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Mercantile Summary.

BUILDING is going on actively at Trail, B.C. according to a letter of last week. Lumber is in urgent demand. Since 1st January the smelter company's mill has sawn 1,600,000 feet of lumber, three-fourths of which has been used in town, the remainder having been shipped to Rossland. The other mill has turned out about 500,000 feet.

THAT Rossland is a busy place no one can doubt. Commencing with Sunday, the 6th, there are six trains daily between Rossland and Trail. No less than 294 locations were recorded last month at Rossland, and the office staff is increased. There was more development work done during the month than in any month previously. The customs collections for May were the highest in the record of the port, reaching \$14,044, against \$5,688 in May of last year. Mr. H. G. Dalby, of Victoria, who has been engaged in enumerating the people of the city for a directory, has completed his work. He says that he has the names of over 2,000 business men, and that the total population of Rossland is over 5,400.

WE noticed a fortnight ago that the Wabash Railway had arranged to run trains, originating in Chicago, daily over the Grand Trunk tracks from Windsor to the Falls. These trains have this week begun to run, and make only five stops. The Lehigh Valley Road is also running fast through trains to Buffalo in connection with the Grand Trunk. Passengers may thus get about quickly and depend on connections with general regularity. A party of happy newspaper men were taken to Buffalo on one of these swift trains, escorted by Mr. Dickson and Mr. Keating, of the G.T.R.; Mr. Lewis, of the Lehigh, and other gentlemen. We are told, too, that the health of Mr. Davis, the general passenger agent of the Grand Trunk, was well received, and we believe he deserved it.

INDICATIONS of activity are afforded by the following figures referring to Nelson, B.C., customs returns for the month of May:—Imports dutiable, \$145,137; ditto, free, \$32,069; total \$177,203. Duty collected, \$41,572; other revenues, \$266; total, \$41,839. Exports—Ore, 1,450 tons, \$91,499; copper matte, 545 tons, \$303,298; total mine exports, \$397,797; total exports, \$407,209. The waterworks at Nelson are to be transferred by the company to the city this week, when steps will be taken at once to extend and improve the system. It is intended by the J. A. Sayward Lumber Company to erect a sawmill of 30,000 capacity at the southeast corner of the Bogus-

town tract. The new steamer "North Star" has been launched. She is of 375 tons burthen, and will run on the Upper Kootenay River, between Jennings and Fort Steele.

THE following recent patents in Great Britain the United States and Canada granted to Canadian inventors, is issued by Featherstonhaugh & Co.:—Canadian patents—P. T. Cantara, composition of matter for walls, etc.; A. Titrault, harvester; F. St. Denis, device for polishing boots; J. A. Hall *et al.*, process of extracting gold from ore or other auriferous material; W. Angus, the application of wood cellulose in the construction of buildings; A. T. Hollingshead, improvement by which hot air is distributed from hot air registers. American patents—J. M. Brown and N. G. Boggs, cornice and eavetrough brake machine; A. J. McDonald, illustrative planetarium; J. G. Pennycuik, device for illuminating basements and dark rooms. British patent—M. Kyle, shirt. Another patent agent, Mr. C. H. Riches, announces patents issued this week to Canadians, as follows:—J. Bishop and J. Painter, paper pulp screen; M. Moss, combined fire escape and ladder; C. Moisan, smoke consumer; W. Cole, process for the manufacture of butter; M. Barsalou, glass engraving machine; T. Marshall, machine for forming seamless shoes and moccasins; J. Whitham, boot; D. A. Ross, envelope; Wm. Kennedy and J. Ketter, wagon body for carrying grain in bulk; T. Heddon, furnace; T. S. Usher, collapsible box; G. Wettlaufer, pea harvester; W. J. Kennedy, bag holder; J. Richmond, post hole auger; F. Soule, floor clamp; A. Brooke, pole-tip; J. B. Girard, wheel hub; D. McArthur, clover seed table attachment for mowers; G. Tyler, woolen felly for vehicle wheels.

THE WOOL MARKETS.

Receipts of the 1897 wool clip from different Ontario centres are now very liberal. The growers and country merchants are apparently of one mind in regard to the policy of immediate shipments, although a number of instances are reported in which stocks are being stored at country points in anticipation of a better market. Prices are maintained at the level established on the 2nd June. The quotations are as follows: Good merchantable fleece wool, 19 cents; tub washed, 18 cents; rejects, 16 cents; black, 16 cents; unwashed, 12 cents per pound. Merchants are in a quandary as to the wool situation in the United States. Shipments are not being sent forward to the American markets as rapidly as might be expected, with the tariff bill before Congress in its present unsettled condition. The difficulty lies in the over-crowded wool markets of the Eastern States. During the five months, from January to May inclusive, 246,484,801 pounds of wool has been imported into the United States, of which 160,660,346 pounds were of class one, or merino; 18,579,840 pounds class two, and 67,244,615 pounds class three. The imports during this period were almost as large as the imports during the twelve months of 1895, when 248,989,217 pounds of wool was brought into the country, and they exceed those of the twelve months of 1896 by 86,708,786 pounds. Within five months more than a year's supply of wool has been brought into the United States from foreign countries. The wool markets are, in consequence, in an unsettled position. Manufacturers are not inclined to bid actively for the new Canadian clip of wool, and it is understood, that several shipments which have been recently made to the United States are stored on the shippers' account.

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