

the furniture line. He carries a large stock of goods, and in addition to his local retail trade, has worked up quite a jobbing business with outside points.

Robert Martin, who succeeded to the retail business of Dawson, Bile & Co., at Regina, is also doing a good trade. He occupies a double store, one side with his drug business, and the other with tobaccos, cigars, etc. E. J. Hill & Co. carry on business in dry goods, clothing, shoes, etc., and carry a large stock in their store on Scarth street, with Hill Bros. as managers. Burton Bros., merchant tailors, have succeeded in establishing a good trade since they located in Regina, and the practice of sending east for ordered clothing is dying out. In the meat line there are three or four shops, Childs & Gallagher and Jos. Jackson, being the old stand-bys. L. Munsen started in the meat line in Regina last August, and will handle poultry, produce, etc. In the flour and feed business, J. S. Donohue has been on the ground for years, and continues to do a good trade. J. Williams is the principal fruit dealer of the place, and Wm. Slin the baker. A new business recently established is the stationery store of Robert Mitchell, on Scarth street. Mr. Mitchell also handles the Singer sewing machine and Doherty organ, and he is bringing in a plant for the manufacture of stencils and rubber stamp work.

J. A. MacCaul, lumber merchant, who is mayor of the town this year, stated that the financial position of Regina is exceptionally good. The present debenture debt of the town is only \$12,000. Next year it is likely that a loan of about \$30,000 will be asked for, for local improvements, providing better fire protection, drainage, etc. A system of electric lighting for houses has recently been put in operation, and the streets will also soon be lighted.

Real estate is not very high in Regina yet. The ordinary value of a good business lot is about \$1,000 for a frontage of 25 feet. A corner business lot sold for \$1,600, which is the highest price reached yet. Residence lots range from \$30 to \$250. The only loan company doing business is the Canada Permanent, represented by Mr. Marsh.

The colony of German settlers, near Regina, has done well. They pay cash largely for their goods, and put all their money to practical use, instead of spending it freely as some settlers do, in things which they could get along without. They are evidently the people to work their way up in a new country. About 50 families of these people were added to the settlement this year. The land department of the C. P. R. has recently sent one of these settlers home, to work up further immigration of these people.

British Columbia Letter.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Vancouver, December 16.—

Outside of the regular lines of business dealt with in this column, there are several matters connected with the development of the province worthy of reference.

It is reported in the *Denver, Col., News* that a Capt. Brandon Kirby, one of the cattle kings of New Mexico, has decided to transport some 40,000 cattle from his rancho there to the Chilcote district, B. C., an extensive grazing country hitherto almost unknown and un-

developed. The paper in question says that a representative of the above capitalist was in British Columbia last summer and purchased 400,000 acres. Nothing is known of it in this province, but if it be true the importance cannot be overestimated and it is to be hoped that the transportation of such an immense cargo of live stock may be not only practicable but successful.

A. St. Geo. Hamersloy, a prominent barrister in this city, is now at Ottawa in conference with some English capitalists there in reference to an extensive dry dock and harbor scheme at Vancouver, which will involve an expenditure of a sum in the millions. This has been under consideration for some time and seems to be just now taking a shape which augurs for its success.

In the same connection it may be stated that application has been made for the incorporation of the Imperial Steamship Co., with headquarters at Vancouver. The capital is not large, but probably sufficient for the scope of business in contemplation.

But by far the most important move that has been made for some time is the consummation of a scheme for the reclamation of the Pitt Meadows. This is a tract of overflowed prairie land in the Westminster district about 30 miles from Vancouver, at the junction of the Pitt and Fraser rivers, containing about 30,000 acres more or less. A company is being formed for the purpose of reclaiming this land, as rich as any under the sun by dredging and dyking.

All the retailers are well stocked for Xmas and comparatively little goods is being sold. The saw mills are experiencing the usual quiet season, and the vessels are about all loaded. Case eggs are of very poor quality though plentiful and fresh eggs are now retailing at 75c a dozen. Butter is in good supply and steady in price. In potatoes and hay, oats, etc., prices are stiff, farmers holding for a rise. Vegetables are in good supply and steady in price. The last of the California grapes have been received, but the dealers are still well supplied with them. Oranges are coming in more freely and apples are plentiful. Small fish are scarce; no salmon; good halibut and black cod are obtainable at from 7 to 10c per lb. Game has been scarce but is now plentiful. There will be plenty of poultry from the east for Christmas. Business generally in a retail way seems to be lively, and especially is the improvement in the dry goods trade noticeable over a few months ago, when dealers were complaining a good deal.

