

# BRITISH COLUMBIA

## OFFICE OF THE COMMERCIAL

### BRITISH COLUMBIA BUSINESS REVIEW.

Vancouver, July 20, 1901.

The Vancouver assay office, have declared themselves open for business. Word has been sent to Yukon that all miners presenting gold at the Vancouver office will get one per cent. rebate on the royalty paid by them to the government. The banks will cash the assay office certificates at three-quarters of one per cent., and will pay all the charges of the Seattle assay office out of this (the gold will be sent to Seattle) so that the banks will handle the gold practically free of charge. Dr. Reilly, superintendent of mines for Canada, visited the Seattle office last week and received every courtesy and all the information he wished regarding the working of the office. Dr. Reilly established the Vancouver office, taking a store on the business street and converting it into an assay office capable of handling \$20,000,000 worth of gold per annum, in three weeks' time. To do this, however, he was assisted in every possible way by the influence of the Canadian government. In fact he was enabled to induce a firm of scale manufacturers in Philadelphia to ship him immediately as ordered a set of scales designed and manufactured for the United States mint. There is a great diversity of opinion existing as to what percentage of the gold Vancouver is likely to get. The Canadian banks will certainly ship their many millions here. And those who have paid royalty on all the gold they are carrying away from the Klondike will take advantage of the rebate on this royalty. It is hard to say how many miners have done that, but it is not probable that those who have evaded paying royalty on a portion of their gold will lay that gold down on the counter of an office run by the government they have defrauded, and produce the royalty receipt for the purpose of getting the promised one per cent. rebate. Another class of men who will not come to Vancouver are Americans, who are bringing out small quantities of gold with the intention of spending it all in a big time. The rebate does not cut much figure with them, and Seattle will reap the benefit of their combined wealth. Canada, however, will be enriched by many more millions of dollars in gold than under the old system and some of it will stick in British Columbia.

The settlement of the fishermen's strike has enabled all the canners to start packing and by the time this statement is in print the Fraser river will be alive with its precious sock-eyes. The sockeyes, at this writing, have reached Point Roberts and are heading for the Fraser spawning grounds in vast numbers. The Yankee traps are getting their first haul at them and are catching more than they know what to do with.

In the last month the Vancouver clearing house returns have beaten all previous records twice over. The last week, clearings totalling a million and a quarter. In spite of these rosy evidences of prosperity for the near future, local trade is dull and money unusually tight, with the exception of the hardware business, which reports brisk trade since the beginning of the year, and an enormous Klondike business. Mining is quiet. Lumber business slack. The grocery trade is at a stand still. Dry goods is very dull. Boots and shoes fair. The wholesale butchers, however, report a good trade with Klondike and a steady market for first-class cattle, sheep, and hogs. A feature of this trade being the fact that Americans are coming to British Columbia in increasing numbers to buy their cattle for shipment to the Yukon from here and thus save the duty.

### PRICES AT VANCOUVER.

(By wire to The Commercial.)

Vancouver, August 3.  
Flour prices remain unchanged. Bran and shorts are \$2 dearer. Cured meats are easier. Eastern eggs are 1c dearer.

GRAIN—Wheat, \$30 per ton; oats, \$35 per ton; corn, \$28 per ton.

FLOUR—Delivered B. C. points—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$4.50; strong bakers', \$4.50; Oregon, \$4.50 per barrel; Enderton, B. C., patents, \$4.70.

FEED—National Mills chops, \$25 per ton; bran, \$23; shorts, \$25; oil cake meal, \$35 ton f.o.b. Vancouver, including duty paid on imported stuff.

HAY—Shuswap, double pressed, \$22 per ton; Fraser River valley, \$18 per ton; ordinary bales, \$12.

MEAT—Rolled oats, 50lb sack, \$3.00; two 45lb sacks, \$5.10; four 25lb sacks, \$3.80; ten 7lb sacks, \$2.50; oatmeal in 10lb sacks, per 100lb, \$3.50; in 50lb sacks, \$3.25 per 100lb.

