

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, June 1, 1896.

Wholesalers report an improvement in trade this week, collections are said to be fair. The lumber mills are still busy while the preparations for the canning season are still very active. In the provision line there are few changes. Cured meats are slightly changed, California creamery butter is out of the market while a very good line of Manitoba dairy is finding a ready sale. Groceries are unchanged. The wholesale flour and feed business is very quiet. Small fruits are coming in from California and Australia but still bring high prices. The market price of hay is \$3 but in special instances hay is being slaughtered at a much lower figure. The same may be said of potatoes, one sale of several tons of potatoes recently took place at \$3 a ton but for A 1 hay and A 1 potatoes the prices quoted are correct.

British Columbia Mining News.

Large deposits of coal have been found in Killisnoo Alaska. It is said to be of excellent quality and will make the whole section prosperous.

There is untold wealth in the black sands of the Fraser river, but the sands must be washed in large quantities to make it pay, and expensive machinery must be used. The great evil to British Columbia, the lack of ready money, has prevented for years the proper working of these sands. Finally, the Westminster board of trade decided to invite a number of Americans over to pulverize the sands and extract the yellow metal. The company accepted the invitation, and are about to start to work. They have brought over a very expensive plant from the states, have a number of Canadians employed, and are spending considerable money for supplies, etc., in the district. There are two or three Canadian stockholders in the company.

The work of incorporating mining companies goes merrily on, the following are among the latest:—The Jo-Jo, capital, \$500,000; The Mustache, capital, \$600,000; The Ontario, capital, \$100,000; The Frieco, capital, \$500,000; The Novelty, capital, \$1,000,000. With the exception of the Ontario, these are the American companies incorporated in Spokane.

It is distressing to think of the millions of dollars that are circulating through South Kootenay into the States. "What use is this great inheritance we Canadians are so proud of," some one has said, "if the yankees take it all away from us," and still there are a great many Canadians who object to mines being taxed.

Two thousand five hundred miners have gone into Alaska this season. One million, two hundred thousand dollars in gold dust and nuggets was taken out of the Yukon country last year.

The Rambler Mine Co. has been incorporated with a capital of \$1,000,000 to work the Rambler Group, Spokane.

The Lillooet, Fraser Valley and Cariboo Gold Fields Co. have bonded the North Star for \$15,000. The city of Spokane will be opened up by the same company. It is getting to be a common remark that whenever any one wants to buy in South Kootenay, properties, many of them little more than staked claims, are held so stiff that very often intending purchasers are obliged to return empty handed or go into another section of the Kootenies. This is especially so when British capitalists are at the camp. It is bearing out the prophesy of your correspondent made a year ago that the day would soon come when British capitalists would be made to pay for their tardy recognition of the immense wealth of the Kootenies, by buying claims from the perspicuous yankees

for twice and three times what they could have originally got them for.

The largest mining deal made for some time in the Upper country has just been consummated at Vernon, by which English capitalists have purchased the Swan Lake mines for \$120,000. There are seven claims which are situated 3 miles from Vernon.

A big strike of three feet of solid ore has been made on the Black Fox, Kaslo river.

One of the best paying mines in British Columbia is situated at Ainsworth. For six months ending January, 1896, the Sky-line mine shipped 2,000 tons of ore which netted the owners \$10,000, besides this there were 500 tons on the dump ready for shipment.

D. C. Corbin has taken an option on the Iron Mask for \$500,000.

The Slocan Star owned by Milwaukee people have declared a dividend of \$100,000 on their operations for the last six months. The company announce that they will pay a similar dividend hereafter every four months. The Slocan Star, in Slocan district C. B. C., is supposed to be among the richest, if not the richest, silver mine in the world.

Forty one mines shipped ore on the Kaslo and Slocan river during the winter.

ROSSLAND.

Monte Christo hill, just outside the city, is the scene of great activity just now. Tunnels are being driven into the hill from three different directions—the Spokane, Georgia and Monte Christo. The Spokane is being worked by English capital, the Georgia by Victoria, B.C., people and the Monte Christo by Spokane people. The Georgia, from all appearances, will be one of the richest mines in the camp.

The Consol gold mine company (Ohio capitalists) have started work on their claim. A large amount of money is being spent in developing the Consolation mine, running on precious metal \$100 to the ton.

