

Southwestern and a proposed road from Portage la Prairie westward, but as none of these projects are beyond the paper stage, so far as we can tell, they will not be considered at present.

Business at Vancouver.

Vancouver, Feb. 13.

British Columbia wholesalers are reaching out for the Boundary country trade, 90 per cent of which is done by United States shippers. At their request the United States roads have made concessions which enables the British Columbia wholesalers to compete more favorably with the United States firms. Owing to the building of the railway through that section of country there is a rush of people, to the mining camps and the demand for provisions is becoming very active. Last week over sixty freight cars were being unloaded at Bossburg Siding. The local trade at Victoria and Vancouver is quiet, but jobbers are busy filling orders for Kootenay and the upper country and putting up summer supplies for far off Cariboo. Yukon and Alaskan shipments have been disappointingly small and it is feared that the alien bill, as passed by the provincial government, is seriously injuring the trade on the coast. "Canada for the Canadians" expresses a pretty sentiment, and the British Columbia legislature has been lauded for its courageous legislation, but the bill is not a judicious business investment for the Canadian Pacific coast. Shipping was very active last week. There were twenty-five vessels in port, with a total of 36,879 tons.

There were but few changes in the market last week. Sugar declined 1-16. Potatoes are very scarce. The ordinary Fraser valley potatoes are selling as high as \$14, while Ashcroft can scarcely be procured at any price.

The Vancouver's building boom still continues and strange to say there are not enough stores and houses to go around. It is thought the population must be increasing very rapidly—perhaps too fast for the business health of the city.

Grocery Trade Notes.

Reports from Smyrna are to the effect that the Sultana raisins have an advancing tendency owing to small supplies.

The state of Florida was again visited by a severe frost, on Feb. 13, just as the orange plantations were recovering from the frost of 1893. Snow fell as far south as Tampa. The plantations are badly damaged.

London cable advices report a much firmer market for Persian dates and state that for the first time in the history of the trade Khadravees are bringing better prices than Hallowees, owing to the finer quality of the former this season.

The outlook for the Florida orange crop this season is brighter than at any time since the freeze of 1893, which caused such a tremendous loss to the planters of that state. It is estimated that the crop this year will be about 500,000 boxes, or about 100,000 more than last season. Unless another disastrous frost comes various authorities estimate that next season the orange crop of the state will range from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 boxes.

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