

A NEW INDUSTRY.

Westminster's superior advantages as a commercial and trade centre are becoming more apparent every year, and visitors from the east, looking over the ground with a view to investment and for openings for new industries, are not slow to recognize the fact that this city offers the best field in the Province. It is not surprising, therefore, that an eastern Canadian firm engaged in a large pork packing and curing business has decided, after making a few particular inquiries into the situation and prospects, to transfer its entire business and operations to this city.

The firm, in question, is the well known one, in Eastern Canada, of Brown & Nelson, Brantford, Ont. Mr. L. O'Neill, who is a relative of one of the members of the firm, arrived in Westminster from the east a few weeks ago, and has made a number of enquiries with a view to the business mentioned, and the result has been so satisfactory to Messrs. Brown & Nelson that they have reached the decision announced above. Yesterday, Mr. O'Neill received a telegram authorizing him to secure a warehouse (which he has already done), and stating that the bulk of the stock on hand at the eastern packing house, consisting of about four carloads of hams and pork cured by the firm would, be shipped immediately, and that the whole plant would be removed to this city as soon as possible.

The importance of this new industry to the city, as well as the surrounding district, will be apparent when it is stated that the firm will require, to begin with, about 2,000 hogs annually for their business, and that during the fall and winter months they will employ from a dozen to fifteen men, and the business is one, which, in a favorable field such as this, is sure to develop. The ready market which will thus be supplied for a large number of hogs yearly should be a great encouragement for farmers to go more into that branch of live stock.

In addition to the wholesale department, the new firm, who are skillful in every branch of the business, will have a large retail establishment, for the sale of fresh and cured pork in all its varied and enticing styles. The members of the firm themselves will be out in a few weeks, and will make arrangements for either renting or putting up the necessary buildings for their establishment. They are prepared to put a capital of at least \$20,000 into the business to begin with.—Columbian, April 15th.

THE ASPARAGUS PACK.

The first pack of the season in California is asparagus. It never is a very large pack, being kept very close to the actual consumptive demand, and cuts no great figure in a consideration of the aggregate of a season's operations. Still, more or less interest attaches to the pack, for the reason that it is the first of the season, and there is always some anxiety to know how the canners find the supply, and what the feeling is among the growers and shippers of grass.

The pack last year was about 3,000 cases. It was well cleaned up, in the usual way of trade; there being but a limited demand as indicated by the volume of the

pack. This year in all probability the pack will not exceed 3,000 cases, but nothing can be said positively as yet.

The negotiations with the syndicate of local and eastern capitalists are still open, and should they be concluded, as anticipated, there will be some changes in the manner of operation of the canneries. It is understood that when the final arrangements are made, certain canneries will make certain packs, according to their location and convenience of supplies of certain varieties of vegetables and fruits. The asparagus pack may be assigned to some city cannery or to one of the Santa Clara canneries. But no definite statement yet can be made. A week or ten days hence at the outside there will have been some conclusion as to the intentions of the syndicate, and something definite as to the pack of asparagus.—San Francisco Herald of Trade.

NEW V. C. CO. NOTES.

The New Wellington coal is more than holding its own in the San Francisco and other markets, being very generally in demand for household and other purposes.

The SS. Eton and SS. Hounslow, which load New V. C. Co's for San Francisco are pronounced the best boats for their business that are plying upon the Pacific Coast, as they carry about 4,000 tons of coal, are easily trimmed and are economical.

All the shafts being sunk by the Company are going well and satisfactorily. The bore at Northfield is down 300 feet, having gone through two bands of very hard conglomerate, one 80 feet in thickness, and is now in another small one of the same sort.

The apparatus for lowering coal at No. 1 shaft is giving great satisfaction, and the idea will probably be extended to the other shafts in the near future. The one at present in use is capable of lowering 120 tons of coal per hour, and as it is situated right over the hold of the vessel to be loaded, the coal is not pulverized as when it is shot down an inclined plane for some distance.—Free Press.

DRY GOODS ITEMS.

Combinations of black grenadine and satin with metal flowers in gold or silver, or broche effects are strikingly handsome, and liberally taken by the trade. Frisec and satin, a most beautiful effect, and gauze and satin on black ground with various colored flower effects, principally daisies, also verge glaces with metal border, satin grounds with colored broche spots, omber and glace effects, granite satin glace with polka dots, etc., are others of the successful designs or patterns for spring.

White "bundle" shirts have been largely sold through certain parties (who were satisfied with a commission as low as 2½ per cent.) at \$2.37½. These goods will weigh ten to ten and one-half pounds, and no hosiery manufacturer can place them on the market at this price and prosper. This is all the effect of home competition, for, in point of fact nothing like these goods have been or can be imported to sell in competition with home-made goods of this sort.—Ex.

H. A. Lilley, Victoria, is manufacturing choice hand-made chocolate creams.

WAKE UP!

There is a popular superstition that a Board of Trade exists in this city. If this thing be a reality, the public would greatly enjoy seeing it prodded up a little.

This city is missing golden opportunities to advance its interests.

Every day almost comes fresh news of a new manufactory being started in British Columbia. But rarely, if ever, is New Westminster favored. The reason is, its public men are asleep.

No mention is ever heard at the Council meetings of methods by which the city's industrial and commercial interests might be advanced. And the Board of Trade! It is surely a myth.

This Province is bound to have a certain number of factories of one kind and another; what are we doing to attract our fair share of them here? Nothing.

But Vancouver and Victoria are both alive, and they are getting the factories as a result.

Depend on it, incoming manufacturers are not going to thrust themselves uninvited upon us.

It would pay this city to employ a good man to look up its interests in this regard,—some hustling, energetic fellow—one who never was nor ever thought of becoming a member of the Board of Trade or the City Council.—New Westminster Ledger.

An exchange says that in ivories and crotchets, both flat and ball shape buttons seem to be in demand. Violet buttons are also very good sellers. The prices of buttons have materially increased on account of the tariff and the rise in values in Europe. Foreign manufacturers refuse to make cheap goods, because they assert that it costs no less, so far as the labor is concerned, to make cheap goods than the more expensive varieties.

In Hanover, Germany, a plan is conducted worthy of imitation by the patrons of industry in Canada who have during their winter meetings given considerable attention to forest preservation and tree planting. Municipalities, and even individuals, who are inclined to establish forest grounds receive loans at 2 per cent. interest, and even cheaper, from the Provincial Government, to be reimbursed yearly by small instalments. The Provincial Government also employs vagrants and criminals in forest culture. Within the years 1876 to 1878 they planted 9,000 acres by this means.

Toronto Empire: All canned goods are in active demand. Salmon are firm at \$1.40 per dozen up for ordinary brands, but some off grades can be bought at \$1.20. Tomatoes are the strongest feature of the market. They are very scarce. Only two houses hold any stock here. A wholesale house bought a lot, for which they paid \$1.40 laid down. For retailers' lots \$1.45 is generally asked, and now \$1.00 is the price to which it is thought the market will go. There were a number of packers on the market, but they were indifferent sellers of futures. Bids of \$1 for tomatoes were reported. French peas are held with greater firmness, as late mail advices show that the reported damage to the crop has been serious.