HIDES AND WOOL—Sound heavy steers 7½c per lb; medium, 6½c; light cows, 5½c; sheep pelts, November killed, 90c each; deer skins, green, 8c lb; deer skins, dry, 20c lb; wool, 60¢10c lb.

LIVE STOCK—Steers, \$4.50@4.85 per 100 lb; sheep, \$5 per 100lb; lambs, \$4.25@4.50; hogs, 7c.

POULTRY—Chickens, \$3.00@4.50; fowls \$5.50@6.00.

DRESSED MEATS—Beef, 8½c; mutton, 10¢10½c; pork, 9¢9½c; veal, 10¢10½c.

CURED MEATS—Hams, 10¢10½c; breakfast bacon, 10½c@17c; backs, 10c; long clear 13½c; rolls, 13c; smoked sides, 13½c@14c.

LARD—Tubs, 13½c@13¾c per lb; pails, 12½c; tubs, 12½c.

BUTTER—Local creamery, 25c; Manitoba creamery, 26¢27c; dairy, local, 10c; Manitoba dairy, 14¢15c.

EGGS—Fresh local, 30c; Northwest eggs, 16c; eastern, 20c per dozen.

VEGETABLES—New potatoes, \$18@20 per ton; cauliflower, \$1; beans, 8c; peas, 3c; silver skins, 1½c per pound; tomatoes, \$1.50 box; cabbage, 2¢2½c.

FISH—Flounders, 5c; smelts, 5c; sea bass, 4c; whiting, 6c; soles, 6c; halibut, 6c; salmon, 10c; cod, 6c per lb; crabs, 60c per dozen, smoked salmon, 10c, smoked halibut, 10c, smoked herring, 9c; shrimps, 20c.

FRUIT—St. Michael and Valen- chis oranges, \$4.50; lemons, \$2.50@3.25; cherries, 10c 18¢90c; apricots 5c; coconuts, \$3.50; plums, \$1.15; peaches, 90¢ @ \$1.10; pears, \$2.25; apples, \$1.40@1.60.

NUTS—Almonds, 15¢16c; filberts, 12½c; peanuts, 14c; Brazil, 18c; walnuts, 11c per lb; coconuts, 90¢@1 per 100lb.

SUGARS—Powdered, icing and bar, 7½c; Paris lump, 6½c; granulated, 5½c; extra C, 4½c; yellows, 4¢4½c per pound.

SYRUPS—30 gal. barrels, 2½c R; 10 gal. kegs, 2½c; 5 gal. tins, \$1.75 each; 1 gal. tins, \$1.50 case of 10; ¼ gal. tins, \$3.25 case of 20.

CANNED GOODS—Corn, \$1.00; peas, \$1.05@1.10; tomatoes, \$1.50; beans, \$1.25.

HAIRWARE—Bar Iron, base, 3.00. Horse shoe nails, discount 50 and 10 per cent; horse shoes, kegs, \$4.75; nails, base price, cut, \$3.35; wire, \$3.70; rope, Manila, 14c; boiled oil, 90c; white lead, \$3.00; putty, \$3.50; barbed wire, \$1.50 per 100lb; glass, first break, \$5.00.

### PRICES IN THE KOOTENAY.

Special to The Commercial.

Nelson, August 3.  
Receipts of Northwest eggs are light. Ontario eggs are firmer. Butter is unchanged. Trade is quiet.

Butter—Fresh Manitoba creamery, 16 to 18c; dairy, 13 to 14c.

Eggs—19 cents.  
Cheese—New, 11 cents.

Oats—Per ton, \$40.  
Millfeed—Bran, \$20; shorts, \$22 per ton.

Flour—Manitoba Patent, \$5.10.  
Potatoes—New, \$30 per ton.

### B C BUSINESS NOTES

Wilcox & Hall, proprietors of the Phoenix Pioneer, are starting a newspaper at Grand Forks.

Glasgow and Wilson, general merchants of North Hill, intend moving their business to Salmon Arm.

