STEEL SHIPBUILDING.

Large Steel Vessels May be Built in British Columbia —Fishery Resources—Municipal Elections.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Vancouver, January 12th.

Development of provincial resources will doubtless proceed at a more rapid rate since both English and American in addition to local capital is being enlisted in large enterprises. Mr. H. F. Bullen, of Victoria, was in Vancouver yesterday on his way to England in connection with the establishment of a large floating dry-dock here, and the ultimate intention of having a plant at Esquimalt to construct the largest of steel vessels. This is part of a plan to consolidate the B. C. Marine Railway of Victoria and Vancouver, the Vancouver Engineering Works and the New Westminster Foundry. Holdings of iron and coal mines on the west coast have also been secured. Fowler, Perks and Company, of London, are financing the scheme, which has been under consideration for some time.

Iron and Steel Producing Centre.

Iron properties at Quatsino, west coast of Vancouver Island, are to be mined to produce ore for smelting at Irondale, Washington State, where a large new plant is being installed by J. A. Moore, Wm. Piggott and associates. This means that they will be the first to turn the iron ore of British Columbia to profitable advantage. Large mountains of it exist on Vancouver Island. With abundance of coal and other requisites, it is not too much to predict that in a few years British Columbia will be producing iron and steel for use in the West. An immense amount of these materials is now brought from the East, being imported from the United States.

There is always considerable talk in the West about a project before any kind of realization is attained. The Nicola Valley Coal and Coke Company is no exception. This week the directors of the company left Vancouver in a special car to visit the properties on the Nicola branch of the C. P. R. to formulate plans on the spot for the opening up of the coal deposits. In this district, too, are the measures of the Diamond Vale Iron and Coal Company, where shafts are now being sunk.

Coal Supply and Demand.

One reason for this action, perhaps, is the scarcity of coal which has recently been a hardship to the Vancouver people. Lack of labor is primarily the cause, but sickness amongst the miners also prevented the output from being large. If ordinary illness amongst employees decreases the product of coal so that people cannot obtain it for fuel, and are compelled to burn fences, woodsheds, etc., it only shows how close the supply is kept to the demand. The manager of the Western Fuel Company says the population is increasing very rapidly and consequently the demand is now greater. There is then an ample market for thousands of tons of coal. The opening up of additional mines but a short distance away, will provide employment for a large number of men, and increase the supply of a household necessary, where now there is scarcely enough for everyone.

City Consumes But Does Not Produce.

Vancouver City is in every way a city of consumption. It produces none of the necessaries required to maintain life. With a two weeks' cold snap—an unusual occurrence—in some instances 20 below zero, water avenues of trade have been blocked, and in a day almost short rations have resulted. Butter and eggs it has been impossible to get, and even a considerable shortage of milk has been experienced. This emphasizes the importance of securing settlers for the lands near the city. Were these districts populated, two ends would be served. Butter, chickens, eggs and milk, for which prices are high, would be produced on small holdings. Labor for employment in the industries would be provided. Electric cars would lessen the handicap of a two or three mile distance. It is because this must come, that suburban lands are taken hold of by speculators, and prices for them remain very firm.

Excellent Opportunities for Fishermen.

Activity among industries to exploit the fishery resources of local waters has already been referred to. A company is being formed, for which considerable capital has been subscribed on this coast, to engage on a large scale in deep sea fishing. It is the intention to use both sail vessels and steamers, and to fish as far north as Behring Sea. Halibut is the only deep sea fish that has been sought for to any extent. Sufficient cod has been caught to prove its abundance and its exceedingly excellent quality.

Vancouver continues to point with pride to the records constantly attained in its bank clearings. For the week ending the 10th, they were $3,757,418, as compared with $2,017,880 for the corresponding period of 1905, and $1,473,284 for the same week in 1904. The increase of 86 per cent. in a year is a better indication of growth than anything else, and has a more beneficial effect than any amount of words.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Mr. E. L. Pease, General Manager Royal Bank, left Montreal Thursday week on a month's visit to Cuba.

Mr. James Ross, President of the Dominion Coal Co., leaves at the end of the present week for the Mediterranean

Mr. Robert Meighen declined a proffered directorship on the Dominion Coal Board, believing that he would be of more service in healing the steel-coal breach by remaining in an independent position.

Mr. C. C. Pickering, late of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society's branch office in Montreal, has been appointed as resident agent in Montreal for the Ottawa Fire Insurance Company's Montreal branch office.

Mr. John W. Sterling, confidential representative in New York for Lord Mount Stephen and Lord Strathcona, was in Montreal for a couple of days interviewing Lord Strathcona. He returned home on Monday night.

Mr. W. F. Tye, C. E, left Montreal on Monday night, via Chicago and El Paso, Texas, for Mexico, where he will take full charge of the engineering work being undertaken there by the Canada Electric Syndicates, Ltd., composed of Canadian and English Capitalists.

Mr. E. C. Norsworthy, Montreal Manager of the Dominion Securities Company, is in Toronto, having been delayed here a considerable time by a severe attack of grippe, from which he has now almost recovered. He only recently returned from a business trip to London, Eng.

Sir William Van Horne left Montreal for New York Monday night, after attending the C. P. R. meeting. On Tuesday, the rumor that he had died suddenly created no little excitement on the Stock Exchange, and on the "Street." The rumor, which was probably started by stock operators, was quickly denied.

Mr. C. E. Ussher, the new assistant to the general passenger traffic manager of the C. P. R., left Montreal Sunday night, 12th inst., for Winnipeg. The local officials of the Canadian Pacific gave him a farewell lunch on Saturday afternoon at the St. James's Club. The chair was occupied by Mr. D. McNicoll, vice-president.

The following changes have been made in the head office staff of the Canadian Bank of Commerce: The title of Mr. A. H. Ireland will hereafter be superintendent of branches, instead of chief inspector and superintendent of branches, and he will rank as the next officer to the general manager. The title of Mr. H. H. Morris, of Vancouver, will hereafter be superintendent of Pacific Coast branches. The title of Mr. V. C. Brown will hereafter be chief inspector. These three gentlemen have rendered signal service to the bank, and are among its most valued officials.

MONEY AND MUNICIPALITIES.

The ratepayers of Campbellford, Ont., will shortly vote on a by-law to raise $12,000 for cement walks.

Kincardine, Ont., ratepayers will vote on the question of issuing debentures for $2,500 for the purchase of a park.

A by-law is to be submitted to the ratepayers of Renfrew, Ont., to raise $6,000 for extensions to the sewerage system.

The $40,000 5% Fernie, B. C., 30-year sewer debentures have been awarded to W. Sanford Evans of Winnipeg at a price above par.

Boissevain, Man., has decided to proceed with the construction of a waterworks and sewage system at an estimated cost of $176,000.

The Chatham, Ont., city council have withdrawn the by-law for expending $41,000 on municipal waterworks and electric light extensions.

The town of Springhill issued $29,000 in debentures to pay current indebtedness and to effect improvements, but has not yet succeeded in disposing of them.

By a deed of sale the transfer of the Granby, Que., waterworks from Mr. William Gould to the corporation for the consideration of $100,000 was completed last week.

Tenders for the purchase of Edmonton, Alta., city debentures have been opened, but owing to the low bids, rejected. The debentures will be re-advertised in the near future.

The town of Neepawa, Man., has just disposed of $13,300 5% Local Improvement Debentures, repayable at the end of twenty years, to Messrs. Wood, Gundy & Company, Toronto.

At the request of the Tweed, Ont., ratepayers, the Town Council have decided to cancel the by-law which was to provide for an expenditure of $15,000 for a trunk sewer and granolithic walks.