilities which the province and adjoining territories labor. That since the annual meeting of this board events have transpired in Manitoba confirming and emphasizing the action and proceedings then taken, and this council is conscious that the people of Manitoba and the Northwest feel gratified with the recognition, assistance and furtherance of the course pursued by this board, as so fully recognized and set forth in the resolution of the Toronto board."

Grenfell is to have a cheese factory. The merchants of the town and the farmer around are forming a joint stock company.

An important meeting of the Indian Head and Qu'Appelle Valley Agricultural society was held lately. The chief business was taking the necessary steps to incorporate the society. Very few more signatures are required to complete the number required by the ordinance. The question of erecting suitable buildings for the society's next annual show was referred to a committee. The name was altered to "The Indian Head Agricultural Society."

The Canada Northwest Land Company's report, which will be submitted at a meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, on March 29th, shows the sales of farm lands to be much improved over 1886. The total sales were 19,113 acres, of which 2,380 were in suspense at the close of 1886, leaving 16,733 actually sold as compared with 8,213 in 1886. The sum of the nett proceeds of sales of town and village sites was £4,192. The total number of shares cancelled to the end of 1887 on account of land sales is 342.

It appears that the mill project at McGregor, Man., has fallen into new, and it is hoped better hands. A correspondent writes: "Mr. Whitelaw, of Woodstock, Ont., is here unloading machinery for a mill and returns home to-day, after which he will dispatch a man from his shops to complete the mill. Our experience in mill bonuses has been a painful one, and it would be well for other municipalities to profit by our experience and see that none but men of capital get leave to take hold of such things."