Leligh's sash and door factory at Victoria was destroyed by fire, loss about \$12,000 with \$2,000 insurance.

The subscription list and printing plant of the Greenwood Miner have been purchased by the Greenwood Times.

The Dominion Shingle Manufacturing Company propose erecting a shingle mill at New Westminster, to cost \$10,000.

The Cranbrook Electric Light Company, Limited, the A. Mountain Lion Mining Company, Limited, and the Oriental Power and Pulp Company, Limited, have been incorporated.

Wheat cutting has been commenced in the Okanagan, where a good crop is expected. Plums and prunes promise well, but the apple crop is reported to be hardly equal to that of last year.

The Great Northern has announced its intention on Aug. 1 to discontinue its passenger service on its Kootenay Valley road, that is its railway south from the Kootenay district of British Columbia via Bonners Ferry.

Word has been received from Fort Simpson that there has been a big fire at Metlakatla. The bishop's house, a big church, the Indian girl's home, an old school and several other houses and an old cannery were destroyed.

Vancouver clearing house returns for the last week were \$1,253,260 as against \$952,000 for the corresponding week of last year. This is the largest record for two years and a

half during which the clearing house has been in operation.

Dodwell & Co., Victoria, have sold their steamships Olympia, Tacoma and Victoria to the Northern Pacific and the Pacific Coast Company are negotiating for the purchase of Dodwell & Co.'s fleet of Sound steamers, which includes the North Pacific, Utopia and Sehome.

Three consignments of gold dust, valued in all at a little over \$10,000, were assayed at the Dominion government assay office at Vancouver on Monday morning, being the first gold to be treated in the office. The formal opening took place on Saturday, when G. R. Maxwell, M. P., Dr. Hadnel, Dominion government superintendent of mines, and Manager McCaffrey took Mayor Townley, leading bank managers, and members of the board of trade, over the office and explained the working of the various parts of the plant. Dr. Hadnel states that the office is equipped with more up-to-date appliances than the assay offices in New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, or Seattle. Its plant is capable of treating sixteen to twenty millions of gold per annum.

### Boundary District Notes.

H. R. Davidson, of Vancouver, has temporarily assumed the management of the Greenwood branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

J. W. Grier, late manager of the Greenwood Miner, has gone to Rendell, where he will start the West Fork News. The plant for that paper went up to the West Fork last month.

Levelling and grading for the machine shop the C. P. R. intends to build at Eholt is in progress. More side tracks are being put down and other provision is being made for the increasing train traffic at that growing junction town.

The Kettle River Power Co. is distributing the poles for its transmission line along the right-of-way between Cascade and Phoenix and six miles have already been covered. The plant for generating power has been ordered but it will be late in the fall before it will arrive at the site for the power station at Cascade.

Wayne Choate, a prominent mining engineer from Detroit, F. W. Hayes, who has been in the service of the First National bank, of Detroit, for about 30 years, and J. Fred Ritchie, P. L. S., of Rossland, are making a tour of the Boundary district, the Detroit visitors having heard much of its big mineral showings.

The townsite of Tulameen, in the Similkameen district, was on Thursday, July 18, at Victoria, offered for sale by the order of the chief commissioner of lands and works, in lots. Fifty-seven lots were sold despite the delay of railroad construction, the aggregate amount realised being \$4,713. At Princeton, in the Similkameen, the previous day about the same number of lots in Tulameen was sold, the average price being nearly \$86 per lot.

Geo. Robertson, an Ottawa lumber man, after looking over the Boundary district for two or three weeks, has left for his eastern home. He will visit the Buffalo exposition en route. He took with him a number of copies of the last report of the Greenwood board of trade for distribution among friends in the east who may be glad to have some authentic information of the growing industries of the Boundary country.

