

The Matsqui dyke has proved impervious to the weather changes and the sudden thaws.

W. F. Cameron, builder, Vernon, has entered into partnership with T. Milne as builders and contractors.

R. P. Rithet, of Victoria, has been appointed Lloyd's agent for the province, to succeed the late R. Finlayson.

Word has been received at Vancouver, B. C., that the ship Skotfield, laden with 2,500 tons of tea, left Yokohama for here on Sunday, June 12. She is the first of the season's tea ships consigned to the C. P. R.

The hardware stock of the estate of H. T. Read & Co., New Westminster, amounting to \$14,000 as per inventory at eastern invoice prices, was purchased en bloc at auction on May 28th for 75c on the dollar by Thomas Dunn & Co., of Vancouver.

A. E. Howse, merchant of Nicola, was sentenced at the Kamloops assizes to one year in gaol for complicity in a fraud upon an insurance company represented by R. Ward & Co., of Victoria. Clark, whose barn was supposed to be insured, received six months.

Big strikes have been made on the north fork of the Slokan river, not far from Kaslo. One was made fourteen miles from the famous Noble Five claim, which it is said to excel in richness. Thompson & Whittier are the owners and consider they have struck it rich.

News has been received that the Hudson's Bay Company's steamer Caledonian has succeeded in ascending the Skeena River to Hazelton, where she discharged a portion of the freight that had accumulated in the Canyon, returning for another cargo. This will effect a great saving over the old method by canoes and portages.

Wool Prices.

The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* says: "The markets continue very firm all round, both in the States and here; buying is only being done in a jobbing sort of way. Meantime owners of wool are not at all in a hurry to press the sale of their stock, but are convinced that higher prices will rule, or at all events that present values will be maintained. Some small lots have changed hands at our quotations, and a sale of 53 bales of slightly damaged wool ex "Parsee" will take place at Guthrie's warehouse on Friday at 2 30 p.m. We quote:—Greasy Cape, 15 to 17c; B.A. scoured, 33 to 38c; Chilian merino, 15 to 16c; Northwest, 15 to 17c.

New York Wool.

New wools are coming forward more freely, but as they are held above the present market quotations they are not meeting with a strong demand. Manufacturers, as a rule, have light stocks, but they are adding to them in a very conservative manner. Territory wools are coming along quite freely, and while some are heavy, other lots show an improvement over those of last year. New wools from Ohio and Michigan have not come forward as yet to any extent, although some small lots are now on the market. Shearing has not begun in many sections on account of the rainy weather. Pulled wools are quiet. Stocks are light, especially of medium grades, and receipts will be very small for the next sixty days. Manufacturers have been buying Australian wools more freely. Many believe that prices at the London sales, which open June 14, will be higher, and that an advance will be made here. The chances of and advance in London are favorable. About 385,000 bales will be offered, and of these but a small amount will be suitable for this country. It is generally expected that English and continental buyers will be strong competitors. Carpet wools are quiet, but prices are unchanged.—*Bradstreet's*.

British Grain Trade.

The *Mark Lane Express*, of June 13, in its weekly review of the British grain trade, says: Owing to the brilliant weather during the last week English wheat was gladly sold at 6d lower than the Whitsuntide rates. Indian and South American wheat also declined. North American was irregular. Californian was 5s 1d dearer than English. Since the last harvest there has been imported 16,592,829 qrs of wheat flour, of which half was American. Oats and barley were weak. Maize was dearer owing to smaller supplies being excepted from America than in 1891. At Monday's market English wheat and foreign white were 6d cheaper, foreign red is cheaper on the fortnight. Flour, especially American, met with ridicule. Barley firmer. Oats, beans and peas were 6d lower.

Exportation of Russian Grain.

The Department of State, Washington, has been informed that the following ukase was issued by the Russian Government May 13:

In view of the favorable results obtained from the measures taken by Imperial order to assure food for the people and seed for the fields it is judged useful for the sake of the national commerce to authorize:

1. The free exportation of corn, both by sea and by the western continental frontier.
2. The free exportation of the stock of oats in store at Archangel, Libau, Revel and Riga, the Minister of Finance being charged to make proper arrangements in detail for the control of the customs institutions.

This is understood to indicate that the famine is drawing to a close. It is believed that a ukase will be issued July 13—possibly as early as June 13—permitting the exportation of all grain except rye. A collapse in the price of grain has taken place, and the existence of vast quantities hoarded by speculators has thus been developed. The authorities will be able to deal easily with what remains of the famine, and the indications are that it will be unnecessary to send further contributions of grain.

Wheat Prices.

