

Business at Vancouver.

Vancouver, Jan. 23.

Orders for the Atlin country made business very brisk the past week among the wholesalers. The passage of the alien bill regarding mining claims by the British Columbia legislature has caused little if any difference in the stampede to the northern British Columbia mining regions, which is almost as great as the Klondike rush of last year, while the orders received in Vancouver for the Atlin country, in the line of provisions at least, are fully as large, as they were for the Yukon at the height of last season. Outfitters are naturally jubilant, and the confidence and cheerful view of the future, prevalent in the business world of British Columbia in the past year is still a feature of the trade situation on the Canadian coast.

New Westminster, to use a hackneyed expression, is rising Phoenix-like from her ashes. Building operations are very active and a new city is rapidly taking the place of the old one. At present merchants are grouped together in a small space. Their business stands are little more substantial than booths at a church fair, but their expense is reduced to such a figure and their small stocks are being so quickly turned over that they are no doubt more prosperous than they will be when they move into the new handsome big stores being built for them, when they will do the same business with enormously increased current expense—but every merchant will move, nevertheless, chiefly because his neighbor is going to move.

Nanaimo is prosperous. The coal shipments from that district last year were in excess of all previous years and business continues good. Victoria is jubilant over the Atlin trade and the ready money the rush is putting into circulation. In Vancouver the building boom is still on and as yet there is no very evident signs of the city being overstocked with stores and dwellings but conservative, thoughtful men continue to shake their head dubiously. They believe that mines, lumbering, fish and the Canadian Pacific railway do not constitute a sufficiently strong backbone to firmly brace the young giant of the west. A citizen remarked to the writer to-day that he had been a resident of every city on the Pacific coast, and not one could boast of so many fine buildings and such well paved streets as Vancouver at a similar period in their career. Building is encouraged from the fact that money can be very readily borrowed at 6 per cent on first mortgages, and a \$2,500 house can be secured by a payment of \$500 cash. In spite of the large number of buildings erected in the past two years, houses, particularly furnished houses, are in smart demand.

The foreign lumber trade is active. The Moodyville and Chemalms mills have been very busy and the new Hastings mill, rebuilt and modernised, will soon be in active operation again.

The salmon industry is threatened this year. The fishermen who seem to be favored by the government have had several meetings, in which they have concluded to hold out against the canners. The canners want 20 licenses for each cannery, free fish, and no stringent alien law regarding licenses. The fishermen demand duty on salmon, one man one license, no transfer of license, and every fisher-

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