

ANOTHER RAILWAY.

On Friday last there was inaugurated by an excursion from Seattle to New Westminster, the first section of Jim Hill's Great Northern Railway, which gives Seattle a new and independent connection with the Canadian Pacific. Besides, a contract has been let for the immediate building of a line from Puget Sound eastward over the Cascade mountains. This means that the main line of the Great Northern system is to be hurried to completion and that the cities of Puget Sound are soon to have a new connection with the east. Competition may be relied upon to remove in the near future the defects in the existing transportation system. For Victoria, this road holds out prospects as it will place in her way another eastern connection to the east. Already eastern rates to and from Victoria are as low as those of any other city on the coast, but what is required are quicker methods of transportation, and it is not likely that Mr. Hill, having done so much, will be prepared to take a second position which the other and rival roads will be stimulated into doing better than before.

HAT CATTLE QUARANTINE.

A recent dispatch from Ottawa announces that the Minister of Customs has decided that the cattle quarantine regulations in British Columbia shall be suspended for the winter months, or until further information has been obtained relative to the beef supplies obtainable in British Columbia and the Northwest ranches. This result is said to be due in no small degree to the exertions of Messrs. Earle and Prior, the members for this city in the Dominion Parliament. It is probable, indeed, certain, that the regulations would never have been brought into effect but for the persistency of Mr. Davies, M.P., one of the members for the Territories, for whom considerable credit on this account was recently claimed by a Winnipeg paper. The idea of the ranchers was, as had been pointed out, to force the British Columbians to purchase, during the winter months, the beef which they had been unable to work off on Eastern Canada and the British export trade, and that at any prices which the Calgary ranchers—one of which Mr. Davies is—might choose to exact. It is for the present easily to be shown that British Columbia has not sufficient beef supplies to keep her for the entire winter, that her conditions are exceptional, and that in consequence it would be to the last degree unjust to carry out with respect to her the very letter of the provisions of the law. Meantime, our beef consumers may breathe more easily, and our ranchers may consider what it is possible for them to do to meet the requirements of the future situation. They are for the present out of the clutches of the grasping cattle raisers of Calgary.

LUMBERING has terminated in the Ottawa Valley, the mills being closed for the season. The cut amounts to 150,000,000 feet, about half the average output; but more men have gone to the shanties this winter than usual.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is said the Federal Government will bear the costs of appealing the Manitoba Separate School law to the Privy Council.

An official inquiry has been ordered by the Department of Marine and Fisheries into the loss of the bark Sarah, which was wrecked near Carmanah Point.

PEOPLE who have just come down are joyfully announcing that the glorious days of golden Cariboo are about to return, recent developments having warranted the embarkation of very large amounts of labor and capital in mineral development.

It having been announced that there will be an early session of the Dominion Parliament, it would be well for the Board of Trade to call a conference of merchants and others interested, so that the local members might be specially commissioned to urge upon our legislators and the Government those public works and that special legislation which the peculiar conditions of this part of the Dominion require.

MR. JAMES PUNCH, M. P. P., and Mr. F. G. Strickland, of New Westminster, are, it is understood, considering the prospects of a woollen mill, which they contemplate establishing in Victoria. The products of the Westminster mill have always commanded a market, and so it is certain would those of one established in Victoria, the majority of whose people would rather support a native industry than send their money out of the country, provided other things are fairly equal.

It would appear that at length the Dominion Government has deliberately determined to make the Atlantic postal service equal to the requirements of the times. It has, it is announced, decided to invite tenders for a fast line of steamers to England. The service is to average 19 to 20 knots an hour from port to port. Southampton will be the place of call in England; Quebec in winter and Halifax in winter on this side. The vessels will not be of less size than 6,500 tons, with modern equipments.

According to a cable dispatch received from Messrs. C. M. Lamson & Son, of London, the prospects for furs are: "Muskrat—Fall and winter will be much lower; spring a trifle easier. Lower prices expected for racoon and red fox. Marten and lynx will probably sell at last sale prices. Skunk is likely to follow suit, provided the demand in America for black and striped continues. With a moderate catch, opossum will probably sell at last sale prices. Former prices on mink will be maintained, provided the American demand continues. Sea otter, silver fox, cross fox and fisher give indication of being much lower. Beaver also is likely to decline materially, notwithstanding the small importations by the Hudson's Bay Company."

THE Montreal Herald, which was for many years regarded as the great commercial journal of the Dominion, and, indeed, as the most powerful exponent of the views of the Liberal party in Canada,

but which has for some years been falling back miserably, is to all appearances moribund, and unless there be some intervention must die. A winding up order against it has been granted in the courts, and a meeting of creditors was to have been held on Saturday. The Herald has had an existence of something like eighty years, it had much to do with shaping the political policy of the country, and of indicating the course of the merchants of Canada's business capital; but utter mismanagement and lack of definiteness of purpose have landed it where it is to-day.

THE Winnipeg Free Press facetiously remarks; "The great Republic of the United States, with its sixty-three millions of people, the freest, most intelligent and by all odds the most enlightened on earth, themselves being the authority, has been convulsed for weeks over a question of tremendous moment—where should the Republican Presidential convention of 1892 be held? Columns of the leading newspapers in all parts of the country have been heaped full of matter bearing on this one great issue. Brazil's two revolutions were conducted with one-tenth of the fuss. But at last it is decided. Minneapolis is to get the convention, and sixty-three millions of the most easily excited people in the world will now settle down and quietly sip their coffee until the next thing turns up."

REGARDING new dress materials in Paris, the correspondent of the Draper's Record says: Hosiery is worn very thick and soft, with very wide raised stripes; and there is a new make of it called *pelisse cote de cheval*, which is as light in the hand as it is rough in appearance. Amazon cloth is used to make dressy woolen toilettes; these are to be seen at the Bon Marche and Louvre, the skirts trimmed with velvet or fur bands. I have seen a dark beige cloth dress, with a band of brown velvet round, scalloped out, and between each scallop a *motif* of *passanterie* with steel drops, and silk beige and brown olives fall on a second band of moiré cloth worked at the edges in fine silk embroidery. Fancy velvets and plush corduroys are used in combination with woolen materials. Scroll patterns are a marked feature in the fancy velvets; the pattern is nearly always black on a light ground. Many of the black grounds are shot with the color employed in the brocades. Stripes are now introduced into plain silk or wool; these are generally used for *panneaux* to form an under or side skirt, and as a trimming for the bodice.

Mr. Horace T. Martin, of the well known Montreal fur house of John Martin & Sons, is now preparing for the press his book on the Beaver. It will have the expressive title of "Castorologia."

American glove manufacturers have been well employed during the past year. The demand has been best for light weight gloves, for men's wear as well as for women's. Americans now seem to go in more for appearance than for comfort, and it is to be feared that the same weakness affects the present generation on this side of the line.