

CONTRACTS OPEN (Continued.)

In Ainsworth, B. C., the following improvements are in progress:—A. A. McKinnon has begun the erection of a new house on corner lots purchased of A. D. Wheeler. Messrs. Houser and LaPointe intend erecting a hotel of twenty rooms, on the Campbell & Patterson corner, and Chas. Olson will build an addition 25x50, two stories high to his hotel. King and Goodenough have purchased the Vancouver House of A. A. McKinnon, and are now in possession. The Jevons house is being newly painted and decorated for reception of T. J. Lendrum and bride. Residences are in good demand. Work on the various properties continues, new ones being constantly added to the list.

Engineer Perry, of the C.P.R., has started work on the new wharves and buildings to be constructed on the lake at Roseberry, New Denver, Slocan City, Silvertown and Ten Mile. Gangs of men are to start work at Roseberry and New Denver at once, and when these places are provided with suitable wharfage accommodation for the big boat then the other points will receive their attention. The wharves at Roseberry and Slocan City will be about 70 feet long by 30 or 40 in width, and will be provided with an apron two feet below low water to permit of the landing of the large transfer barges that are to transport eight passenger coaches between the two points. Work on the barges has not yet begun, but as soon as the new boat is set afloat work on them will be started.

The lobster business around the Yarmouth, N.S., shore is now rushing, and the catches are reported to be large. The prices on the latter account recently declined about \$5 per crate.

The Connecticut oyster seed trade has just opened, and according to the statements of the dealers, the trade promises to be larger than that of any previous season in the history of the oyster industry.

In cod oil the market appears to suffer somewhat from the effects of the prospective duty, and dealers have experienced some difficulty in securing any advance. The primary market is reported to be higher, quotations for shipment being as high as 29 and 30 cents per gallon. Offerings of domestic have been made as low as 27 and 28 cents. For Newfoundland quotations are 28 and 29 cents per gallon.

It is now positively asserted that the mercantile houses of St. John's will not issue any supplies for the Labrador fishery this year. One large firm, which supplied the greatest number of cut-out men last summer, has 60,000 quintals of codfish in trade stores at this moment, and cannot find a market for its disposal. The senior member of this firm has been called to England, where, we understand, a conference with their Liverpool house has resulted in a positive refusal to issue supplies for the Labrador fishery.

American trade reports contain little that is encouraging. Business is held in check by the tariff discussion, by the weather, particularly in the Mississippi Valley, by the political situation abroad, and also by the feeling of depression caused by the Supreme Court decision in the Trans-Missouri traffic case. The trading in stocks has obviously been within very narrow limits. The more substantial interests, both in and out of Wall street, are waiting for the situation, both here and abroad, to become more clearly defined, as it doubtless will within the next sixty days. Within that period some tangible information regarding the crops will be obtained and also the probable extent of the demand for staple products.

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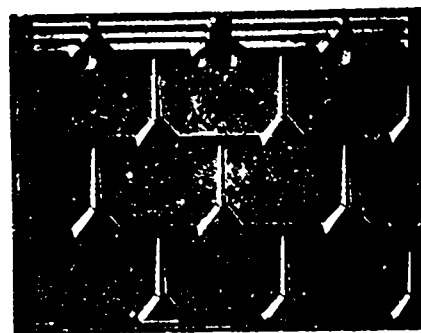
A law recently enacted in South Africa, provides that all government officials must enter into the holy state of matrimony or pay into the public fund \$150 per annum.

Advices from Mexico state that recently there has been a demand for galvanized sheet iron to such an extent that a number of merchants at Vera Cruz and Mexico City have cabled to Europe for quotations on large quantities for prompt delivery.

Ripe olives from California are attracting attention, particularly from country buyers. Numerous inquiries for samples and prices are being received. The figures quoted in most cases seem to be above the views of buyers and it is probable that they will be modified.

Wide interest is expressed among grain dealers and speculators in President Baker's proposed changes in the rules of the Chicago Board of Trade, which if carried out, would revolutionize the grain trade of that city. Mr. Baker proposes to wipe out the commodity known as regular No. 2 spring wheat and put it on its own merits to be traded in precisely as hard winter wheat of Kansas is now traded in. The wheat which will take the place of No. 2 spring as a standard for delivery on speculative contracts will be No. 1 and No. 2 red winter and No. 1 northern spring. The powerful elevator interests will bitterly oppose the proposed changes, while the attitude of the others of the membership is not yet determined. One of the objects of the change is to give to the bull some of the advantages which have heretofore been monopolized by the bear. This, it is asserted, will make a higher range of prices, and in turn bring to Chicago much of the grain which now goes to St. Louis, the Northwest, Toledo and Detroit.

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