

Dockage on Grain.

A long discussion took place in the Manitoba legislature last week, regarding the dockage of grain purchased from farmers by dealers. The discussion was provoked by the following resolution:

"Mr. Huston moved, seconded by Mr. Gellay, that whereas serious complaints have arisen from time to time in various parts of this province that farmers suffer great loss by the amount of dockage taken by grain buyers on the different markets; therefore, be it resolved, that in the opinion of this house some provision should be made whereby a uniform and equitable system should be established as to dockage, that the farmers may be saved from loss by the excess now claimed to be taken in many places."

The mover, in speaking to his resolution, said that farmers complained about the dockage, which was not uniform, and ranged from four to ten pounds per bushel. He wanted the matter ventilated and settled at once. In the discussion which followed, several of the legislators took a very fair view of the question, and the sense of the house seemed to be that the motion was not only unreasonable but impractical. The resolution was referred to the agricultural committee.

If those who introduced the discussion had considered the matter carefully, we think they would have arrived at the conclusion that it would be altogether impractical to attempt to regulate the dockage of grain, as dockage must be made according to the quantity of dirt and foreign matter in the grain. A range of four to ten pounds of dockage is not remarkable. Indeed we have seen samples of wheat that would contain over ten pounds of refuse. Careless farmers as a rule will have the largest amount of rubbish in their grain, and it is well known that the most slovenly farmers are as a rule the greatest "kickers." There are no doubt dishonest grain men, as well as there are unprincipled men in all other branches of trade. But this would not justify an arbitrary and unreasonable act. Supposing it were practical to fix a uniform dockage, it would only result in benefitting the slovenly farmers, while those who produce clean grain would suffer loss. This shows the absurdity of the proposal. There is plenty of competition at nearly every grain market in Manitoba, and farmers may be trusted that they will use this competition to the best advantage to themselves. If they think that one buyer is docking them too much, they can try another buyer. There always will be grumbling on this point, occasionally perhaps with reason, but as a rule without good cause. Another evil which would result from the fixing of a uniform dockage, would be the tendency which it would cause to make farmers careless as to the condition of their grain.

One legislator thought that the grain should be purchased according to its value per pound, including dirt, and no dockage made. Well, this would be as broad as it is long, except that it would necessitate a little more calculating on the part of the buyer. It is simpler to buy the wheat according to quality and allow dockage for dirt than it would be to calculate the amount of dirt in the wheat, and deduct it from the price per bushel of the grain. With or without cause, farmers will grumble, and politicians who try to make capital out of the complaints of the farmers, only assist in confirming them in some very unreasonable suspicions. We know from a personal inspection of the books of some of the largest grain shippers, that more wheat is classified by the official inspectors in a lower grade than that for which it was purchased from the farmer, than grades higher. We have seen official returns, which show that at some buying points in Manitoba this season, over 50 per cent of the wheat taken in has been classified from one to two grades lower than the grade given it by the country buyers.

British Columbia Business Notes.

Nicomen and Richmond municipalities are incorporated by letters patent.

J. C. Anderson, the mining expert, from Pittsburg, who left here on the 15th ult., for Alberni, to inspect the mineral deposits in that section, has returned. He is in the employ of the iron and steel magnates of Pennsylvania, and went to Alberni to examine more especially the coal and iron deposits in that section. He was reserved as to the result of his mission.

The news is received from Revelstoke that a company has been formed in London for the purpose of working a number of valuable mining properties in Illecillewaet and on the upper Columbia, which were bonded last year, and the actual development of which will be commenced early in the present season. Mr. Alexander, who is at the head of the Golden smelter, is engineering the project.

At a largely attended meeting at upper Sumas to discuss the "Sumas Reclamation Act" the chairman, Mr. Hinchey, urged the necessity of having a dyke at once. He considered that too much time had already been wasted, resulting in one of the finest tracts of land in the province lying in the same state in which it was when the red men roamed over it. A finance committee to raise funds for current expenses, was appointed.

The current issue of the British Columbia Gazette announces that Beeton & Pyke, South Westminster, have assigned to Michael Hayes, South Westminster. It also contains the memorandum of association of the Okell & Morris Fruit Preserving Company, (limited). The Victoria Truck & Dray Company, (Ltd.) announces that the capital stock of the company is increased from 200 shares of \$100 to 500 shares of \$100 each.

