

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

It is announced that the new Board of Trade building will be inaugurated by a banquet at the Dryad.

It is reported that the Insurance companies doing business in Montreal, have decided to increase the rates of premiums on account of the severe losses which they have sustained this year already. The estimated amount of premium receipts in that city is \$900,000 per annum, and estimating the expenses at 25 per cent or \$225,000, this leaves net profits less fire losses as \$675,000. The fire loss to date is said to have been \$550,000, so that if during the next nine months the loss exceeds \$125,000, there will be a deficit instead of a surplus from the fire insurance of Montreal.

We must say that we are not at all sorry to see the American flag hauled down in the Hawaiian Islands and the so called protection afforded by the U. S. sloop of war removed. The American Consul and the naval officer who performed the smart trick of getting ahead of the British doubtless understood what they were doing, in the light of the opinions of President Harrison; but we are pleased to know that the present regime, having recognized the mistake— not to say international crime— that had been committed, had sufficient manliness and moral courage to undo as much as possible the mischief that had been done.

WITHIN the last few days, Chicago has had some lively times in "the wheat pit," as the place is known in which the speculators disport themselves and eat up one another as far as possible, figuratively speaking. This time, the gang of bulls, headed by Cudahy Brothers, the well known meat packers, came out on top and crushed out several pretty strong men, who, it would seem, judging by their own statements, are not altogether downed. Meantime, grain has received a fictitious enhancement which, while it does not mean much on the individual loaf of bread, amounts to a by no means small sum when its gross amount comes to be figured out.

At the end of the session two important measures were introduced and carried through by the Government, the one to extend for a year the charter of the Canadian Western Central Railway, the others to grant aid to the Nicola Valley, the Nakusp and Slocan and the Chilliwack companies respectively. The objects contemplated are excellent. We want railway accommodation and the sooner the better. This Government will doubtless profit by the experiences of Quebec and elsewhere and see that the moneys already granted are legitimately expended and that the usual safeguards are interposed. This being done they will not be to blame and we have faith to believe that the Province will be much advantaged.

THE Parliament of the Province of British Columbia was formerly pre-occupied

on Wednesday, the list of bills which have become law during its session being a large and important one. Among these might be mentioned those referring to arbitration and labor statistics and the public health. Besides, railway and kindred legislation has been extensive, the measures to provide for a railway and traffic bridge over the Fraser River and to sanction the erection of new legislative and departmental buildings in Victoria being matters of no small interest. The Government, it must be said, has not only shown that it possessed the confidence of the majority of the members, but has demonstrated that it was well entitled to it, in fact that the opposition to it was quite as much factional as anything else.

It is worthy of note that certain people out of the kindness of their heart have undertaken to hunt up a location for the Songish Indians to settle upon, and have discovered a place which meets their own views if not those of the Indians whom their desire is to oust and evict. The land these parties have chosen is inside Pedder Bay. It may be a very excellent site, but before anything be done the full consent of the Indians must be obtained and there must be nothing done that can in any sense be interpreted as an interference with their freedom of action. The lands they occupy are theirs; we have left them but little of what formerly belonged to them. Their interests must in every way be conserved and care must be taken that the present valuable property do not get into the hands of speculators or land grabbers.

THE *Monetary Times*, referring to the tariff changes which are not unlikely to be brought about in the by no means distant future, says: "There is no intention to abandon the National Policy; but it is time to get back to the ground on which that policy was at first confessedly founded. The National Policy has only one possible standing ground—an arrangement of the customs duties, which must be collected in some form, in such a way as incidentally to favor Canadian manufactures. This is what is called incidental protection." In connection with U. S. tariff amendment, President Cleveland's announcement of an extra session of Congress for September justifies the conclusion that the intervening five months will be used to prepare for the tariff and currency reforms, to which the dominant party is pledged.

VERY naturally and very properly the B. C. Board of Trade has protested against the proposal of the Department of Marine and Fisheries to do away with the Marine Hospital at Victoria, as provided for in the terms of the Union between Canada and British Columbia, and dispose of sick mariners by an arrangement with the Jubilee Hospital. Deputy Smith and Mr. Wilmot may, perhaps, be allowed to go a considerable distance in their ignorance of the just claims of this city and province, but they can hardly be allowed to bid defiance to a written agreement. Indeed, the merchants have determined to resist any such encroachment, and the depu-

ties and their chief alike may as well make up their mind that they must mend their manners. We shall demand all that the law gives us and, outside of that, if the Government do not act fairly and squarely, it will be time to consider the necessity of changing the political complexion of the provincial representation at the capital.

IN connection with the construction of the Soulanges, Quebec, Canal, we observe that there is considerable controversy as to the particular cement that shall be used in that work, the Department of Public Works having refused to sanction the use of a home made article. Already upwards of a million dollars are invested in Canadian cement works, some five hundred men being employed in the business. Native Portland cements have frequently been tested in comparison with imported cements by some of the best engineering experts in the country, both on Government account and also in behalf of many of our large cities and railroads, where the desire was to obtain the very best materials to be had, regardless of the source of origin; and the certificates of these experts and the details of their experiments show that Canadian Portland cement is as good as any made anywhere else in the world. In this connection, we may refer to the Portland cement industry which is being inaugurated in this province, the quality of the product being, according to men of both practical and scientific experience, fully equal to that obtainable anywhere.

THE announcement has been made that the Liberals of Nanaimo are looking out for a candidate to run in Vancouver district for its representation in the House of Commons. We must confess that we think it would be an excellent thing for that constituency to return either a supporter of the Opposition or a gentleman of sufficient independence of the Conservative party to so enregister his vote when it is called for that it shall be impossible to say "Oh he's all right he'll support the Government anyway." It is to be noted that one of the candidates defeated at the last Dominion election in the city of Victoria, is paying court to the constituency and is about to give them a lecture on what he knows about Liberalism. We have no doubt that he is well posted in so far as concerns the ideas that obtain in the Old Country, but these can scarcely prevail here. We doubt not that he can get off a homily as long as the moral law on political theories but when it comes down to practical politics those who think they shall be heard because of their much speaking frequently get left. The would-be candidate might do well to join Mr. Blake's brigade of Hessians for Mr. Gladstone may have need of him, and if his stump speeches delivered here mean anything, he is a fervent worshipper of the Grand Old Man.

At a meeting of the Nanaimo board of underwriters held on Wednesday evening, it was decided in future to adopt the rules regarding the wiring of buildings now in force in Victoria.