The mining strike at the Wellington mines is still unsettled. This has a marked effect on the output of the New Vancouver Coal Co., which is now running over 2,000 tons per day, the largest in its history.

Prices are about as follows: Meats—Dry salt 11c; roll bacon, 12c; breakfast, 13c; hams 14c. Lard is firm at 12c in tins and 11c in pails. Salt salmon is worth \$9.50 for 200 pound barrel; canned salmon is still at \$4.50 per case, but little if any is offered for sale at that price. Sugar is steady: Yellow 68c; granulated 72c. The latest advices from Japan are that low grade teas have advanced 2c per lb.

Butter—Creamery is worth 25c for large lots; small lots 27 cents; while specially put up tins is worth 23 cents. Lard is out of the market. Potatoes, \$20 per ton. Hay is steady at \$16 per ton. Oats, \$30 per ton. Stocks of all

kinds of feed are very low, prices are as follows: Shorts, \$27; chopped feed, \$35; bran, \$24; wheat, \$35. Flour is steady, the following is a list of the chief brands on the market: Manitoba patents, \$6 25; Manitoba bakers, \$5; Portland, \$5.25; Dayton, \$5.10; 2 Star, \$5.40; rolled oats, \$3.50 per sack; oatmeal, \$3.50; cornmeal, \$3.15 per 100. Onions are \$3 per 100 pounds for native, and \$8 for Spanish.

Vegetables—Cabbage, 2c per pound; lettuce, 10c per dozen; radishes, 50c per dozen bunches; celloery, 60c per dozen bunches; turnips and carrots, 15c per pound; sweet potatoes, 8c; pumpkins, 2c.

Apples—\$1.25 per box, though some of the best are worth \$2.

Game—Mallard ducks, \$1 per brace; grouse, 75 to \$5c; wild geese, \$1 each; venison, 8c to 9c per pound. Poultry is firm at the following prices: Chickens from \$6 50 to \$7 50 per doz; domestic ducks from \$7 to \$9; turkeys, \$2.75 each; geese, \$2.50 to \$2 75.

Alberta.

Commencing on the 1st of January, the Lethbridge News will be changed to a semi-weekly.

The *Tribune*, published at Great Falls, Montana, says:—"The Great Falls and Canada railroad, now in successful operation from this city to Lethbridge, Alberta, has proven already a successful business venture, and its owners and managers are more than pleased with the business offered and the bright prospects of the new road, which is the only connecting link of iron between the United States and Canada west of the Red river valley."

Mr. Lumsden, engineer of the Calgary & Edmonton railway, says that work has been closed down on the road for the winter, and trains have ceased running. Material has been laid on the ground for a bridge at the crossing of the Red Deer and the bridge will be built during the winter. He also reports that ties and other material will be taken out before spring for the Calgary and Fort Macleod railway, for which the contract has been let, and on which construction will begin next summer.

Lumber Cuttings.

The machinery for a shingle mill has been brought in by R. Cunningham for a mill on the Skena river, B. C.

The Davies-Sayward mill company on Kootenay Lake, B. C., has let a contract for 5,000 feet of logs to be delivered at the company's saw mill at Pilot Bay. McLean & Flager will undertake the work.

G. F. Slater, of the Vancouver Shingle Mill, is putting in saw mill machinery on a more extensive scale, for the manufacture of all kinds of lumber. Heretofore attention was directed only to the manufacture of shingles and fine cedar lumber.

The Vancouver *World* says: "Phillip Kelly and Duncan Box, timber rangers for the Canadian Pacific Lumber Company, returned on Saturday from an extended trip up the coast and inland, locating claims for that company. They met with good success and a party of surveyors will leave in a day or two for that part of the province. The company propose to erect a large saw mill at the mouth of the Amacon river, down which the logs will be floated to the mill yard. Ships can load in these waters.