A. McNaughton, manager of the Hudson's Bay Company at Quesnelle, Cariboo, and Louis Sampson, manager of the Fine Gold Company, have visited the coast. Indications point, McNaughton said to a *Colonist* reporter, to a new era of development in gold mining in Cariboo this year. Latest advices from England indicate that the English syndicate contemplating the re-working of Williams Creek by hydraulic lift will begin operations this year. The Slough Creek scheme and the working of other deep ground in the vicinity of Williams Creek by modern machinery, and the extensive operations carried on along the South Fork of the Quesnelle, all practically new works, are certainly encouraging.

The month's business at the Vancouver custom-house for last month was:—

	1892.	1891.
Duties	\$22,200 08	\$23,535.73
Other revenues	3,933 45	3,070.59
Total	\$26,134 11	\$26,656.32
Victoria customs collections for March were as follows:		
Duties		\$78,982.61
Chinese and other revenues		13,140.79
Total		\$92,312.40
Imports, dutiable		\$253,571.00
Imports, free		41,638.00
Total		\$300,209.00
Exports, the produce of Canada		\$1,934.00
Exports, not the produce of Canada		8,800.00
Total		\$40,204 00

PROFITABLE INVESTMENTS.

Trust, and Loan Company's stock has always been a profitable investment in Canada. By referring to the stock exchange quotations, it will be seen, that 98% of the stock listed, is selling at a premium ranging from 5 to 105% above par and in some cases at a much higher rate. In addition to the profit made by the first investors, in a Loan Company's stock on account of the advance in its value, they have also received

ed good dividend, ranging from 5 to 12% per annum. The Manitoba Loan and Trust Co., (Ltd.), is rapidly disposing of its stock in the East, and no reasons can be assigned why this Company's stock, should not also bring a good premium ere long, and also pay profitable dividends to its stock holders each year.

As shown by the Company's circular the plan is a commendable one, and will have the confidence of the public, those having funds to invest should study the Company's plan, as it will be in the near future looked upon as one of Manitoba's foremost financial institutions.

Some time ago the City National bank of Birmingham, Alabama, began a suit against the commercial agency of R. G. Dunn & Co., to recover \$5,261.46 lost on drafts which the bank discounted for W. A. Kitts, a lumber merchant of Oswego, on alleged false representations concerning the credit and financial standing of Kitts, furnished by the commercial agency. The case was decided after a three day's trial, the jury finding a verdict for the full amount claimed, with interest. This is the first case in which any commercial agency has been held liable for a false report sent out to a subscriber. In all previous cases of a similar kind the agency has been relieved of all responsibility.

The steamship *Empress of India*, sailed from Vancouver for Japan and China on April 6, with sixty saloon passengers and about 2,000 tons of cargo. She had eighty Chinese passengers and fifty sacks of mail.

Eastern Business Changes.

ONTARIO.

J. E. Scott, grain, Aylmer, has sold out.
 E. L. Siple, liquors, Toronto, has sold out.
 Z. Gillies, general store, McGregor, has sold out.
 J. E. Turner, hotel, Point Edward, burned out.
 Arkell & Co., drugs, Blenheim; F. E. Arkell away.
 Mrs. M. J. Nolan, grocer, Gesto, reported away.
 John Morrison, grocery, etc., Woodstock, has sold out.
 W. M. Lawrence, flour, etc., Toronto, has sold out.
 R. J. Illingsworth, barber, Smith Falls, has sold out.
 E. Swartout, boots and shoes, Norwich, has sold out.
 Robt. Beatty, general agent, Orangeville, has assigned.
 Gordon & Halliday, carding mill, Athens, have assigned.
 Geo. Pond, hotel, Gilmour Station, burned out; insured.
 D. W. McDougall, general store, Ely's Mills, burnt out.
 Jardine, Smith & Co., general store, Collingwood, have assigned.
 S. Duffy & Son, shoes, St. Mary's, is succeeded by E. Dusty.
 T. Kelley, grocer and provisions, Toronto, landlord in possession.
 D. A. Younghusband, general store, Carp, is offering to compromise.
 Alex. Saunders, stoves, tins, etc., Godorich, is giving up this business.
 H. E. Clarke & Co., trunks, etc., Toronto; H. E. Clarke of this firm dead.
 T. C. Spence, physician and drugs, For d-wich, is succeeded by Dr. A. M. Spence.
 Wigle Bros., general store, Essex, have dissolved and M. J. Wigle will continue alone.
 Dominion Safe Deposit Co., Ltd., Toronto, succeeded by Trusts Corporation of Ontario, Ltd.