

## VICTORIA'S PROSPERITY.

Among the transient visitors in Winnipeg last week was Mr. Crow Baker, ex M. P., of Victoria, who is now on a trip to England. Speaking of Victoria to a Winnipeg *Free Press* representative, Mr. Baker said: "Our beautiful city is at present making gratifying progress. Fine business blocks and handsome residences are being erected in all parts of the city, and real estate commands a good price—a legitimate price, remember; there is no inflation, no boom there, like you Winnipeggers once experienced. Perhaps you will be surprised to learn that many of the monied men of the Puget Sound cities are building residences in Victoria, because they find it a more pleasant place to live, as they escape the dry, hot atmosphere of the summer, and the excessive humidity of the winter."

## SIR GEORGE STEPHEN.

Sir George Stephen, the Canadian who has just been created a peer by Her Majesty the Queen, was in early life the apprentice of a draper in Aberdeen, Scotland. Learning his business thoroughly, he, in 1850, emigrated to Canada, entering the service of his cousin, the late Luther Stephen, of Montreal, with whom he afterwards formed a wholesale dry goods partnership under the style of Wither, Stephen & Co. His business ventures proved successful, so much so that in 1876 he was elected vice-president of the Bank of Montreal, later on becoming president. His connection with the C. P. R. is well known, of which line, in 1881, he was elected president. In 1887, he and his cousin, Sir Donald Smith, gave a million dollars to build the Royal Victoria hospital in Montreal. In 1890, he was created a baronet, this being a special mark of royal favor as a recognition of his great services in furthering the interests of the C. P. R. He is supposed to be worth six or eight million dollars.

## CONSUMPTION OF RAW SILK.

While the fact is admitted that silk has not been a fashionable material of late, the consumption of raw silk does not seem to have decreased in consequence. The eighteen largest silk conditioning works on the continent of Europe have registered in the first three months of 1891 over three and one-half million kilos of silk. This is more than the average for the same quarter in the five preceding years. Although cotton and wool are now largely used in admixture with silk this has no effect on the consumption of the dearer raw material. Cotton and wool when used together with silk cheapen to a certain extent the tissue, so that it comes within the reach of a larger number of consumers than is the case with the pure all silk articles. While, however, this cheapening process does not affect consumption of raw silk it interferes with the consumption of the better class of goods and even hurts the reputation of the latter. The final consumer classifies all as silk goods, and extends to the better grades the disfavor which may have been rightly caused by the bad results obtained in buying the cheap stuff. If silk is again taken hold of as a fashionable material,

which is most probable at no distant date, the cheap stuffs which now seem to be the most favored will be placed where they properly belong, bringing to the front standard fabrics capable of being worn on more than one occasion.

## FAILURE OF A NEW YORK FIRM.

Russell & Co., of China, with offices at No. 60 Wall street and No. 107 Grand street, New York City, and in London, have suspended. The firm did a general import and export business, the head of the establishment being in Hong Kong, China. They dealt largely in oil and cotton, which they shipped to China, sending back silks and teas. The present result has been expected for some time in the trade. The house, it is believed, will come out all right from its trouble.

## FALSE BRANDS ON PICKLES.

Reference was made some time ago in these columns to a fraud that was practised upon the public and the trade by certain Canadian pickle manufacturers. The fraud consisted in the use of labels which represented native-made pickles to be of English manufacture. The perpetrators of it appear to have had enough discretion to avoid the exact counterfeiting of the label used on any well known British brand, but they did about as much as they dare. They have probably made themselves liable for legal action both for false pretences and for violation of the canned goods law, under which every manufacturer is required to have his name put on every label covering his goods. Proceedings would no doubt have been taken before this if importers of genuine foreign and makers of Canadian stamped goods were assured the transgressors were financially responsible parties.

A brand of pickles is being sold here under a label stamped J. P. Keeler, Mile End Road, London, E. C. This pickle is of Canadian make. There is no J. P. Keeler at Mile End Road, London, as a letter sent by the *Grocer* to that address was returned by the Postmaster with the information that there was no such person there. The general claim that the goods are imported is supposed to enhance their salableness, as since they are not imported, and therefore having no duty to pay, they can be sold at a much lower figure than the genuine imported pickle. But the fiction of their being imported is not all that is pressed into the service of the fraud: the general get-up of the label approaches as closely as it safely can to an imitation of J. T. Morton's London. From the same source, it is supposed, as this spurious imported pickle, there has lately issued another, marked "produit francais." This is represented to be a French pickle.

It is extraordinary that wholesale grocers should be found so indifferent to the rights of genuine importers and honest labellers as to keep such goods in stock. By so doing they are helping along one of the worst kinds of fraud. Goods that have to be sold under a disguise ought not to find room in a reputable house, and when the disguise does injury to the trade in worthy goods it ought to be not only excluded but denounced.—*Canadian Grocer*.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA MINES.

Mr. John Miller, of Glasgow, Scotland, who represents a great deal of Scotch capital, and who is an expert whose opinion is regarded highly, has spent over a month in the Kootenay district. This he pronounces a great mining country, but one that will require a great deal of capital to develop. There are many excellent prospects, especially in the Toad Mountain, Warm Springs and Whitewater creek districts, but there has been but little development work. The Silver King mine, owned by Hall and others, is a very fine claim, and is undoubtedly very rich. Mining speculators from Butte, Helena and other American mining camps, are up in the Kootenay country, and every miner that has a prospect hole seems to think he has a bonanza.

Mr. Miller says that the ore is abundant, but will probably run a low grade as the miners get deeper. The great difficulty is lack of transportation facilities. Freight rates are very high and everything else in accordance. Mr. Miller will return to the mines in about three weeks to prosecute his examinations further before returning to Scotland.

## THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION.

Sir Charles Dilke in the *June Forum*: The Canadian constitution yields a federalism far more close or centralized than that of the United States. The lieutenant-governors of the Canadian Provinces are named by the Viceroy on the advice of the Dominion cabinet. The central government of Canada possesses all powers which are not definitely allotted by act of parliament to the Provinces. In this and other ways Canada is more one country than is the United States. The historic growth of many of the commonwealths which compose the United States, such as the commonwealth of Massachusetts, explains the jealousy with which in the United States the federal power has been viewed. In Canada, Quebec and Ontario and some of the Maritime Provinces had a somewhat similar, although a shorter history, but seemed to have been welded together into a single country by jealousy of their great neighbor. In Australia there was no historic reason making against national unity; but local interests, which have grown up under the protectionist policy of the majority of the colonies, have weakened the idea of Australian unity.

## SILK IMPORTS FOR APRIL.

The Silk Association of America report the value of imports of silk manufactures at the port of San Francisco during the month of April at \$2,134,075 against \$2,582,661 during April, 1890, a falling off of \$448,586. The decrease is chiefly in plushes and velvets, laces and gloves, and silk and cotton mixtures. Silk piece goods are only \$18,049 less than during the corresponding month last year. The increases are in crepes, pongees, handkerchiefs, cravats, thread and yarn, silk and worsted and silk and linen mixtures. The imports of raw silk at New York and the Pacific Coast ports were 5,090 bales, valued at \$2,851,968, and of waste silk and pierced cocoons 117 packages, valued at \$12,799.—*San Francisco Herald of Trade*.