

|                            |        |        |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Books and pamphlets....    | 23,030 | 32,091 |
| Coal, soft .....           | 12,960 | 31,586 |
| "    hard .....            | 53,111 | .....  |
| Drugs and medicines ....   | 14,002 | 13,524 |
| Earthen and chinaware...   | 10,840 | 11,165 |
| Fruit, green and dried ... | 22,333 | 25,282 |
| Furs, dressed.....         | 17,657 | 12,283 |
| Glass and glassware.....   | 14,151 | 10,859 |
| Gutta percha and mfrs. ..  | 12,412 | .....  |
| Jewellery and watches....  | 21,035 | 27,029 |
| Leather manufactures....   | 12,527 | 22,397 |
| Musical instruments.....   | 12,452 | 9,874  |
| Paper goods .....          | 27,632 | 32,115 |
| Spirits and wines.....     | 6,710  | 8,579  |
| Wood goods.....            | 9,391  | 14,322 |

There is thus a marked decline in the imports of dry goods and millinery, as well as of metal goods, books, stationery, leather goods and jewellery, while increases are rare. And free goods were \$80,000 less. Among these we find this month undressed furs, hides, broom corn, wool, dyestuffs, raw cotton and settlers' effects. The list of exports shows a gain for last February, the figures being \$385,056, as against \$285,182, and the increases being under the heads of field products and animals and their produce:

## EXPORTS, CANADIAN PRODUCE.

| Produce of.          | Feb., 1894. | Feb., 1893. |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| The Mine .....       | \$.....     | \$ 376      |
| "    Fisheries ..... | 84          | .....       |
| "    Forest.....     | 4,804       | 5,743       |
| "    Field .....     | 151,794     | 122,565     |
| Animals, etc .....   | 128,076     | 74,052      |
| Manufactures .....   | 55,585      | 73,971      |
| Total .....          | \$340,343   | \$276,707   |

## THE LUMBER BUSINESS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A letter to this journal from New Westminster, B.C., dated 6th inst., says that business out there continues quiet, and money scarce, or rather as a man put it the other day, "there is more money in the province to-day than there ever was, but it is not on the move." Just now the tide may be said to be at low ebb, but it will turn, in fact is beginning to turn a little now. The letter deals pertinently with the lumber trade, in which it seems foolish price-cutting is the stumbling-block:

"During the past year considerable business has been done in lumber, but much of it forced, and, I regret to say, at unhealthy prices. I learn from Ontario that pine has been sold there recently at \$7 on the stump; out here it makes one's heart ache to see beautiful dimension timber, of sizes and lengths that are impossible to procure in any other province of the Dominion than this, sold at prices that do not net much, if anything, more than \$7 f.o.b. Cargo after cargo is shipped to the antipodes to be sold there on arrival at auction, netting, as I have been advised, scarcely ever more than \$7.25 per thousand feet at the mills. When I see and hear these things, I often think the outside world must regard B. C. lumbermen as consummate asses.

"The work necessary to bring these huge logs from the stump to the mill costs fully \$4; Government dues 50 cents: the monsters are hard to saw, and cannot be converted into lumber with the lightning rapidity with which you are accustomed to see Ontario white pine whittled up; sawing costs fully \$2, making the total cost \$6.50, and these figures are on the low side. Then fully one-third of the sawn product is too coarse for shipment; this accumulates on the yard, to be looked at and counted as an asset in the annual reckoning, or else it is peddled out locally at low prices on tremendously long credit. You will see, therefore, that the manufactured product is

sold, too often, alas, at practically a loss and nothing realized for stumpage. Why? simply because one or two concerns here deem it necessary to run their business on those lines, and others are compelled to follow suit! At the same time timber limits, forsooth, are figured as valuable assets. I contend, and fearlessly, that the fact of the volume of trade to be done being small, is no justification of cutting prices away below danger line. Whether much or little business offers, I hold that a safe, legitimate margin of profit should show, and I trust that sensible business men think with me.

"In the shingle branch of the business there is some little show of activity. Red cedar shingles, on account of being light in weight, stand long freight, so that markets afar off are reached. Sending British Columbia shingles to Ontario was regarded, even three years ago, like sending coals to Newcastle, but the Ontario consumer has found out for himself that these shingles are a better article in every way than those made of pine, so the trade is growing and will grow. The Ontario mill man, with good grace, has accepted the inevitable, and appears to have come to the conclusion that he can make \$2 or \$3 more per thousand feet by sawing his logs into lumber, no matter how poor they are. The shingle mill capacity of the province is largely in excess of what the demand has been hitherto, so any extension of trade will be welcome."

