

## British Columbia.

The steamer Fairview was burned to the water's edge at Okanagan Landing recently. Rich claims were struck recently on Salmon river said to be the best surface ore samples ever produced.

The Champion Bear country, South Kootenay, is coming to the front. Many claims are being developed there.

The Horsely Hydraulic mine made a partial clean up of \$3,100 last week, simply washing the gravel in the sluices.

Eight more companies are formed to develop mines in British Columbia, their aggregate capital amounting to \$2,900,000.

On July 5 the water was very high in the Fraser river, and some of the lands in the lower Fraser valley were flooded, doing much damage.

A strong agitation against Chinese and Japanese immigration is going on in British Columbia, as they work for lower wages than white men.

A tea train from Vancouver on July 5, going east, was derailed, and eight cars were thrown into the Fraser river. A portion of the freight may be saved.

The Siwash Creek claims, running \$3.50 only to the ton free milling ore, have been sold to an English syndicate for \$100,000. These claims are situated six miles from Yale.

More fabulously rich claims are being located on Cayoose Creek, Lillooet district. The rock looks as if it was splashed with gold flake and could be made to pay if pounded in a mortar.

There are indications that this year will not be an off year as predicted in the salmon industry. A very large run of spring salmon was reported recently along some parts of the Fraser river, and the sockeyes have commenced to migrate in fair numbers.

The Lam Tung Chinese cannery has been completed and will pack largely this year. Chinese will be employed throughout, and owing to their well-known thrifty habits, no doubt this Mongolian venture will be made to pay.

The Burnt Pass is the last section of mining country to come into prominence. Several good claims have been staked. Burnt Pass is across the lake from Cayoose Creek and inland about 3 miles. It is not far from where the fabulously rich golden Eagle claim is situated.

Generally speaking, all known mining districts are alive with prospectors, and news is coming in so fast that it is impossible to chronicle it all. Outside capital is now developing almost every prominent mine in the country, some of them abandoned for 15 years for want of capital.

Advices come from River's Inlet that the fishermen have struck, demanding 10 instead of 6 cents for fish as offered. New fishermen are coming in but refuse to interfere with the strikers, in fact encourage them in their demands. Their seems to be no possibility of the cannery coming out victorious.

Fire on July 5, destroyed the Williams block on Third street and three other houses belonging to Leon Hart and F. Williams, and a small cottage the property of A. D. Williams, owner of the block. The loss is about \$10,000, partially insured.

Bush fires are raging around several towns on the mainland of British Columbia, and at Vancouver and other places, firemen are kept busy keeping the flames within bounds. At Cumberland, a business block and five isolated stores were burnt.

Mr. Stayner and Prof. Prince, of the Dominion government fisheries department, have gone to British Columbia with a car

load of live lobsters, black bass and oysters, for planting in the Pacific coast waters of British Columbia. It is an experiment by the Dominion fisheries department.

Grand Forks is showing up well. A year ago it consisted of nothing but a store and two cabins; now it is a thriving mining settlement. The country is swarming with miners and prospectors opening up claims. There are a number of fine propositions in the district. Grand Forks is bound to be an active mining center.

James Thomson, who for the past three years has been in charge of the Hudson's Bay company's business at Vancouver, is about to be transferred to Victoria, to be placed in control of the company's affairs. R. H. Hall, who has had charge in Victoria for several years will in future assume the direction of the company's fur trading business in the province.

Wm. Murray, manager of the Bank of British Columbia, Vancouver, is the last to report on the Kootenies. It is almost impossible for cautious and discreet business men to keep from becoming enthusiastic over the Kootenies when they see around them evidences of immense bodies of paying ore representing millions upon millions of bullion. Mr. Murray says his impressions were distinctly favorable, and he would freely recommend capitalists the world over to give their attention to the fabulously rich mining sections of British Columbia.

## Southern Manitoba Freights.

Under the above heading, we referred in The Commercial of June 29, to the convenience it would be to Winnipeg wholesale houses if merchants in southern Manitoba would send in their orders a few days previous to the departure from Winnipeg of the regular weekly way freight trains on those branches. The Commercial was in error in referring to one weekly way freight on the Pembina or Deloraine branch. By the new time bill which went into effect last month, we see that there are two regular way freights on this branch, leaving Winnipeg at 7 o'clock on Mondays and Thursdays. On all the branches, however, extra freight trains are continually running, to handle grain and other through traffic, and way freight is handled by these trains as soon as a sufficient quantity is received, so as to assist in the prompt despatch of goods. If wholesale merchants would have their orders delivered to the railways as soon as possible after they are received, it would relieve any inconvenience as to the difficulty in securing cartage teams, and besides the goods in many cases would catch special freight trains, and thus be delivered in advance of the regular weekly or semi-weekly way freight, as the case may be.

## Silver.

While speculative dealings in silver bullion certificates have continued on an extensive scale, the movement has failed to uphold the market, in view of London's lack of response and the relatively lower prices there. The prospect for the adoption of a silver platform at Chicago has also been without particular effect, and prices have shown a declining tendency. Bullion certificates, in which the dealings amounted to 656,000 ounces, declined from 69½ to 68½c, and rallied on Friday to 69c. Commercial prices for bars declined from 69½c per ounce to 68½c here, and in London from 81 9-16d to 81 1/2d. Silver prices on July 3 were: London, 81½d; New York 68 5-8c.

