

British Columbia.

Extensive bush fires have been raging in the mountains of the interior.

A postoffice savings bank branch will be opened in Kumloops shortly.

J. A. Langwith has opened a real estate and insurance office at Westminster.

Morgan, Quick & Co., have opened business as liquor manufacturers, at Vancouver.

Nesbitt & Co., of Victoria, will erect a large cracker factory with all the latest improved machinery.

W. H. Lilly, lately in the liquor business at Donald, has disposed of all his possessions and gone to the U. S.

The Nanaimo Equitable Pioneer Society will build a two-story frame warehouse, adjoining the present store of the company.

A. McLean, a well known and leading clothier, of Victoria, has been succeeded by his son, W. A. McLean and James Stewart.

The Bank of British Columbia will build a two-story brick building at Nanaimo, to be occupied by the Nanaimo branch of the bank.

An employee of the Hudson's Bay Co., in the province, occupying a position of trust, is said to have appropriated \$11,000 of the company's funds.

E. Pimbury & Co., druggists, Nanaimo, have moved into a new brick store, and now claim to have the largest and best appointed drug store north of San Francisco.

The Dominion Government has decided to issue a chart of the Fraser River for navigable purposes. Tenders for the improvements at the mouth of the Fraser close Sept. 4th.

John Taylor has retired from the firm of J. Findlay & Co., dealers in machinery and supplies, Vancouver. The business will be carried on under the old firm name by James Findlay.

J. T. Edwards, proprietor of the Cosmopolitan Hotel, Kamloops, has rented his house to E. Kennell, formerly in the hotel trade here. Mr. Edwards will devote his attention to his ranch.

The B. A. Packing Co. have forwarded 15 cars of Skeena river salmon, by special fast train, to eastern Canadian points over the C. P. R. The train will be specially labelled to show what British Columbia can do in the fish line.

The steamship Abyssinia sailed Tuesday evening for Yokohama with 30 passengers, 206 Chinese and a cargo of 1,336 tons of freight, including five car loads of paper mill machinery, 31,070 sacks of flour, 2,600 bales of cotton goods and miscellaneous freight.

A new building society called the Victoria Building Society, has been organized at Victoria. The following officers were appointed: Directors, Messrs. McKillican, Cohen, Fell, McMillan and Boyd; treasurer, G. H. Maynard; secretary, A. St. G. Flint; auditors, R. Erskine, and B. Boggs. One hundred and thirty members were enrolled.

A company has been formed at Westminster to build and run a steamer for the Fraser river trade. The new steamer will be 136 feet in

length, 26 feet beam and 4½ feet depth of hold. Work has been commenced on the hull of the steamer at the Brunette saw mills, which company supplies the lumber. Alex. Watson, of Victoria, has the contract.

J. M. O'Brien, who has been on the editorial staff of the *Victoria Colonist*, has severed his connection with that journal and will join J. C. McLagan, late of the *Victoria Times*, in the publication of the *World*, a new evening paper to be established at Vancouver. With two veteran journalists at its head, the *World* is bound to take a leading place among the provincial press, though several excellent journals now occupy the field.

A provincial exhibit has been prepared, to be forwarded to the Toronto exhibition, largely owing to the efforts of Mayor Oppenheimer, of Vancouver. It consists of a very large assortment of mineral specimens, from all parts of the province; the various fruits grown in the province, also cereals, vegetables, etc.; a fine collection of native woods, and specimens of woodwork, miscellaneous manufactures, etc.

A Well Conducted Business.

Recently a Winnipeg wholesale man took a trip out west to an outlying point less than one hundred miles from the western boundary of Manitoba. He was on a duck hunt, that is to say he was looking after a "lame duck," a general store keeper who was in deep water, and he, the wholesale man, was representing the creditors generally, and intended to see if it would be wise to continue or wind up the business.

The drive from the nearest railway town to the desired point was a long one, and the Winnipeg herald had some difficulty in finding the establishment of his man. However, he found it, and a remarkable structure it was. One portion of the walls of the store was of stone, another was of rough poplar poles, the crevices between being stuffed up with old rags, fragments of old coats and pants, wads of paper, straw and other materials, while the roof comprised almost as great a variety of materials, and was constructed with a special view to ventilation.

The Winnipeg man after viewing, if not admiring the building, commenced an examination of the stock. Of dry goods, he found a mixture, badly mixed, indeed; and strewn around with a carelessness and slovenliness equal to the toughest sight ever seen in a Petticoat Lane establishment in the olden time. In a hole called a cellar he found almost one hundred packages of different sizes and styles of butter, all bearded like Mahomet, also a quantity of so-called cured pork, on which a slimy mildew, nearly half an inch thick, had grown. Everything examined was in an equally dilapidated condition, and the Winnipegger began to lapse into a dazed state of mingled consternation and disgust, merging on mental paralysis. At last his face brightened as he beheld a half chest of black tea, three-fourths full. Ah! he said, here is something not utterly spoiled, and he thrust his hand through the broken lid to sample the goods. But he drew it out in a hurry as a "Phit Miaw" resounded in the box; and while he rubbed and wiped a

scratched hand, he had time to discover, that nestling in the aromatic China weed lay a cat and four kittens. His language after the discovery cannot be given here, as it was slightly unparliamentary. We learn since, that the business is being closed out by the creditors.

The Value of a Good Rating.

Miss Mainchance—George, you have asked of me the dearest treasure a woman has—her heart.

George, (impatiently) —Yes, Irene, relieve my agony of suspense.

Miss Mainchance—You must give me time.

George—Time? How long dearest? A day, a week, a month, a—

Miss Mainchance (sweetly)—No, George; only time to look you up in Dun Wiman's.—*Times*.

"FADER," said Rebecca Schneidelbaum, counterfeiting a roseate blush. "Fader, Mr. Schponger has just called. He is now in the parlor. He has come to ask for my hand—." "Ask for your hand, eh?" replied Mr. Schneidelbaum excitedly. "Rebecca, take those diamond rings off before you go in. We can't let them go with the hand. He takes it without incumbrance—or he takes it not at all."

At a meeting of creditors in London, England, under the failure of McMaster Bros., of Toronto, resolutions were passed accepting a composition of four shillings and six pence halfpenny in the pound payable after approval by the court.

J. J. Walterhouse, representing the Geo. T. Smith Middlings Purifier Co., has returned to Winnipeg from Ontario. He has lately taken the contract for remodeling the Virden flour mill, and also for supplying machinery for Law & Pearson's new elevator at Neepawa, Man.

A Chicago grocery clerk has got himself into trouble by writing on a postal card the following message:—"Call at once at our office and pay your grocery bill." The call was not made on the clerk, says an exchange, but on the postal authorities, who had the smart young man arrested for violation of the postal laws.

Some idea of the depreciation of landed property in England may be gathered from the fact that last month a freehold estate known as the Red Lyons Farm, in Essex, and consisting of dwelling house, farm buildings and 130 acres of arable and pasture land, was sold for £1,390. A freehold farm at St. Lawrence, farm buildings and 104 acres 1 rood and 12 perches of land, was with difficulty disposed of at £275.

From the beginning of its manufacture until now not a single ounce of any but pure Virginia leaf of the finest quality has been used in the "Myrtle Navy" tobacco. The manufacturers of it have a settled belief that the public cannot be misled on this point, and that any tampering with the quality of the brand would be monetary loss to them. Thousands of dollars a year saved by mixing with an inferior leaf, would not repay them for a doubt on the part of the public as to the quality of their tobacco.