

deal beat account to the rear. The past year has witnessed the falling away of boom values in landed property, both city and country, and there is to-day a better chance to make a home and more inducements to offer home-seekers in the Pacific northwest than was ever the case heretofore."

COAL AT SAN FRANCISCO.

J. W. Harrison, coal and metal broker, reports as follows relative to the present condition of the San Francisco coal market:

"The total arrivals of coal during the week have been 5,190 tons from the Coast collieries. This small amount is mainly attributable to a succession of storms on the coast, in fact serious fears are entertained as to the safe arrival here of a number of vessels bound here coal laden, some of which are considerably overdue. The jobbers are overtaxed for teams, etc., to make deliveries of their orders; consumption of domestic grades is largely increased. Prices remain the same, as the keen competition among dealers, will not allow any advance to be made. The latest cabled freight rates on coal from Australia, Cardiff and Liverpool all show an advance, which if maintained will lead to higher quotations for coal delivered next year. One of our sources of supply, the Newcastle Mine, of Washington, has recently been on fire, and will not become a shipper for several months to come. Coal freights from British Columbia and Puget Sound are quoted at an advance on the ruling rates of last month, and the advance will be sustained so long as our coasters are ordered off the Coast with lumber to foreign ports."

DICK'S BELTING.

Some time ago a trial was made of Dick's patent driving belt on a planer at the Brunette Mills, which proved so great an im-

provement on those formerly used that it was decided to substitute the Dick belt on the big driver for the rope transmitters used last season. This is one of the largest driving belts ever used in British Columbia. It is 86 feet 5 inches in circumference, 36 inches wide, made endless and constructed of gutta percha and canvas, and it is claimed that it can be used in the water if necessary without stretching. In order to get the belt in position the big drive wheel had to be jacked up, and the proper tension attained by degrees. The millwright was so well satisfied with Dick's patent that the company has placed an order for 2,000 feet of the belting, which is manufactured in Glasgow. Jas. Freck, 91 Johnson street, Victoria, is sole agent for British Columbia.

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

The U. S. Government Bureau of Statistics has issued a report on wheat feeding. It is estimated that from the beginning of the crop year to date, 46,000,000 bushels of wheat has been fed to animals, and that during the balance of the season 29,000,000 bushels more will be fed. Wheat lands in Argentine sell at from \$2 to \$5 per acre. Labor is very cheap, so wheat can be grown to pay at 38 to 40 cents per bushel on farms near to railways. The climate, however, is a very risky one, heavy rains in some seasons ruining crops.

The corner of Scotland that lies north of the Grampians has a fame for the breeding, rearing, and feeding of cattle. With less than one-fifth of the whole population on the north side of the border, and not a larger proportion, perhaps, of the cultivated land to the north of that dividing line, the eight counties north of the Grampian range contributed to the great London Christmas market of December, 1892, some

2,000 of the 5,000 cattle offered for sale in it, and had their own share fully of the highest prices that were reached.

If citizens of high character will not enter municipal councils, those of low character must be elected, as the machinery has to be kept in motion. The *Toronto Mail* puts the point thus: "It may be said that democratic municipal government in Toronto is upon its trial. In the past it has disastrously failed to come up to even a low ideal, and its failure has mainly resulted from the culpable apathy of those who hold the elective franchise. The question now is: Are the citizens of Toronto willing that the name of their city shall be made a by-word and a reproach?"

The *Manchester Guardian* of December 19, in its commercial article, says: "The further consideration of the question of the imposition of duties on imported cotton in India has created intense annoyance. Upon the reception of the news the subject was formally discussed on 'change, and opinions widely differed as to the probable immediate outcome. Productive interests in Lancashire will feel it very strong, and that it will result in a check upon business is certain. Owing to the prevailing conditions which have harassed trade they must expect a period of difficulty in obtaining fresh orders. A meeting of the Masters' Federation and the cotton operatives, held last week, resolved to convene another meeting at an early date, to protest against the re-imposition of the Indian duties. The Lancashire members of the House of Commons will be invited to attend. The demand for cloth is slack, and the transactions are moderate. Though the demand from China and Japan has lessened, some offers for shirtings have been looked at low figures. Yarns are easier."