

British Columbia.

Hallock & Howe, hotel, Nanaimo, have dissolved.

Taggart Bros., painters, Nanaimo, are reported to have skipped out.

Greatly needed rain has been experienced on the coast, and bush fires have been subdued for the present.

The half interest in the Central Hotel, Nanaimo, owned by G. Howe, has been sold to Mr. Hall of Victoria.

G. B. Wright is fitting up a store at Revelstoke for his hardware business, which he will open out in a few days.

Hon. Theodore Davie, attorney-general, has been elected for Victoria over Dr. Milne, opposition, by a majority of 111.

The by-law adopted by the city council of Vancouver, placing a license tax of \$50 upon real estate dealers, has been declared *ultra vires* of the council.

A copy of the annual report of the Vancouver board of trade has been received. It is a very useful pamphlet, and abounds with statistics of the city and province.

The *Victoria Colonist* places the total salmon pack of the province, up to August 20th, at 376,000. This is largely in excess of previous years, and will be considerably increased yet.

Luke Pither has sold the lease and goodwill of the Colonial Hotel, Westminster, to Geo. Reymond and W. S. Westcott. Mr. Pither's reason for selling out is ill-health of Mrs. Pither.

The sale of government land on the Hastings townsite, Vancouver, and other property adjoining the same, was held at Vancouver recently. The blocks all realized prices considerably higher than was expected.

Victoria Times: The first vessel of the season to take salmon for the United Kingdom is the bark Doris Broderon, under charter by Robert Ward & Co. At present she is loading 4,000 cases of northern cannerly pack and will leave here about Sept. 1st.

Victoria Times: A company has been formed in this city which has asked Port Townsend, Washington, for a franchise to establish and maintain a system of water works. The company offers to supply water to families of not more than four persons for \$1.25 per month, and for each other person in the family 35 cents per month.

Vancouver is to have a paid fire brigade. At a meeting of the fire, water and light committee it was decided to engage a chief and six subordinate men regularly as firemen, three of whom shall be stationed at No. 1 hall and three at No. 2 hall; there will be fifteen men who will be engaged to turn out to fires but who will simply be call men.

The negroes imported from Pennsylvania, to work in the Comax coal mines, are dissatisfied, and some are leaving. The *Nanaimo Courier* says: "Great indignation prevails at the action taken by the management in the matter of importing foreign labor when the home market is overstocked and white men are leaving, being unable to obtain employment."

Westminster Columbian: The forest fire which has been burning on the opposite side of the river for several weeks, is beginning to make itself heard by the crash of falling trees. Many of these mammoth trees have become undermined by the fires, and are continually toppling over and falling to the earth with a crash like the sound of a cannon shot. All Saturday night and last night the noise made by these falling mammoths resembled a cannonade.

At the instance of Andrew Leamy, solicitor for the Southern Railway Co., a writ for alleged libel against the *Vancouver News* has been issued by the Supreme Court. The damages claimed are \$20,000. This writ is the outcome of an item that appeared in the *News*, which stated that the course adopted by the Southern Railway Company was not straightforward, and that their intention was to "get the city's money and at the same time be able to drop the scheme into the hands of some other party when convenient for them to do so, but keep a tight hold of the money, which, in reality, was all they wanted."

The *Westminster Columbian* estimates the salmon pack on the Fraser river up to Aug. 19 at 300,000 cases, which is a very large increase over any previous year. The *Columbian* says: "The salmon run last night was the best since the season opened. In Woodward slough the fish were so numerous that their black fins could be seen sticking out of the water almost as thick as grass blades in a garden. The number of boats fishing at present is not more than half the number employed two weeks ago, but still they are sufficient to catch all the fish required by the canneries." A number of canneries have been obliged to close, having run out of their supplies of tin and cans, but will resume work as soon as additional supplies can be procured.

Victoria Colonist: No. 6, the new shaft which was sunk to the coal a couple of months ago at the Wellington mines, near East Wellington, is now being opened out. The seam, which is from 6½ to 7½ feet high, lies very flat, a good indication of the presence of a large body of coal, easily mined. There were 189 yard of levels driven in two weeks last month. If the coal holds out for six months as at present, 1,000 tons per day can easily be taken out from this shaft alone. At present 100 tons per day is being sent out. No. 6 is, from the lay of the coal, certainly the model shaft of the district. The coal is of the finest quality produced in the district, being free from sulphur and rock of every description. Over one thousand tons per day is being taken out of the other shafts, and when No. 6 is fully opened out, the Wellington mines could readily send out 2,000 tons daily.

Vancouver World: A company, to be known as the Pacific Shoe and Leather Company, has been partially organized at Victoria, with a view to taking over the tanning business of W. Heathorn, which will be enlarged and continued, and adding thereto the manufacture of boots and shoes. The new company will have a capital stock of \$100,000, of which a considerable sum has already been subscribed. The latest improved machinery will be brought from Montreal for use in the manufacture of

boots and shoes, and this portion of the business will be carried on in a central portion of the city. The leather produced by the tannery will be used in the factory, which will be on a scale commensurate with the market to be supplied. W. Heathorn was proprietor of the shoe manufactory at Victoria purchased some time ago by the Ames Holden Company, and at the time of selling out the shoe factory he retained his tannery business at the same place.

Petroleum in the West.

The editor of this paper is now in a position to add his personal testimony to the fact that the existence of crude petroleum in the Mountains near Macleod, Alberta, is a solid fact. The oil comes to the surface in several places in fairly large quantities, and it is as absolutely certain as anything can be that, throughout the length of the valley in which the oil appears, boring will reveal vast deposits of the valuable fluid. A good many claims have been staked out and surveyed, and all that is now required is capital to open up and develop what we believe will soon become one of the most valuable oil regions in the world. While the valley in which the oil has been formed is well in among the mountains, there will not be the slightest difficulty in getting the crude article down to the prairie. A stream runs the whole length of the valley, and out on the plains, so that a pipe line along its course would be a comparatively simple matter. It is probable that steps will be at once taken to enlist capital for the development of these oil fields, and there is not much doubt that such capital can be obtained without much difficulty. The importance to this country of the discovery cannot be overestimated.—*Macleod Gazette*.

Lake Freights.

Vessel room is in good demand, but offerings of ready tonnage continue moderate. Buffalo rates are steady on the basis of 2½c for wheat, 2½c for corn, and 2½c for oats. Erie canal rates quoted at 5½c for wheat, 4½c for corn, and 3½c for oats. Georgian Bay rates firm at 2½c for corn and 2½c for oats.—*Chicago Daily Business* Aug. 22.

Our enterprising and truly national pictorial weekly is issuing a special Wimbledon number, to honor the victories of the Canadian team. It will be out on Saturday, 17th inst., and will contain the following illustrations, from photographs and drawings sent from Wimbledon direct by the special artist of the *Dominion Illustrated*, viz.: A full-page engraving of the Canadian Kolapre Team; a full-page view of the Wimbledon camp; sketches of the Canadian camp, Col. Bacon's tent, Adjutant Hood's tent, afternoon tea, writing home, Lady Wantage's reception tent, and the old windmill; a full-page view of the firing stages during the contest; four photographs in the Canadian camp, and four other Wimbledon views, including High street. On the cover is a portrait of the commandant, Lieut.-Col. Bacon. Altogether a very interesting number for all active members of the volunteer force in Canada, more especially as this is the last meeting at Wimbledon. The *Dominion Illustrated* always shows great interest in everything connected with the militia and should be well patronized. For sale at all newsdealers, or send ten cents to the publishers, 73 St. James street, Montreal.