Information comes from Grand Forks to the effect that Spraggett's saw mill, situate on the bank of the lake immediately above the Granby company's dam across the north fork of Kettle river, together with a lot of sawn lumber, was destroyed by fire last Wednesday night. The loss is stated to be between \$30,000 and \$40,000, but it is not yet known here whether this is outside of the insurance carried. It is understood that the Royal Bank of Canada, formerly the Merchants Bank of Halifax, is interested in this loss. Besides Spraggett's loss the Granby smelter lost \$4,000 worth of lumber and the C. P. R. two loaded freight cars. The mill was lately reported to be cutting about 40,000 feet of lumber a day, chiefly for use in the construction work now at the Granby Company's smelter.

Enas McCormick, who was connected with Butler's saddlery, Greenwood, for some time has purchased the business of R. E. Doran at Moose Jaw, N.W.T. It is stated that Bolvin, Wilson & Co., of Montreal, wholesale liquor

dealers, have taken over the Greenwood business of the British Columbia Wholesale Liquor company, and that R. Greiger will continue to act as manager. R. T. Evans, at one time of Virden, Man., recently of Greenwood, has been appointed manager of the latter company's Rossland business.

Surveyors have completed the platting of the new town of Morgan, which is situate across the International boundary line south from Cascade, at what has for some time past been known as Rock Cut. The new town is on the line of the Marcus-Republic railway, between Marcus and Cascade.

### MINING MATTERS.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

For the past week the ore treated at the Granby smelter amounts to 4,354 tons.

The London-Nichelleu Consolidated mines have closed a contract for a tramway from the Silver King mine to Crawford Creek wagon road.

The mines tributary to the city of Slokan have shipped 2,673 tons of ore so far this year. Of this amount 2,150 were shipped by the Arlington.

It is reported that a second smelter will be erected at Grand Forks to treat ores from the Majestic and City of Paris mines. This will be erected by a new company which is to be formed by consolidating a number of properties in which the Miner-Graves people are interested.

#### BOUNDARY DISTRICT OF B. C.

The official announcement of William Graham McMillan's appointment as government agent for the Grand Forks and Kettle River mining divisions of the Boundary district, has been gazetted.

The tonnage of ore shipped from Boundary district mines during July 40 24th, inclusive, was as under: Old Ironsides and Knob Hill Group, 13,484 tons; Mother Lode, 7,222, B. C., 4,405; R. Bell, 270, No. 7, 123, total, 25,619 tons. Shipments during 1900 and above mentioned date aggregate 290,944 tons.

The Golden Crown Mines, limited, has been incorporated. The capitalization is \$1,500,000. Among the objects of the company is the purchase of the mine near Greenwood of the Brandon & Golden Crown Company, limited.

The London, England, special correspondent of the New York Engineering and Mining Journal makes the following reference to the Snowshoe Company "A company of much more interest is the Snowshoe Gold and Copper Mines, limited, which has been formed with a capital of £250,000, to acquire the Snowshoe mine in the Boundary district of British Columbia. This property is pretty well known as a very fair low-grade proposition. There is plenty of ore averaging \$10 to \$11 in gold, silver and copper, and as it is not far from the smelters, there is no reason why a profit of \$3 a ton should not be made."

Jay P. Graves is reported to have said recently, in Rossland: "A consolidation of the California property Rossland, with a couple of Boundary properties is under consideration and will be put through if the California stockholders are agreeable, which will probably prove to be the case. This will give us one company instead of several, among the properties it is intended to affiliate being the California, Majestic and City of Paris. At the meeting of the California directors held while I was in Spokane this was practically the final decision arrived at, and if the shareholders do not object the proposition will be put through in September." Regarding the Granby company's smelter at Grand Forks, Mr. Graves is reported to have remarked: "At the smelter everything is running smoothly and the additions are progressing nicely. Consignments of machinery and plant for the additional outfit are arriving daily and the work is well under way."

#### NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO.

On the 20th Century Company's mine in the Manitou, a shaft has been sunk about 60 feet and the work is showing very satisfactory results. It is probable that a 10-stamp mill will be erected.

Jos. Harris is developing three mining locations on Lake Wabigoon. On one a shaft is down 22 feet, and assays give \$13 in gold. On another vein, with a width of 37 feet, assays average \$11.54 to the ton.