Mr. Pritchard, the famous London expert, has examined the Li Roi mine, and has reported that "it is the biggest thing he ever saw in his life," and he has been examining mines for 37 years and has seen every big mine in the world with the exception of the Cripple Creek mines. "The Li Roi," repeated Mr. Pritchard, "is the biggest gold mine in the world. I have climbed, crawled and waded all through it, and there seems no end of that marvellous body of ore." Mr. Pritchard was consulting engineer for Cecil Rhodes during the African boom.

Mon have been put to work on the San Joaquin. The mine is a very promising one. It is owned by Lieut.-Gov. Dawdney, Hon. D. W. Higgins and other Victorians.

Last week Col. Tunnor and others bonded the Mayflower for \$10,000. This week they ask \$30,000 for their bargain.

A company with a capital stock of a million and a quarter of dollars has been organized to develop several claims on Lookout mountain.

W. R. Callahan, the world known mining expert, has returned to Rossland to make a thorough report for English capitalists.

A corporation calling themselves the Diamond Dust gold mining company have been incorporated in Spokane to work B.C. mines, and another with \$600,000 capital to work the Gladiator mine on Champion Creek.

British Columbia Business Notes.

D. Goldberg & Co., clothing, Vancouver, are succeeded by D. Goldberg.

G. Milligan, hotel, Vernon, is succeeded by A. McAuley.

MacArouille & Jones, agricultural implements, Kamloops, have dissolved. J. B. La-troumouille continues.

V. I. Bossi, fruits etc., Victoria, is dead.

J. K. Loveridge, grocer, Victoria, is dead.

Charles Mais, general store keeper, Kelowna has assigned.

G. S. Cook, general store, McPherson Station, is burned out.

M. DeBrisay, general store, Mission City, has admitted H. A. Bulwer as partner.

P. E. Larsa, photographer, Nanaimo, has sold out to Kelly & Pierce.

Mrs. E. A. Lewis, hotel, Rossland, has sold out to Chas. Howson.

The bailiff is in possession of the hotel of John M. Working, Chilliwack.

W. J. Unwin, hotel, Kamloops, is dead.

Scheel & Bradford, restaurant, Kaslo, have dissolved. Scheel continues.

The stock of P. T. Johnson & Co., seeds, Victoria, is advertised for sale.

British Columbia Broom and Brush Works, Victoria, have dissolved. Andrew Wood continues.

There are 16 vessels loading in British Columbia this week. Last week there were 12.

The fishermen of the Skeena river are still on strike at Port Eslington, a monster mass meeting of fishermen has been held, and a resolution was passed to continue the strike until higher wages were paid. The wages heretofore paid have been from 10 to 25 cents a fish, but the fishermen claim that this is an off year and they must have more than that for their catch or they cannot live. One cannery has sent to Victoria for a gang of fishermen. It is not thought that the strike will last long, as the strikers are mostly Indians and the red men of British Columbia are not as stubborn and far more eager to secure enough money to enable them to live well during the winter.

Vancouver has fixed Saturday as the market day. The council has cancelled all contracts with steamship companies to run market boats between Chilliwack and Vancouver as too expensive.

The Takush Harbor and Milling Co., north of Vancouver are building large wharves and preparing for active work.

The business activity and enterprise of British Columbians is illustrated by the fact that Tasmania apples are now being imported from Australia by the Canadian-Australian line and shipped to California by steamer. Almost two carloads went forward yesterday.

The steamer Warrimoo on the trip before this refused, for lack of space nearly half a cargo. On this last trip she was also obliged to refuse a quantity of freight. It is very evident that two steamers of larger capacity or a third steamer of smaller capacity should be put on the route.

The Warrimoo sailed this week with 1,900 tons of Canadian produce including 800 tons of Manitoba wheat, one hundred and thirty tons of Ogilvie flour, machinery, cotton, agricultural machinery, beer, and general merchandise.

The passenger traffic of the Canadian Australian as well as the Oriental line is mostly this way. The last Oriental steamer had some 150 cabin passengers besides her usual number of Mongolians. The Australian boat also had a large passenger list. The Canadian boats have now the entire Mormon trade. The Mormons claim they receive more civil treatment on Canadian than on American lines.

J. B. McTaggart, baker, Fort William, is succeeded by Mrs. Paublo.

The senate at Washington has passed the river and harbor bill over the president's veto by a vote 56 to 5. This was the last step in making the bill effective and it is now a law. The bill previously passed the house.