

**British Columbia.**

Vancouver's new soap works have commenced operations.

Building operations at Westminster are going on actively.

J. Stanton, Vancouver, is closing out his grocery business.

S. Marks, boots and shoes, Vancouver, has closed out his business.

Mining matters are reported to be looking up throughout the province.

C. P. R. taxes at Vancouver to the amount of \$13,000 were paid last week

It is rumored the Imperial Bank of Canada will open a branch at Vancouver.

W. Burns, general merchant, New Westminster, has sold out to Deversey Bros.

It is reported that a joint stock company is being formed for the purpose of putting on a first-class steamer between Westminster and Victoria.

J. W. Pendray & Co., soap manufacturers, Victoria, have received a large order from a Montreal firm, with strict instructions to ship via the Northern Pacific Railway.

The bark Nanaimo, which cleared for Chin Foo, China, recently carried away 432,601 feet of lumber, valued at \$4,601 35. The vessel was loaded at the Moodyville saw mills.

The branch of the Bank of British North America, to be established at Vancouver, will probably be opened on August 10th. The branch of the Bank of Montreal was opened on August 1st.

Chmatown is growing every day either in population or in buildings. A nice little village is springing up that will in a short time cover several blocks unless our patriotic land owners cease letting or selling property to them.—*Vancouver News.*

On August 1st the s.s. Port Augusta sailed for Japan with fifteen hundred bales of cotton goods and general merchandise. She coals at Nanaimo and embarks passengers at Victoria. The three thousand tons of inward cargo were discharged in three days.

At a meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of British Columbia, the chairman said the net profits for the past half year showed an increase of £2,800. The bank was never in a more flourishing condition or with brighter prospects than now. The success of the recent Columbian loan was very gratifying.

Vancouver News, July 30th: The s. s. Sardonix sailed for Portland yesterday morning about 9 o'clock, taking a cargo of 3,000 sacks of rice and 70 packages of merchandise. It is expected that on her return trip she will bring a large quantity of flour for transportation to China per s.s. Port Augusta. One of the flour shipments will make about 250 tons.

The eighth annual meeting of the Victoria board of trade was held on July 21st. The membership was reported to be 98, or one less than a year ago. The report states that "the transfer of telegraph lines within the province by the Dominion Government to the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company, has proved a source of considerable inconvenience to the community generally, and the board is at present actively

engaged in endeavoring to obtain from the Dominion Government the necessary permission to enable a private company to construct, maintain and operate a line of telegraph at and from the city of Victoria, to connect with the Puget Sound telegraph company's line on the opposite shore of the Straits of Fuca." Reference was made to the high freight rates on the C. P. R., and to the efforts of the board to obtain a reduction, which have been successful. An extension of the Esquimault Railway to the northern end of Vancouver's Island has been strongly advocated by the board and would undoubtedly be undertaken were the necessary Government assistance forthcoming. The contemplated construction of the Shuswap and Okanagan Railroad is another scheme which has been commended to the board and which has received its earnest and continued support. Every effort has been made to secure it for adequate assistance both from the Dominion and Provincial governments. Reference was also made to the efforts of the board to secure harbor improvements, an appropriation from the Dominion having been asked for that purpose. Satisfaction was expressed at the increase in immigration and the development of the mineral resources of the province. On the fiscal policy of the Dominion, the report says: "The recent sudden and heavy increase in the rates of customs duty on many articles of import, particularly on manufactured iron, has caused a wide spread feeling of dissatisfaction and uncertainty in commercial circles, and on the 17th of May the board passed a resolution condemning the frequent and unexpected changes to which the Dominion customs tariff appears liable, and which tends to place this province especially, in view of its isolated position, at a very great disadvantage." The insolvency question was also considered as follows: "This matter, referred to in the board's last annual report, and which was then expected would shortly be dealt with by the Dominion Government, still, however, remains in the same unsatisfactory position, and mercantile operations continue to be hampered and curtailed consequent upon the entire want of confidence inspired by the absence of necessary legislation on the subject." The board was shown to be in a satisfactory position financially. The Board is now possessed of \$2,775.64, as against \$2,392.66 on the 30th of June, 1886, being a net gain for the past year of \$232.96.

Lands in the National Park at Banff will not be sold, but only leased to the occupants, under the following regulations: The government valuation of the land is to made the basis of computing the rental to be paid. A lot, for instance is adjudged to be worth \$50; a lease will be issued for 21 years, at an annual rental of 10 per cent of present value, that is the rent would be \$5 per annum. At the close of the 21 years, the value of the land will again be estimated, and the lessee will be given the option of renewing his lease at the same percentage of value per annum as now. The lessee will not be allowed to sub-let his holdings, at any rental whatever, but only by permission of the park authorities. The object of leasing the land is not to increase its value to the Government, but it is done in order to permit the Interior Department to retain perfect control over the whole of the lands within the park.

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