

I have mentioned, in former letters, the number of blunders made in Canada in shipping goods here. Unluckily they have not ceased yet. A firm which from its character must subscribe for THE MONETARY TIMES has made a shipment of a variety of goods here. The goods came and an invoice, but no manifest. This caused trouble and expense to get delivery. The invoice does not show number of cases, or weight or contents of each package in the shipment, consequently the consignee has to open every box and count the articles (some thousands) to get the knowledge which a properly made out invoice would have given him. He did not intend to open the cases at all, but to send them direct to his customer. Here are worries, charges and labor that the consignee never bargained for, and just such needless, tedious labor as puts a busy man in a bad temper.

One more item. I was in an office this morning in which an invoice of Canadian goods was being examined. It was found a different price had been charged from that which had been agreed to. The goods were paid for in New York, to which point they had been shipped. No doubt this was unintentional and would be corrected upon an application for a refund, but as this was the *second mistake* it did not tend to improve the relations with that Canadian firm. Canadians must remember that it takes three months to correct a blunder or a quotation in Australian trade with the Dominion, and one is therefore more serious than it would be if it could be righted in a week. When the trade will not warrant sending a man out, try the postage stamp experiment, but before writing be sure you go into your calculations thoroughly, and should you get an order be as sure that the order is executed with absolute correctness.

By the "Miowera," which reached here on the 2nd October, Mr. McLaren, the representative of D. Morrice, Sons & Co., of Montreal, was a passenger. He is going to investigate thoroughly the cotton business of the colonies, and if orders are to be got, I feel sure he will get them. Mr. McLaren is likely to find hot competition from the United States, where the manufacturers seem to be cutting prices to get rid of stocks. The firm did a large trade in Australia last year, as every ship brought a good many cases of cotton goods.

The third steamer for the Canadian-Australian line is expected here in December. She is much larger than the two now on the route, and those who have seen her pronounce her to be a fine sea boat, with excellent accommodation. She won't get here before she is needed. The line will probably alternate with the San Francisco line, giving fortnightly mails from Canada, and shortening correspondence by two weeks.

W. B.

Sydney, New South Wales, 10th Oct., 1896.

#### AFFAIRS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

There are signs on every hand of developing general trade, and it is already clear, too, that there will next year be a large increase of population in the city, for which builders and others are now steadily preparing. Mine investments make, however, such demands upon ready money, that there is no rise of any moment in real estate values; but it is notable that city taxes are, including many arrears, now being better paid than has been the case for nearly two years, and it is understood on excellent authority that the City Treasurer's report for the year will be very satisfactory. Mining developments on the coast and islands are greatly benefiting general trade in Vancouver.

Whilst the Slocan, Trail Creek, and other South Kootenay centres continue their substantial mining progress, notable advances are being made in newer and less noted "camps." Thus, operations are very busily in progress at Shoal Bay, on the coast, about 110 miles from Vancouver, where large quantities of gold-bearing ore, almost free milling, are now being got out. Much of this will probably lie dumped for some time, in the hope that smelting and refining facilities may be provided at or near Vancouver. The workers and prospectors of the Shoal Bay district are steadily increasing in number; so too the claims worked. Lord Sudeley is specially interested in Shoal Bay mining, and with it are naturally connected many Vancouver men. Meanwhile, there is great activity also on Texada Island, where several promising gold and copper bearing claims have been and are being located. In some cases, as before mentioned, the deposits are pockety, and in regard to this possibility, care should be taken in the case of Texada Island investments. In other instances, this is not the case, and your correspondent hears excellent accounts of the bulk of gold and copper-bearing ore on the Bonanza mine, Texada Island. This mine is in steady course of development and growing richer in its gold-bearing ores, as the tunnelling goes deeper. A good sign is the disposition of those interested, chiefly Victoria capitalists, to hold on to their undertaking. They are now building a smelter of 25 tons capacity, and, doubtless, more will be heard shortly of the results of this Texada mine venture.

