

## PROGRESSIVE BUSINESS MEN.

We are glad to learn that there are in Victoria some gentlemen—even if their numbers reach only, as it is stated, "from one to six," who have some ideas of progress and are anxious to be abreast, if not ahead, of the times. Their zeal, however, to let people know who they are and what they intend to do apparently oozed out at their fingers' ends, for the meeting called the other day by some of the more ambitious and demonstrative of them turned out, it is reported, a miserable failure, and the proposed organization was still born. How much it might have accomplished had it only received the proper elements of life, it is difficult to conceive. The promoters of the departure were assuredly not anarchists for they desired to do some building up; but, because they were, in a sense, agnostics, they were doomed to failure.

As far as our information goes, it was not because the promoters were heavy men that what little life there was was crushed out of their undertaking, but it seems to have been because of the lightness of their calibre and their lack of commercial "influence" that their movement failed to catch on. They have this satisfaction, however, young and green though they may be, they will possibly improve with age. As they grow older, the first named difficulty will disappear, and, if they only hold on, they may get much better seasoned when, if they are of the same mind as to the need of a "Progressive Business Men's Association," they may induce commercial men of ripe experience to join in with them. We are not aware who constitute the body of promoters of the association; probably had they contrived to bring it more prominently forward, it might have received serious attention from Victoria's solid men who have not quite unnaturally been led to think that the idea was to play at business as some of our would be public juveniles have an inclination to play at politics.

## BEWARE OF IMITATIONS!

It will be remembered that some time since prosecutions were instituted and successfully carried out against a number of persons, an important part of whose business it was to place on the market what purported to be Hennessy's brandy, while liqueurs and spirits of other well-known brands were also offered either in original bottles, the old labels of which had been carefully cleaned, or with labels that were so excellent an imitation that it was difficult to detect the fraud. The punishment—a heavy fine—was meted out to the offenders, and it was hoped that in this way an end would be put to the practices of the misdemeanants; but the crime is frequently brought to light, and it is understood that all over the Dominion special efforts are being devoted to put an end to these practices.

Moreover, imitations of Lea & Perrin's Worcester Sauce, Crosse & Blackwell's Pickles and other condiments have been and are still being looked after, it having been discovered that the public has been grossly imposed upon by open and unblushing counterfeiting, but, as in the

case of the brandies, by means of original bottles having in some cases a forged label, and in others one made closely to resemble the genuine thing, in name, color, type, and directions, but having in somewhat minute type something to signify that it was put up by So and so—not the original patentee.

From start to finish the whole thing has been and is a gross swindle, and it is due to the consumers that the offenders, wherever and wherever they may be, should be discovered and brought to justice. It is said that recent inquiries made on this coast with respect to some of these swindles are not unlikely to result in criminal prosecutions, and, it may be, the exposure to the public view of other deceptions that have been practised by some people who were apparently too anxious and too much in a hurry to get rich to wait for their riches to be acquired in a straightforward manner. Recent reports issued by the Government at Ottawa have indicated to some extent how great and how deep-rooted is the evil, which all honest men will be only too anxious to see brought to an end.

## B. C. BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual report of the British Columbia Board of Trade has been officially published. When it was presented at the annual meeting of that institution, we glanced at some of its contents, and are now glad to see them compiled and put together in a more convenient and handy form for present and future reference. The record is one of almost uninterrupted progress, but it shows in not a few instances where the apathy and neglect of the authorities at Ottawa have prevented far more satisfactory results. In this connection, the information given in tabular form is especially valuable, showing how much we have achieved year after year. It may not be out of place to observe that exports, the produce of Canada, from British Columbia for the year ending June 30 last, amounted to \$6,574,981, of which products of the mine were \$2,979,470 and the fisheries, \$2,351,083. These are our own provincial resources, and to them may be added products of the forest \$125,278 which come directly under the same category. This is no small showing for a province like ours which was only recently so lightly esteemed that a certain section of Dominion politicians who always turn their attention to Washington, had no hesitation in talking about a severance of the connection. In this matter of exports, in proportion to population we more than hold our own. Then, if we turn to our contributions to the public revenue, as evidenced by our customs department collections, we are able to say that we are not a whit behind. The revenue figures for the year were: Customs, \$1,306,971; Victoria contributing \$1,031,601. We do not desire to harp on the same old string all the time, but what are we getting in return for this contribution? Official neglect whenever we demand that necessary improvements and public works be carried out—delays and high-handed treatment when we ask that our grievances be redressed.

## THE FUR OUTLOOK.

LATEST cable advices indicate that there is an upward tendency in the price of furs, recent quotations from C. M. Lampson & Co., the well known London fur handlers, giving fifty-five and sixty shillings the price of seals. The local interest is manifestly satisfied with the turn things are taking, if we may judge by the shipments which are being constantly made from Victoria. Lampson & Co., hold sales of general furs on Nov. 21 and 22, when raccoon, skunk, opossum, mink, marten sable, grey, red, and white fox, bear, wolf, wallaby, wombat, Chinchilla monkey, otter, and Thibet lamb will be offered. On Nov. 23rd, 7,500 Alaska, 20,000 Copper Island, and 20,000 South Sea, Cape Horn, and North West coast seal skins will be presented for competition. The London trade is it is satisfactory to note manifesting signs of vitality which has been to some extent wanting, while in New York signs of improvement and changes for the better are general. Workmen are in request and are employed day and night to fill orders promptly.

## OCEAN RECORDS.

There are many who will recollect the famous Cunard liner Scotia as being the speediest and most fashionable steamship which crossed the herring pond. Her fastest passage between Queenstown and New York was made in 1880, when she covered the distance in 8 days 2 hours and 48 minutes. Gradually the time was reduced by the Inman, White Star and other steamships, until in 1883 the Guion greyhound, the Arizona, brought the record to 7 days 7 hours and 23 minutes, her sister ship the Alaska going it better in 1884 in 6 days 18 hours and 37 minutes. In 1888 the Cunarder Etruria covered the distance in 6 days 1 hour and 55 minutes. But this has now been still further reduced by the Lummen liner City of Paris, which recently did the distance in 5 days 15 hours and 58 minutes. The Alaska and Arizona have, it will have been already noted, been secured by the Northern Pacific Steamship Company to go into their Oriental service in conjunction with the steamer Victoria. They are, it is said, to be put into as good a condition, if not better, than they were ever in.

WHAT pull, may we ask again, has the only original Samuel Wilmot, who has about him so strong an odor of antiquated fish, that he should again have been appointed a commissioner to make inquiries into the conditions of one of the most important natural industries of the Dominion? We observe that Hon. C. H. Tupper has appointed him to preside over an investigation into the spawning season in the great lakes of Ontario. Mr. Wilmot has his opinions as to this already formed before he begins, and will, there is every reason to believe, from the very inception of his labors, render himself just as obnoxious to those with whom he will be associated as he did to those with whom he was similarly engaged when in this province and in Manitoba also. Besides, those whose interests are specially concerned have no reason to expect that they will receive any more equitable treatment than did the cannery on the Fraser River or the fishermen on Lake Winnipeg and the Red River.