

BRITISH COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE COMMERCIAL

BUSINESS AT VANCOUVER.

Vancouver, April 3, 1899.

Travel to the Atlin gold fields is growing very heavy. The exodus from British Columbia being very large. In fact all those who can conveniently get away without interfering with business, are going, for the purpose of spying out the situation. Many of them will no doubt remain.

Wholesalers report business brisk owing to Atlin outfitting, and the demand for mining camp supplies. Spring has opened up warm, sunny and very encouraging to loggers and miners, and the demand for produce has correspondingly increased. The lumber trade is very brisk and it is expected that the healthy demand for this product will encourage owners of the idle mills in British Columbia to start up again soon, among them the Ross-McLaren and Chemainus mills. In the salmon canning world the government is still keeping canners in a state of exasperating doubt, as the unfavorable regulations have not yet been modified. The building boom is still on and there does not seem to be a sufficient number of business premises to go around, while in spite of the houses being rushed up in all parts of the city, agents report that there is not a desirable residence to rent. This would indicate a rapid increase in the population of Vancouver. Owing to the scarcity of business and residential premises rents are very high. There are, however, a large number of blocks and homes in process of erection or already planned, so that in another twelve months there will no doubt be room for all comers, and high rents will be a thing of the past.

Vancouver, April 10, 1899.

Is Vancouver being overbuilt? This query has been frequently advanced of late and not without cause. Westminster felt the depressing affects of over-building for seven years before the fire remedied the evil. Now brick blocks are being erected in that city, at about half, or one-third, the cost of the former blocks, which will no doubt be paying investments. In Vancouver, besides scores of stone and brick blocks from 3 to 5 stories high built recently, or in process of erection, great spaces in the outskirts bare for years far in the east and west ends have been filled in by handsome residences, until the whole topography of the city has been changed, all this in 12 months. The building boom has reached to the limits of the city on all sides, far out to English Bay on one side and far out to Fairview on the other.

Business is very brisk in the cities, and the Atlin trade, although it has not reached the large dimensions of last year's Klondike rush, has stimulated business very much. During this week shipping circles have been busy. Two Oriental steamships, the Tartar and Empress of Japan have arrived in port. The royal mail steamship has sailed for Australia, two San Francisco liners have loaded at this port, and five Klondike steamers have gone out with a full complement of passengers, and loaded with freight. All the coast steamers to British Columbia northern mining camps have also been well patronized. This is an extremely busy season for the Oriental trade, although the C. P. R.

have five steamships now on this route, they cannot handle the freight offered, and were this week obliged to refuse applications.

In the local market there is an active demand for hay and grain. Oats have stiffened up suddenly again owing to the limited supply. A large shipment of California butter is to hand and has a ready sale. Eggs are scarce, supplies from Ontario being exhausted. They are, however, coming in freely from British Columbia ranches, but scarcely fast enough to supply the demand.

B. C. BUSINESS NOTES.

Brown & Gulse, hotel, are opening at Columbia.

R. Wray, tailor, contemplates opening at Nelson.

A. W. Swallow, grocer, Creston, is out of business.

Jay & Co., seeds, Victoria, George Jay, Sr., is dead.

H. Rinegar, hotel, Fort Steele, has sold out to R. G. Shier.

Johnson & Santo, general store, are opening at Kimberley.

Geo. F. Curtis, drugs, Revelstoke, mortgagees foreclosed.

Ruebsamen & Goodsell, drugs, are opening at Greenwood.

C. Reid & Co., drugs, Revelstoke, have sold out to Field & Eows.

Allen & Co., Fit Reform Wardrobe, are opening at Victoria.

R. Charters, general store, Qulchena, is succeeded by D. S. Selby.

Hartman & Co., flour and feed, Victoria, closing out stock by auction.

Linton Bros., books, stationery, etc., Slovan City, are moving to Rossland.

The Bank of British North America has opened a branch at Atlin, B. C.

W. Hickey & Co., cannery, Vancouver, have sold out to an English syndicate.

Kaake & Williams, Tailors, bought half interest in the Fort Steele Brewing Co.

