

PACIFIC COAST PARAGRAPHS.

British Columbia, in the opinion of the Vancouver *World*, offers a fine field for business of any kind, but one of the surest to succeed, and the cheapest to establish, is undoubtedly the poultry business. In eggs alone the returns could not help but be enormous, while the proceeds of spring chickens, plucked and ready for market, would be equally as advantageous. While Canada exports annually more than fourteen million dozens of eggs, British Columbia is obliged to import eggs for home consumption, and recently the price of eggs in Victoria was 60 cents a dozen. This, says an exchange, is not because the Pacific hens are sterile or indolent, but because there are not enough of them.

A New Westminster man, Mr. W. H. Vianen, proposes to open up trade in British Columbia fish with Germany and Russia. It is understood that a Hamburg firm has engaged him to supply 200 car loads of fresh fish. They will be shipped in ice and other preservatives, a measure deemed necessary to avoid the duty of 10 cents per pound on all canned goods.

According to a New Westminster, B.C., paper the enterprising business men of that city are going rather extensively into the manufacture of tents, of all sizes, in anticipation of the influx of intending settlers, who will be unable to procure houses to rent during the coming season. At the present time there are very few houses of any size to rent.

Extracts from the market reports of the Sound papers say that mutton is again very scarce, in fact, there is very little if any in the market at all. It is an utter impossibility to buy any sheep at present suitable for butchering. The winter has been very severe on sheep in Washington, and any suitable for butchering are a scarcity. Oregon has a few, but they are high. What the outcome of the matter will be is unknown. It is probable that butchers will begin shipping dressed mutton from California.

The annual report of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia for 1889 shows that from 1858 to the present time the estimated total yield of gold and silver amounted to \$52,236,753, the gold product of 1889 having been \$588,923, of which \$490,769 were known to have been exported by the banks, leaving some \$98,154 as having been carried away in private hands. The year's estimated yield of silver was \$47,873. The number of miners employed was 1,929, their average yearly earning having reached \$330. The exporters of the gold referred to were the Bank of British Columbia, \$254,816; Garesche, Green & Co., \$188,580, and the Bank of British North America, \$47,373.

During 1889 the output of coal from British Columbia mines was 579,830 tons. The exports amounted to 443,675 tons.

MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances for the week ending March 13th, 1890:

	Clearings.	Balances.
March 7	\$1,510,235	\$ 295,535
" 8	1,672,783	245,810
" 10	1,016,691	141,904
" 11	1,355,301	198,988
" 12	1,557,712	245,577
" 13	999,341	170,596
Total	\$ 812,063	\$1,298,410
Last week	\$ 7,784,022	\$1,125,466
Cor. week last year	8,069,246	1,650,931

—An influential deputation of hide, leather, and shoe dealers has visited Ottawa this week to interview the Government. It included Hon. Senator Cochrane, and Messrs. John Cassils, Charles Cassils, J. H. Wardlow, W. J. Fisk, Charles F. Smith, F. C. McIndoe, G. Boivin, Thomas Ecroyd, J. Alex. Stevenson, and W. Wilson. The object of these gentlemen was in a direction indicated in our leather paragraph last week. They protested against the re-enactment in the General Inspection Act of the clause ordering the compulsory inspection of leather, or that all not inspected should bear a mark to that effect. They represented that such legislation would be most inimical to the large export trade in leather, as it came largely into competition with the American article and would suffer if the proposed change were made law. As for the home market it was pointed out that the boot and shoe makers had the matter of inspection in their own hands and could not suffer an injustice. Moreover, two if not three of the largest manufacturers of boots and shoes in the country are represented there, and they had nothing to say against the continuance of the present system.

—The Federal Life Assurance Company shows, in its eighth annual report, the very respectable total of \$10,829,000 risks in force, an increase of ten per cent. over 1888, but it has not done so much new business as in that year. Death losses were unusually large, their amount being \$123,550, or less re-assurance say \$100,550, as against \$70,000, less re-assurance, in the previous twelve months. The fact is referred to in the report, however, as a matter of satisfaction and pleasure to the policy-holders, since they have had returned to them last year in death claims and dividends \$164,000 out of \$215,000 received. Of course, however, if survivors get such cheap insurance now by this method, they cannot expect it to be continued to them when they get older on like terms. We observe with interest that the directors have contributed \$24,000 to make up an impairment of capital which declared itself at close of 1889, for which the report assures us there is no lien upon the assets or business of the company; it is to be paid, it seems, out of future dividends to shareholders. This is a plucky thing to do, and business-like besides.