The *Liverpool Corn Trade News* quotes wheat prices now and a year ago as follows:

	Now	Year ago
Native Wheat (impl. avg. per qr)	31/2	40/1
No. 1 Cal.	35/9	44/9
Australian per qr	36/3	43/9
No. 1 Cal. in Liverpool, per cental	7/3	8/5½
No. 1 Bombay per cental	7/1	8/5½
Paris, current month, per qr	42/4	52/5
Berlin, current delivery, per qr	40/7	53/5
Pesth, M. June delivery, per qr	30 11	36/-

Stocks of wheat in store in Minnesota and Dakota country elevators on June 11 amounted to 2,934,800 bush, showing an increase of 140,800 bush. for the week. The stock of wheat in Minneapolis public elevators is 7,516,485 bu. showing an increase of 80,800 bu. The stock in Duluth is 4,270,399 bush, a decrease of 13,538 bush. The Minneapolis private stocks are 716,000 bush., showing an increase of 15,000 bush. for the week. The total supply in Minnesota and Dakota elevators amounts to 15,437,684 bush., showing an increase of 223,062 bush. The total a year ago was 12,327,143 bushels, a decrease of 887,823 bushels for that week.

The Crops in Europe.

We have not had long to wait for the warm weather. It set in immediately, and almost spontaneously the wheat crop appears to have sprung from the ground, and reports of earing are now not unheard of, indeed, Mr. Graton & J. Graton, this morning brought us a bunch of fairly well developed ears from off their experimental ground at Newton-le-Willows, Lancashire. These reports are the swallows that herald the approach of summer; it will be several weeks yet before earing is general all over the country, the incident serv-

ing merely as an interesting record; it was after the 8th of June last season when we find any mention of any early wheat ear.

Our correspondent claims, however, that the area under wheat this season in this district in which he is trading among farmers, in Lancashire, and Cheshire, is seriously curtailed, meaning not an ordinary falling off, but a wholesale abandonment of wheat land, he holding firmly the belief that when the official returns are published the deficiency will be found to be at least ¼ as compared with a year ago. Such a deficiency if general all over the country would mean a crop of wheat of 6,000,000 qrs, instead of 9,000,000 qrs, and would necessitate an importation next season of about 22,000,000 qrs, even allowing that we carry over heavy stocks next August; but the general and wholesale deficiencies hardly ever occur, certainly a falling off of 20 per cent. happened last season in France, but that is the only instance in recent times that a general abandonment of autumn sown land occurred through unfavorable weather; in this country the severest contraction in any one season occurred in 1883-4, when the area planted was 11 per cent. less than in 1882-3. Undoubtedly the prospects from an agricultural view have improved all round during the last ten days, the grass lands have gained more than any other, but the heat has forced on the wheat in a remarkable degree, and if given another heavy drenching or two this week, it would do well without a single shower more until after harvest.

In Hungary the weather has been hot and dry, and the condition of the crops remains satisfactory. An Italian crop report dated May 29th states that local harm has been wrought by a violent hailstorm, but that the general opinion is that though the wheat crop is promising, last year's yield will not be repeated. Roumanian crop reports are favorable. Abnormally hot weather has been experienced in France, Germany, Holland and Belgium for the last few days, Berlin reporting the hottest spell at the end of May since 1865. In France yesterday some thunderstorms burst in the north and west, and while more rain is considered desirable, the condition of the crops is described as not unfavorable.—*Liverpool Corn Trade News*, May 31.

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

The *Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin* of June 13 says:—There were no new developments in railroad rates during the past week and they hold steady, but on June 13 grain and flour rates to New York will be advanced to 22½c. The present rates on flour and grain is 20c, and on provisions 30c per 100 lb. Through rates to Liverpool are steady. Rates on flour ranged at 21½c to 22½c. Grain at 17½c, and on provisions 40 to 46½c. Through rates to New York, lake and rail, were steady at 5½ to 6c for wheat and 5 to 5½c for corn. Lake rates were stronger at 1½c to 2c for wheat and 1½c for corn to Buffalo; 1½c for corn and 1½c for oats to Georgian Bay.

The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* of June 10 says: "Engagements of grain have been made this week at 2s to Liverpool, with 1s 9d bid for more space and refused. London freight is quoted at 2s 6d and Glasgow 2s 3d to 2s 6d. Very little Bristol tonnage is available before the end of the month, for which 2s 9d is quoted. To the Continent 3s to 3s 6d, and Cork for orders 3s. Provisions, 15s to Liverpool, London and Glasgow. An advance of 5s has taken place in butter and cheese, which are now up to 25s. Eggs, 15s. Deals are quoted at 42s to 45s and cattle 60s to 70s. Bag flour has been taken at 9s 3d for Liverpool. In lake and river freights very little fresh business has been done in United States grain via the St. Lawrence, and freight rates from Chicago to Kingston are nominal at 2½c to 2½c per bushel. A cargo of corn is the only engagement reported to us from Chicago this week. Kingston to Montreal 2½c to 2½c per bushel.