About Kamloops substantial amounts have lately been given for

several promising gold and copper-bearing claims, stated to be largely similar in character to those of the Trail Creek district. The hills around Kamloops are, however, in a very dry belt, and the obtaining of an adequate water supply for the mines and their workers will be a source of considerable difficulty. This must for the present be deemed an impediment to any rapid development of gold mining immediately beyond Kamloops. Hitherto efforts to obtain a water supply for agricultural land thereabouts have failed. It cannot, however, be said that the few small experiments made in this direction have proved beyond doubt that good water supplies cannot thus be obtained, for the boring was not done systematically in the district. Now that the development of mining beyond Kamloops bids fair greatly to increase the need and value of water, other efforts to obtain this will doubtless be made, it is to be hoped, more successfully.

Development work is progressing rather more rapidly in the Boundary Creek district of the Okanagan, into which further capital is gradually coming. The development of a reputedly rich mining field is in this great district, however, greatly retarded by want of railroad facilities for ore shipment to smelting points. A trial is, however, to be made in the Boundary Creek district of small prospectors' smelters of 5-tons capacity, costing only about \$500 each, and the use of these may well serve to make sufficiently promising beginnings of mining output on a number of claims to justify, at no distant date, local smelting on a considerable scale. But better transport facilities are badly needed for this gold and copper belt of the Southern Okanagan.

The two large washes up at the Cariboo Hydraulic Gold Company's mine in Cariboo have together resulted in an output of over \$122,000 in gold, and some supplemental returns are still expected from a later and smaller wash-up. Working expenses are large in the use of this mine, but the yield is already so considerable that there should be quite satisfactory periodical dividends. The gravels at the similar mine of the Horsefly Co. in the same great district are more difficult to work, being closely compacted and almost cemented. It is possible that these may have to be worked in part by drifting and subsequent crushing. It is therefore likely, though the Horsefly gravels are reported rich in gold, that development work thereon will not be very rapid. Such is at least the purport of apparently accurate information here lately received.

Meanwhile within very easy reach by water of New Westminster, promising gold finds are reported from the Chilliwack and Harrison Lake districts respectively. In the case of certain of the Lake claims, the preliminary assays are exceptionally good, some showing over \$230 in gold to the ton. It of course remains to be seen how large is the body of deposit and how far and how deep it goes, as present workings are but surface ones. The finds are, however, naturally causing much excitement in New Westminster, which would benefit enormously by becoming the supply centre of neighboring productive gold fields. Apart from this, there are decided indications of better times for New Westminster. One of these is the projected very substantial enlargement of the local iron works, formerly the property of the Reid & Currie Company. Great hopes of Fraser River navigation improvement are now entertained in and about New Westminster, as a result of the coming visit of inspection of the Ministers of Marine and Fisheries and Public Works. They will, say the Westminstrians, readily perceive the urgency of the case for effective action. The New Westminster city council, by the-by, passed at a recent meeting a special vote of thanks to the local member, Mr. Morrison, M.P., for his successful efforts in bringing the needs of the town and district before the Dominion authorities.

General satisfaction is felt in the fishery districts at the resolve of the Dominion authorities to set up two new hatcheries, one for northern and the other for southern waters, and also to provide a revenue cutter to prevent poaching in the province's deep sea fisheries.

It was at first feared that in consequence of the partial drying up of spawning grounds this season, there might be an inadequate supply of ova for the Fraser River hatchery. The fear has fortunately proved unfounded, and about 6,700,000 eggs have been safely deposited in the hatchery, the number being fully equal to the usual average.

The year's sealing catch has proved a failure, only about 56,000 skins having been taken, these being nearly 20,000 behind the catch of 1895. And unfortunately, too, cleverly made imitation sealskins are in the English market, diminishing the demand for and prices of garments made of the real skin. Further restriction of pelagic sealing being, moreover, within the range of practical politics, the immediate future of British Columbia sealing is unpromising.

The recent rise in the values of grain, hay and potatoes is appreciably improving the position of many of the agriculturists of the New Westminster and other leading farm districts of the province. The upward movement is very grateful to the struggling agriculturist.

N. C. S.

Vancouver, 7th Nov., 1896.