

and to enlist the sympathies of the public in the undertaking. The total number of acres in the farm is 8,000, but of course it is not all under cultivation. Their wheat turned out very satisfactory last year as did also the root crop. Some very fine sheep may be seen on this place, there being about 80 head of Shropshire Downs and Leicesters. The cattle are some of the purest and best to be found in the country.

The wheat shipped this season from the different points which have been mentioned has been of a quality that would compare favorably with anything raised in the province. Of course there has been some frost, the same as in other parts of the country this year. A large proportion of it was of the grade known as No. 2 hard, the balance running all the way down to rejected. The yield to the acre varied a great deal in the different localities, it running as high as 30 bushels in some, and in others, only 16, if the average were placed at 22 to 25 bushels, it would be nearly correct. Taking the crop as a whole it may be said that it has been the most satisfactory the country has had for a long time.

### British Columbia Statistics for 1890.

Nanaimo customs collections for 1890 were \$49,920.

The foreign shipments of coal from British Columbia for the year 1890, amounted to 438,174 tons which is a considerable increase over the previous year.

The output of gold from the province as reported by Wells, Fargo & Co., amounts to \$411,877, which is the smallest annual output since 1858.

The collections of the inland revenue department for the Victoria division for the six months ending December 31st, amounted to \$18,289.67, made up as follows: Licenses, \$1,305.00; spirits, \$26,436.33; malt, \$6,731.29; tobacco, \$7,336.20; cigars, \$5,327.25; petroleum, \$1,133.60.

The assessment roll for the city of Victoria for the year past amounts to \$9,358,191. This is exclusive of improvements not taxable in 1890, but which will be so in 1891, and which, together with the advances in property, amount to at least \$2,000,000 more. Exemptions amount to at least \$900,000, making a total assessor's valuation of over twelve millions of dollars. This valuation has increased over \$2,000,000 during the past year, and over \$4,000,000 since 1881. During this latter period, the population has increased from 6,500 to 23,000.

The *Columbian* of New Westminster published a list of the new buildings erected during the past year. The value of these is placed by our contemporary at \$845,330. In 1887 the value of new buildings was given at \$217,000, and those of 1888 at \$218,000 and 1889 at \$513,000. The published list foots up a total of about 300 erections, but it is claimed the actual number largely exceeds these figures. Amongst the list is embraced the McLaren-Ross saw mills, about three miles above the city, which has been in process of construction for two years, at a cost of \$250,000; the new Brunette mills, \$90,000; court house, \$45,000; public library, \$25,000; H. V. Edmond's residence, \$25,000.

During 1890, in New Westminster, no less than 13 miles of new streets have been opened and 14 miles of new sidewalks laid down. This has been done at a cost to the city of \$106,500. On parks \$16,000 has been expended; for a new public library, \$21,000 appropriated and partially expended; for electric light works, \$32,000; new ferry service, \$25,000; contract lot for water works, \$219,000; a grand total of \$422,500 appropriated for public works during the year. The last revised assessment of the city was \$4,595,865, an increase of about \$2,600,000 over the previous year. The water works are not yet completed. Following is the statement of vessels arrived at and departed from the port of New Westminster during the year 1890: Arrived—Total 496; tonnage, 171,175. Departed—Total 494; tonnage, 170,979.

During the year 1890 the records of the Esquimalt graving dock show eighteen ships have there been repaired, the dock being occupied 265 days out of the 365. Warships held possession 157 days.

The value of buildings actually erected and completed in Vancouver during the year, according to the *News Advertiser*, foots up \$859,877. To this the *News* adds \$425,000 for prospective expenditure on buildings that have been designed and commenced in 1890.

The *Victoria Times* gives a list of new buildings erected during the past year which foots up \$1,116,300. By adding to this prospective expenditures on buildings started about the middle of December, the *Times* swells the figures to a round \$1,250,000.

Lumber shipments from Vancouver for 1890 amounted to \$359,373. This includes shipments to foreign ports only.

Customs revenue at Vancouver for 1890 amounted to \$248,412, compared with \$158,328 as the total collections for 1889.