—According to the compilation prepared by the Bureau Veritas the losses and damages arising to the shipping of all nationalities during 1889 were as follows:—

	LOST.		Sailing vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British	128	98,331	336	144,323
American	20	14,118	226	75,260
German	13	7,809	78	33,144
French	10	11,624	59	9,798
ACCIDENTS.				
British	1,762	.....	1,112	.....
American	81	.....	670	.....
French	152	.....	155	.....
German	85	.....	117	.....

—A correspondent in Venezuela, South America, writes at close of February: "I am glad to observe that the question of trade with the West Indies and South America is receiving attention in Canada. There is a wide field for business, and plenty of room for new comers. The United States is only just awakening to her interests. It is true that the trade to be done is enormous, and a good share should be done by Canada."

—It had long been felt that Sherbrooke should have a commercial organ, but the merchants were dilatory about organizing. At last they have done so, and last week was held the first gathering of the charter members of the Sherbrooke Board of Trade. Proceedings for organization were at once taken and much interest shown in the objects of the Board. The following gentlemen were chosen officers:—President, Mr. A. Paton; vice-president, Mr. W. Murray; councillors, Messrs. F. P. Buck, Walter Blue, Gustavus Lucke, J. S. Mitchell, H. C. Wilson, D. McManamy, W. R. Webster, A. W. Olivier, J. H. Gendron, and W. S. Dresser. Mr. F. C. Thompson was appointed secretary.

—The annual meeting of the Confederation Life Association is called for the 18th, on which date it will be formally adjourned to the 25th, when the customary proceedings will take place.

—Notice is hereby given by the Western Bank of Canada of a half-yearly dividend of three and a half per cent.

Meetings.

LA BANQUE DU PEUPLE.

The annual meeting of La Banque du Peuple was held in Montreal on the 3rd inst. in the Board room of that institution. There were present His Worship the Mayor, president; Messrs. John Crawford, Nolan DeLisle, C. A. Geoffrion, John Morrison, W. S. Evans, William Francis, William Ross, French, M. Branchaud, J. Y. Gilmour, L. Armstrong, Charles Lacaille, Alphonse Leclaire, Michael Burke, E. H. Parent, Hector Prevost, C. Lamothe and James Wilson, jr.

The president, Mayor Grenier, having been elected chairman, and the manager, Mr. Bousquet, secretary of the meeting, the proceedings were opened by the reading of the annual report, as follows:

REPORT.

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the statement of the affair of the bank for the year ending 28th February, 1890:

Dr.	
Dividend, 3 per cent., paid Sept. 1st, 1889	\$ 36,000 00
Dividend, 3 per cent., payable 3rd March, 1890	36,000 00
Amount carried to reserve fund	50,000 00
Balance carried to credit of profit and loss account	1,239 03
	\$123,239 03

Cr.

Net profits for the year after paying expenses and providing for all bad and doubtful debts. \$123,239 03

The net profits of the year, after having provided for all bad and doubtful debts and deducting costs of management, have amounted to \$123,239.03.

Out of this sum we have paid dividends at the rate of six per cent. per annum; and carried to the Reserve an amount of \$50,000, which raises that fund to \$400,000.

The policy to be followed with regard to the building of the Reserve Fund up to 50 per cent. of our capital is the same as already expressed; and we anticipate the realization of our idea within a few years.

Our deposits and advances to the public show an increase over last year, while our circulation, owing to the small requirements of the country for the removal of the crop, compares with a material decrease.

Demand of money for mercantile purposes has kept our capital fully invested at remunerative rates of interest. An agency of this bank has been opened in October last, at Coaticooke, P.Q.; the business already done has reached our expectations. All our agencies have been thoroughly inspected during the year, and we notice a material increase of their volume of transactions; they are working very satisfactorily.