

decided to open several branches in the West, Vancouver is one of the points selected. At this point a handsome bank building will be erected at once on one of the principal business corners, on the L. A. Hamilton property. In the meantime business will be carried on in temporary quarters. H. H. Morris, of Barrie, Ontario, who acted as manager in Winnipeg while Mr. Mathewson was in Europe recently, will have charge of the new Vancouver branch, which will be opened in a few days. Branches will also be opened at Cranbrook and Fernie, in the East Kootenay district, on the new Crow's Nest Pass railway. T. R. Billett, accountant of the Winnipeg branch, will take charge at Fernie, and J. W. Smythe, accountant at Orangeville, Ontario, has been selected to manage the Cranbrook branch. Mr. Mathewson, manager of the Winnipeg branch, recently returned from a trip to East Kootenay whither he went in connection with the establishment of these branches. He thinks that Fernie will become the chief town in the coal region, and already preparations are being made on a large scale there for coal mining and coke manufacturing. Cranbrook, he says, is a beautiful location for a town, and there is quite an area of good land in the district, which will be available for settlement. There are also some promising mining properties in the district. Near Fernie the C. P. R. are erecting a large saw mill which will have a capacity of 100,000 feet.

Grain and Milling News.

A grain elevator is to be built at Swan Lake station.

The new elevator of the Northern Elevator Co., Winnipeg, at Indian Head, is nearing completion.

Ground soapstone manufactured at Greensboro', N. C., has been openly placed on the market, and advertised as an adulterant for flour. A circular quoting prices in ton lots has been distributed among millers east.

The elevator pool at Buffalo has collapsed, and transfer rates have declined from 7-8 cent per bushel to 1-3 cent. J. J. Hill, with his "Great Northern" steel elevator, insists that he is the "farmer's friend" who has broken this great monopoly.

Several elevators and warehouses are now in course of erection at points on the Dauphin railway in Manitoba. Elevators with a capacity of 25,000 to 35,000 bushels are being built, one at Oakland and three at Dauphin. Warehouses are in course of construction at Ogilvie, two at Glenella, one at Mackinac, and one at Valley River.

Grocery Trade Notes.

The reported failure of the California almond crop is expected to cause an advance in Tarragonas, but there is no indication of higher prices yet. Brazil nuts remain dull.

Cable advices received from Japan report the tea market excited and strong, and all limits that have been sent out so far have been far too low, as prices recently have advanced fully \$2 per picul, and they are expected to go considerably higher. Japan teas suitable for our trade are almost impossible to get.

Whether peace is obtained within the next few days or not, says an

exchange, there is likely to be a famine of cigars before the end of the year. The war, and the hostilities leading up to it, have cut off the two chief sources of the world's tobacco supply. Cigar manufacturers and cigar importers have hitherto depended on Havana and Manila for their raw material. In other countries certain inferior varieties of the weed are grown for plug tobacco, but the colonies of Spain have hitherto possessed almost a monopoly of the special species of which fine cigars are made.

Hardware and Paint Trade.

A Montreal report says: Prices generally are firm, especially for white lead, which is none too plentiful. Linseed is still scarce and all foreign stocks arriving meet with ready buyers at full prices.

The Montreal Gazette says: The feature during the past week has been the stronger feeling in the market for glass, and prices have been marked up 10c per box of 50 feet and 20c per box of 100 feet, which is due principally to cable advices from Belgium noting a sharp advance of fully 20c per box, owing to the scarcity of stock. The demand from local buyers in the home market has been active of late, and the imports this month will be much larger than usual owing to the fact that the reduction of 25 per cent in the duty on Belgian glass will no longer exist after the 31st of this month.

Only a week or two ago The Commercial referred to the activity in the stove trade and prospects of higher prices. The advance has already gone into effect. A circular has been issued by the stove manufacturers announcing an advance of five per cent. This has gone into effect in Winnipeg as shown by the following circular issued by the local houses in the stove trade:

TO THE TRADE.

On account of the advance in material and labor in Canada within the last few months, the stove manufacturers have found it necessary to advance prices 5 per cent on stoves. This announcement is signed by The McClary Manufacturing Co., The Gurney Stove and Range Co., Jopp Bros. & Co., Clark Bros. & Co., J. J. J. Foundry Co., The Barrow, Stewart & Milne Co., Limited, The D. Moore Co., Limited, per Merrick, Anderson & Co., The Wm. Buck Stove Co., per W. G. McMahon, Bowes, Jamieson & Co.

Dry Goods Trade.

Among the promised features of the dry goods trade for the spring of 1899 is a phenomenal sale of gingham. For blouse waists this fabric is particularly well suited, and blouses will preserve their popularity throughout the summer of the century's closing year. Extensive preparations are being made for this trade. The Canadian Colored Cotton Mills company expect to more than double their output of gingham. In all widths from twenty-five to thirty-two inches, the trade may purchase these goods. Two new widths, thirty and thirty-two inches respectively, have been added this year to the range carried by the Canadian manufacturers.

One of the most satisfactory features of the trade is that all the finer goods will be made in thirty-five yard pieces. The legitimate retail dry goods trade has been seriously hand-

capped by the lack of variety in the goods which they were able to offer their customers, as compared with the offerings of the large department stores. A limited amount of capital and a limited number of customers necessarily mean that the merchant can carry only a limited stock. If he is unable to purchase in small piece lengths there is a sameness which in dress goods is especially objectionable. Only a few dress lengths of brightly colored gingham with conspicuous designs can be sold in a village store. Manufacturers should pay more attention to this matter if they are anxious to assist in the maintenance of the smaller retailers.

The Lumber Trade.

The saw mill at North Bend, B. C., the property of the Ottawa Milling and Milling Co., has been destroyed by fire.

Reports from Seattle say the market is firm for both shingles and lumber, and the demand good. At Minnesota points stars are quoted at \$2.

The Failure Record.

Canadian failures for the second quarter of 1898 according to Dun's Review, were not only much fewer, as weekly returns have shown, but very much smaller than those of the first quarter. The number is nearly 16 per cent smaller than in the first quarter of this year, and nearly 30 per cent smaller than in the corresponding quarter of last year. The aggregate of liabilities is almost 34 per cent smaller than in the first quarter of this year, and being \$1,945,162 against \$2,939,351, in nearly the same ratio smaller than in the corresponding quarter of 1897. The decrease, moreover, is shared by manufacturing and trading branches, for in manufacturing the liabilities are \$390,614 against \$830,890 for the same quarter last year, and in trading \$1,503,762 against \$2,099,161 last year. There is a little increase in the "other commercial" liabilities, which is of no importance, and a single private banking failure for \$54,000 against none last year is the only change in that branch.

A Strong Man.

A recent issue of the Canadian Sportsman contains an article on J. Alton L. Harris, who, according to the description, is the coming strong man of the world. Harris, who is a fourth year medical student of McGill university, Montreal, has performed some wonderful feats of physical strength, and he now claims the title of champion amateur strong man of the world. Mr. Harris, who is a trained athlete, says that the famous Bovril—extract of beef is above everything else as a toner up of the system and a strength giver. After trying many other articles he finds that Bovril affords the most perfect nourishment.

Tenders.

Tenders are called up to August 15, for supplies for the Indian department for the district of Athabasca.

Tenders are called for macadam paving portions of the following Winnipeg streets: Garry, Ellice, Vaughan, Charlotte, Ellen, Rupert; also for boulevarding Smith, Carlton, Edmonton and York streets; also for a sewer on Garry street.