Thomas & Grieger, wholesale liquors, Greenwood, are opening a branch at Rossland.

Manitoba Produce and Commission Co., Winnipeg, has established a branch at Vancouver.

J. F. Stanton, blacksmith, Ladner, has sold out, and is succeeded by Boyce & Dennis.

Wm. Turpel, shipbuilder, Victoria, has admitted sons into partnership; style now Wm. Turpel & Sons.

The estate of W. E. Grace, Vancouver, wholesale liquors, etc., stock advertised for sale by tender till April 5th.

A book and stationery store is being opened at Rossland by Linton Bros. as a branch of their Calgary business.

Vessels bound north from Vancouver are loaded to their utmost capacity with freight and passengers for the Atlin country, and other northern points.

F. Cockburn, formerly local manager for R. G. Dun & Co., Vancouver, has secured an interest in the firm of W. T. Stein & Co., chartered accountants of that city.

The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co., Fernie, B. C., are open to negotiate with a brick manufacturer to locate at Fernie. There is a good bed of clay and cheap fuel.

A. W. Johnston, of S. Greenshields, Son & Co., Montreal, has gone to Van-

couver, where he will take charge of the branch house of this firm. It is intended to increase the stock at Vancouver.

Preparations for the canning season are active at the coast. The run of salmon in the north has been very large, which encourages canners to believe that the Fraser river run will be larger than last year.

C. A. Godson, commission merchant, Victoria, is moving to Vancouver, where he will take charge of the agency for the James Robertson company, of Montreal and Toronto, wholesale plumbing supplies. He will also retain his commission business.

A board of trade has been organized at Fernie with the following officers. H. Bently, president; J. W. Nay, vice-president; G. G. Henderson, secretary; Geo. Levasseur, G. Coty, H. J. Johnson, A. Joyce, A. B. Trites and W. W. Tuttle, executive committee.

The Canadian Packing company of London, England, has purchased the cannery of Wm. Hickey on the North Arm of the Fraser River, for the sum of \$10,000. This company is reported to be negotiating for several other canneries and already owns the Star cannery, also on the Fraser, in addition to the one mentioned.

The new officers of the Vancouver board of trade, elected at the recent annual meeting are: President, C. E. Tisdall; vice-president, F. Buscombe, secretary, W. T. Stein; council—W. H. H. Maikin, Wm. Godfrey, Walter Ker, J. C. McLagan, H. Bell-Ing, Campbell Sweeney, F. Cockburn, William Skene, G. I. Wilson, C. Gardiner Johnson, W. F. Salisbury, Adolphus Williams, and F. Burns; board of arbitration, Messrs. Godfrey, Ker, Skene, Bell-Ing, Alexander, Pellet-Harvey, Williams, Wilson, Salisbury, Cockburn, Maikin and Johnson.

"Rossland is rapidly assuming the proportions and characteristics of a very substantial city," says a B. C. writer. "The mines in the vicinity of the camp employ very nearly 1,000 men at good wages. By June, the narrow gauge railway between Rossland and Trail will be standardized, and before the summer is over the Canadian Pacific will be running cars over the new line from Trail to the Boundary district. A feature of the construction work on this road is a tunnel more than 3,000 feet long through solid rock, now under construction."

The annual meeting of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal company was held recently in Montreal, at which authority was obtained to increase the capital by the sum of \$500,000, making it now \$2,000,000. The following directors were also elected Hon. Senator Cox, Robert Jaffray, Elias Rogers, H. M. Pellatt, Thomas Wainwright, J. W. Flavell, of Toronto, J. A. Gammel, Q. C., Ottawa; David Morrice, Wm. Hanson, S. Finlay, Montreal; Wm. Fernie, of British Columbia, and J. D. Chipman, of New Brunswick. The head office of the company is to be transferred from Montreal to Toronto.

The Commercial has received a volume from the Dominion company, Chicago, giving a new history of the Philippines, which will be sold as a subscription book. As there is a great demand for information about the Philippines, the book should prove a valuable one for agents.