—Tommy (surprised)—“Why, papa, I thought that one spoonful of sugar was always enough for my coffee?”

Tommy's Papa—“This is a restaurant, my son; take all the sugar you want.”

## Wheat Stocks.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended July 5, 1893, shows a decrease of 661,000 bushels, against a decrease of 1,202,000 for the corresponding week last year, a decrease of 960,000 bushels the corresponding week two years ago, and a decrease of 2,491,000 bushels three years ago.

The following table shows the total visible supply of wheat at the end of the first trade week of each month for four years, as compiled by the Chicago board of trade and includes stocks at most important points of accumulation in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains. There are some important points not covered by this statement:

	1893. bushels.	1894. bushels.	1895. bushels.	1896. bushels.
Jan. 2...	83,681,000	80,225,000	81,238,000	45,907,000
Feb. 6...	83,376,000	79,863,000	81,890,000	43,161,000
Mar. 4...	78,765,000	76,669,000	79,088,000	41,658,000
April 1...	74,308,000	71,453,000	77,054,000	41,036,000
May 6...	62,196,000	55,160,000	73,009,000	30,190,000
June 3...	52,229,000	49,384,000	71,080,000	27,910,000
July 1...	47,611,000	44,657,000	62,310,000	24,282,000
Aug. 8...	37,117,000	30,601,000	59,424,000	20,779,000
Sept. 7...	30,764,000	23,168,000	50,140,000	18,700,000
Oct. 7...	24,832,000	19,614,000	43,276,000	16,256,000
Nov. 4...	22,980,000	18,047,000	41,396,000	14,717,000
Dec. 2...	23,903,000	19,179,000	42,091,000	17,830,000

The following shows the visible supply by weeks, for four years:

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Jan. 4...	69,842,000	87,836,000	70,953,000	81,786,000
" 11...	63,945,000	86,616,000	80,433,000	82,080,000
" 18...	67,923,000	85,288,000	80,332,000	82,227,000
" 25...	67,683,000	84,665,000	80,234,000	81,487,000
Feb. 1...	66,731,000	83,376,000	79,863,000	81,890,000
" 8...	66,119,000	82,322,000	79,680,000	80,973,000
" 15...	65,926,000	80,733,000	78,667,000	80,214,000
" 22...	65,011,000	79,476,000	77,257,000	79,448,000
March 1...	64,089,000	78,761,000	76,569,000	79,088,000
" 7...	64,096,000	77,717,000	74,047,000	79,103,000
" 14...	62,123,000	76,873,000	73,359,000	79,020,000
" 21...	61,348,000	75,773,000	72,163,000	78,208,000
" 28...	61,048,000	74,308,000	71,468,000	77,654,000
April 4...	60,322,000	72,703,000	70,702,000	77,293,000
" 11...	59,339,000	70,437,000	69,217,000	76,696,000
" 18...	58,483,000	68,626,000	68,425,000	74,860,000
" 25...	57,946,000	66,776,000	66,533,000	75,027,000
May 2...	55,619,000	62,196,000	65,160,000	73,009,000
" 9...	54,000,000	59,623,000	63,610,000	71,080,000
" 16...	53,146,000	58,181,000	62,044,000	70,525,000
" 23...	51,258,000	56,244,000	61,319,000	70,169,000
" 30...	50,340,000	54,229,000	59,394,000	70,367,000
June 6...	50,147,000	49,739,000	58,214,000	69,640,000
" 13...	49,438,000	47,717,000	57,105,000	69,376,000
" 20...	48,819,000	46,225,000	55,862,000	68,081,000
" 27...	47,860,000	44,601,000	54,657,000	67,100,000
July 5...	47,199,000	43,359,000	54,114,000	62,810,000

Bradstreet's report of stocks of wheat in Canada on June 27 is as follows:

	Bushels.
Montreal.....	895,000
Toronto.....	181,000
Kingston.....	5,000
Winnipeg.....	145,000
Manitoba interior elevators	1,500,000
Fort William, Port Arthur & Koozatin.....	1,905,000

Total stocks in the United States and Canada as reported by Bradstreet's were as follows, on June 27 1896:

	Bushels.
East of the Mountains.....	61,351,000
Pacific Coast.....	1,927,000
Total stocks a year ago were:	bushels.
East of the Mountains.....	53,568,000
Pacific Coast.....	6,549,000

Bradstreet's report for the week ended July 5, shows a decrease of 1,942,000 bushels in stocks of wheat east of the mountains, making the total 59,412,000 bushels on the latter date.

World's stocks of wheat on July 1, 1896, (United States, Canada, in Europe and afloat for Europe) were 105,210,000 bushels, as compared with 130,877,000 bushels on July 1, 1895, 146,519,000 bushels on July 1, 1894, 152,308,000 bushels on that date in 1893, and as contrasted with 99,203,000 bushels on July 1, 1892, and with smaller totals on July 1 in preceding years.