Taxable property at Vancouver increased from \$6,255,867 in 1889, to \$9,515,540 in 1890.

### British Columbia Letter.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

VANCOUVER, JAN. 6.—Business has not yet recovered from the holiday spree sufficiently to have any distinctive features. The principal outcome of the heavy stocks laid in for Christmas and New Years is that the merchants overloaded themselves in several produce lines, notably poultry, which is now begging at 10c a pound and there is too much butter, cheese, meats, eggs and other toothsome articles. The poultry market especially had a big run, and competition is keen. The trouble is, that there being no proper facilities for storage it is difficult to keep produce long in mild weather. However, the population is a large consuming one, and soon relieves any congestion of the kind. Fish is very scarce, there not being sufficient offered to supply local demand, and that is principally in small varieties, such as herring and smelt. Game is also scarce.

During the week the daily newspapers of Vancouver, at least one of them, have published elaborate reports of the commercial situation, and their views coincide very nearly with what has appeared in *THE COMMERCIAL* in the same line. His worship the mayor this week issues his annual address to the council, which con-

tains a most important resume of the city's present situation. Few mayors, if any others in Canada or on the continent, go to such trouble to prepare documents of the kind, which is more of the character of a presidential message than anything else. A good deal of discussion has arisen in that city over the remarks which appeared in *THE COMMERCIAL* on the real estate market, the boomsters having taken offence at the conservative but safe estimate of the situation made in these columns. It is satisfactory to know that the local press has endorsed the views of your correspondent in its remarks on the real estate situation, and of the sentiments of the solid business element and majority of real estate men.

The following are the current market prices: Meats—Dry salt, 10½c; rolled bacon, 11c; breakfast, 13c; hams 14c. Lard in tins, 12½c; in pails, 11½c. Salt salmon, \$9.00 for a barrel of 200 pounds. Sugar—Yellow, 6½c; granulated, 7½c. Butter—Good creamery is worth all the way from 26 to 28c; dairy runs 18 to 22c according to variety. Cheese, 12½c. Good potatoes, \$22.50 per ton; hay, \$16; oats, \$32. Turnips and carrots, \$12 per ton; good table carrots, \$20. Onions are \$3 per 100 lbs. for Natives and \$5.50 for Spanish. Feed—Shorts, \$25; chopped feed, \$32 to \$35; bran, \$24; wheat, \$35. Flour—Manitoba patents, \$6; Manitoba bakers, \$5.75; Portland and Morning Star, 5.25; Dayton, \$5.10; 2 Star, \$5.25; rolled oats, \$3.50 per sack; oatmeal, \$3.25; cornmeal, \$3.15. Eggs steady from 22½ to 25c.

### Cod Liver Oil.

Owing to the low price of cod liver oil which fell to within 8c or 10c per gallon of cod oil, the refiners in Newfoundland turned out very little cod liver oil this year, which seems to be already telling on the supply in this market, and as no addition to stocks may be expected before next August or September, holders naturally look for an improvement in the situation before long. The position of the market is also strengthened by the shortage in the Norwegian supply, which has caused Norway cod liver oil to appreciate 10 to 15c per gallon. The sale has just been made of a round lot of Norway cod oil at 80c per gallon, being the largest transaction in this market for some time past. Newfoundland refined oil which sold as low as 37½c and 40c per gallon some months ago is now quoted steady at 50 to 55c, and some holders will not offer under 60c per gallon. On behalf of buyers, however, it is advanced that in consequence of the revolution which Koch's lymph is likely to bring about in the treatment of consumptives, cod liver oil will not be as largely used as formerly. The success of Koch's lymph as a cure for consumption, however, is too problematical at present to affect the demand for cod liver oil, the great medicinal value of which lies in its strengthening properties in building up enfeebled constitutions. If buyers believed that the consumption of cod liver oil would be materially affected by Koch's discovery, they would not be inclined to buy in lots of 50 bbls., as they have done very recently.—*Montreal Trade Bulletin*.

Wm. McKenzie, milliner, Toronto, has assigned, with liabilities of \$14,000 and \$12,000 nominal assets.