

commercial and industrial transactions, several sharp declines of late have apparently been due largely to the falling away in speculative activity chiefly in the New York stock market. The continued stringency of the money market, and news tending to create a feeling of uncertainty regarding the railroad situation, caused a marked dullness and inactivity in the stock market. Transactions for the week were 596,000 shares, against 863,000 shares last week. Bonds of all classes were dull, and the investment demand has fallen off. Sales for the week were \$4,809,200, par value, against \$5,893,100 last week. Money is firm on call at from 6 to 7 per cent, and time money is in demand at about 6 per cent. Commercial paper is hard to place, and foreign exchange steady, with continental bills close to the gold-importing point. The eastern wool markets are firmer and the tendency of prices is toward an advance on the improved demand from manufacturers. Considerable wool is moving. Both dry goods jobbers and agents report an active trade, and some lines of bleached cottons are reported to have been fractionally advanced. The boot and shoe makers are also shipping heavily. The late steadiness of demand for iron and steel continues. A few sales of eastern pig have been made at \$18.50 to \$19, a gain of 50c to \$1, but these were of small lots. Finished-iron makers are enjoying a better trade and prices are actually a little higher. Steel rail orders for 1887 delivery are in the market. Louisville reports the western tobacco crop promising well as to quantity. Stocks are increasing, but the market there is fairly sustained. The Louisiana sugar crop promises an average yield, but rice there is in heavy supply and lower. *Bradstreet's* August cotton report states that weather conditions have favored the eastern belt, but that damage has been done in Texas and Arkansas, notably the former. The more favorable reports come from North Carolina and Tennessee. The outlook for the crop is not so favorable as in August last year. There were 173 failures in the United States reported to *Bradstreet's* this week, against 150 last week, 169 in 1885, 178 in 1883 and 110 in 1882. Canada had 27 against 26 last week, and 17 in 1885. The total in the United States this year is 6,851, against 7,862 in a like portion of 1885, a decline of 1,011 in eight months. The total in two-thirds of 1884 was 7,187, or 336 more than this year. In 1883 it was 6,625 and in 1882 it was 4,715. Coffee was advanced speculatively &c. Sugar is lower on increased crop estimates and larger visible supplies. Advices from Charleston to *Bradstreet's* are that the effect of the earthquake on trade in regions tributary will be inappreciable. In Charleston the check will be only temporary.—*Bradstreet's*

### Choke Cherries.

One of the most vigorous and hardy trees in the Northwest is the choke cherry. Although a prodigious bearer the tree has been little valued on account of the astringent flavor of the fruit, but when the cherries are large and fully ripe they are very good and only require to be placed in the hands of a most skillful person to make a most excellent preserve. No doubt the

choke cherry can be wonderfully improved by cultivation. Some trees along the bank of the river which have been exposed to soaking from manure piles and water from the stables show a remarkable difference in the size and quality of the fruit, when compared with that which has not had the same advantage. When it is remembered that all our fruits have had a wild origin, there is no reason to doubt that the choke cherry would become valuable with proper and continued care. The tree will grow vigorously in the most exposed places and on account of the vast quantities of fruit which it carries and the beauty of its blossoms it is highly ornamental.—*Birtle Observer.*

### Vancouver Notes.

Faller, Freeman & Co., have opened a general store.

B. Chase will build a three storey brick hotel.

Wade & Doering, hotelkeepers, have dissolved partnership.

The bark Omega is loading with lumber for Shanghai.

The new Syndicate Hotel has been opened by L. J. Cross.

The twenty-four o'clock system is being generally adopted.

A branch of the Bank of British Columbia has been opened here.

H. Mozley will open a combined tobacconist store and barber shop.

The Sunnyside Hotel has been opened by Good, Murphy & Hayes.

The bark Beaconsfield is loading lumber for Valparaiso, South America.

Stone masons receive as high as \$5 per day for working on the C.P.R. Hotel.

The bark W. B. Flint, has sailed from Port Moody for Taku Bay, China, with 604,000 feet of lumber.

Licenses are being issued to fruit vendors, confectioners, teamsters, etc., under the new city by-laws.

Officials of the Bank of Montreal are here and will arrange for the opening of a branch bank of that institution.

Tenders for the sum of \$4,500, at 6 per cent. have been asked, the amount to be expended in street improvements.

A number of saloons have been closed by the license inspector and the Sunday closing law is to be strictly enforced hereafter.

The *News* advocates the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of wooden ware, to utilize the waste lumber at the mills.

The civic expenditure from August 1st to December 31st will amount to \$17,514.00. The estimated receipts for the same time are placed at \$5,565.

It is understood that the C. P. R'y have abandoned for the present the idea of completing the railway between Port Moody and Vancouver, owing to the opposition of the property holders along the proposed route. Legislation will be asked from either the Local or Dominion Government, to enable the Company to go on and complete the road.

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P.O. Box 1195, or 373 Main Street.