## COAL IN THE NORTH-WEST.

The Winnipeg *Free Press* of 7th instant, contains a despatch dated Gleichen, Alta., March 4th, which says that the Indians are bringing some coal dug on their reserve to town for sale, and urges that the Department get a competent miner to teach them, else, not understanding mining, they cannot be relied on to supply the demand. "There is plenty of good coal on the reserve and all it needs is proper mining." The same paper states that Mr. Costigan, of Calgary, has gone east to promote the charter of a road to be called the Rocky Mountain Railway and Canal Company. This company possesses 16,000 acres of what is considered one of the richest anthracite coal beds in the world, situated on the South Red Deer River, in Alberta. It is the intention of Mr. Costigan while east to endeavor to get funds to build a railroad from either Calgary or Olds to the coal beds. One of the seams measures eleven feet of pure anthracite, which it is claimed can be put in the cars for \$1 per ton. If Mr. Costigan is successful in his mission, he thinks the company will be able to place its coal on the Winnipeg market at from \$7 to \$8 per ton.

## MANTLES.

Trade in ladies' wraps this year promises to be pretty well divided between jackets and capes. The jackets, from present appearances, will be made with full leg of mutton sleeves. Braid has been largely used in trimming the samples, and will probably continue to be so used on all goods during the season. In colors, black, brown, fawns and navies are prominent. Jackets this year are rather shorter than those worn last season. The most popular lengths will probably be from 30 to 32 inches, that is from 2 to 4 inches shorter than those of a year ago. Capes are of about the same lengths, say, from 28 to 32 inches, although some of them for summer wear will be

even shorter, not exceeding 22 inches in length. Some very pretty samples are shown, which may be best described as double capes. All are made of spring and summer weights, principally in box cloths and light effects. Gofford or crimped capes are attractive, and may be trimmed with lace of various designs and colors. In length they are made to just cover the shoulders. The prices of these capes vary all the way from \$10 to \$50 each.

## TEXTILE NOTES.

Additional machinery is being placed in the factory of the Eagle Knitting Co., Hamilton. Among the new machinery is a drill made by Messrs. Stevens, Hamilton & Co., of Galt.

Mr. George Guay has opened a shirt manufactory in St. Romuald, Que., which employs at present some forty hands.

The Whyte, Allan Co., of Toronto, are applying for incorporation, with the object of making fringes, crapes, tassels, gimps, dress and cloak trimmings, braids, woollens and other articles for upholsterers' use. Messrs. George Whyte, T. A. Whyte and A. G. Allan will be the first directors. Their proposed capital is \$20,000. The *Mercury* records the sale of 15,000 lbs. of wool, last year's clip, by Mr. G. A. Sharp, Guelph, to the John Hallam Co., Toronto.

The Weston woolen mills were compelled to close down for a short time recently, as a result of a flood in the Humber river.

The Atwood flax mill closed for the season on Saturday last. The season's output has been good, much better than last year, and it is expected that the farmers will get about \$12 per ton for their flax.

Mail advices from Leeds, Eng., say of the woolen market: For the time being woolen and worsted manufacturers have reason to place very little dependence upon either the continental or colonial markets. The shipping houses doing with Canada are the best off. They are receiving orders thence much more regularly than they have done for several weeks past. Nothing but doubtfulness, however, can be entertained as to the future of our trade with the United States.

The capacity of the Moncton, N.B., woolen mills, operated by J. A. Humphrey & Son, has recently been increased by the addition of a new twisting machine, a hand loom, and new carding machinery. A machine for drying the cloth was also put in, taking in 60 yards of cloth every few minutes. It is stated that the mills have averaged 305 working days each year for the last seven years.

The woolen mill of A. W. Meadows, at Woodstock, Ont., is closed down while repairs and improvements are being made.

The T. H. Taylor Co., Chatham, Ont., makers of woolen goods, have ordered one Parks & Woolson shear, and contemplate putting in one steam power-press.

## FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

It is proposed to form a Dairymen's Exchange in St. John, N.B.

The Collingwood Meat Curing Co. are preparing for the ensuing season's work.

There is some possibility that St. John, N.B., may have a cold storage building.

The salmon fishery regulations for British Columbia have been practically agreed upon by the Dominion Government. The offal and other statutory obligations remain in force.