

## TIMBER.

We hear so much lately about mines and mining that we are apt to forget the immense value of the timber resources of our province. Yet when it is remembered that in the old world the timber supply is year by year growing less and that on the eastern coast of this continent the virgin forest has almost disappeared an idea of the value of the timber limits of the Pacific slope can be arrived at. When it is too late we will have to deplore the wasteful methods by which great tracts of timber land are year by year laid waste. With proper care our forests may for generations to come be a great and increasing source of profit to British Columbia.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The United States merchants are buying large quantities of textile fabrics in anticipation of tariff changes.

It is stated that the output of gold from the Le Roi and War Eagle mines at Rossland is equal to nearly 50 per cent. of the total output of the whole of Western Australia.

The Americans are selling their butter to Great Britain. In March England imported a million of pounds of United States butter, but then her total import was 32,000,000 pounds.

The new United States tariff which is to come into force on July 1st increases the duties on sugar, tea and beer, and raises the internal revenue tax on snuff and chewing tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

Some idea of the extent to which the United States purchase foreign wool may be gathered from the fact that within the week ending May 1st, 26,386,000 pounds of wool, worth about \$1,000,000 were imported into Boston.

Parcels for all the Australian colonies with the exception of West Australia, and also for New Zealand, can now be forwarded via the monthly line of steamers sailing for Sydney, N. S. W. The postage is 24 cents per pound, up to 11 pounds.

Gold is being largely exported from the United States. Whether these shipments are due to demands for gold from foreign countries or are being sent out to pay the indebtedness of United States merchants, is a matter upon which financial men do not agree.

The Manufacturers' Association of Toronto protest against the preferential clause in the new tariff on the ground that it may be made to include foreign countries as well as England, and on the clause against combines because it

is class legislation, and as such objectionable.

It was anticipated that those who wished to go "home" this year to celebrate Her Majesty's Jubilee, could obtain cheap rates on the ocean steamers. Instead of that the rates are from 15 to 25 per cent. higher than in former years. Still every berth is taken—in some cases weeks ahead. The Canadian liners are getting their share of the travel, and will, it is to be hoped, find this a very prosperous year.

Captain Turner, of the tugboat Okla-hama, a few days ago towed the Japanese ship Tenkio Maru into Portland. For this he has been arrested and charged with a breach of the pilotage laws. A great deal of interested is manifested in the case as many of the merchants of that city consider compulsory pilotage a great injustice. The Pilots' Association are prosecuting Captain Turner and he is being defended by the attorney of the North Pacific Lumber Company.

A new kind of farming is about to be commenced in the "Everglades" of The Ringling Bros., of Chicago, have bought a large tract of land in that state where they propose to raise wild animals, such as lions, tigers, hipopotami, rhinoceri, giraffes, etc. These animals will be sold to the proprietors of circuses, and to zoological gardens. It is a curious enterprise, but its promoters believe it to be feasible, as the climate and conditions of Florida are similar to the regions where most of these animals are found in their native state.

Our neighbors to the south of us are trying the experiment of raising beet root sugar in large quantities. Secretary Wilson says: "If we can succeed in extending the beet sugar industry down to the very line of the sugar cane area, there ought to be no difficulty in producing in the United States all of the \$100,000,000 worth of sugar for which we are going abroad every year." To this end, we suppose, the duty on sugar is about to be raised, and this is the reason why many people in the United States object to the reciprocity treaty with Hawaii.

Two large cotton factories, the Columbus Spinning Company and the Bennett Manufacturing Corporation, of New Bedford, failed last month. Both concerns, by making false representations of their indebtedness, obtained large loans from the banks, not only in New Bedford, but in Boston and other places. The banks are blamed for their want of business methods in not finding out exactly what the financial standing of the companies was. A proper ex-

amination of their books would have shown an expert accountant exactly how their affairs stood, and what chance there was of a loan being repaid.

We all know the old adage "cleanliness is next to godliness," but one has only to walk down our streets one of these fresh spring mornings to feel how true it is. The store whose windows are brightly polished, the counters of which are spotless and upon whose packages or parcels a grain of dust is not to be found invites custom, while the grimy window, the dust-covered parcels and the soiled counters fill the mind with doubt as to the quality of the goods exposed for sale and send the customer to buy of the vendor who proves his faith in the virtues of soap and water by the vigorous use of the scrubbing brush and the hose. It is true that already the dust from the street has begun to wage an insidious war against cleanliness, and that the watering cart is by no means equal to the task of laying it, yet even though our street are dusty and our plat-forms shabby energy, industry and a love of purity can make our shop windows a source of attraction not only to intending purchasers but to the strangers who stroll along our streets. If the painter can be called to our assistance so much the better. But let us use water and plenty of it.

The following extract from the London correspondent of the United States Investor, shows what outsiders think of the prospects of British Columbia:

"That the latter country will enjoy an increasing amount of European attention as time goes on may safely be predicted. The report of the minister of mines of British Columbia for 1896 contains information and figures, which clearly shows the long strides by which the mining industry in that country has advanced. A favorable feature is the establishment by the government of the bureau of mines for the purpose of obtaining and registering full information respecting the various mines, means of communication and other details likely to be of interest and assistance to those concerned in the industry. It is possible that this organization may also eventually prove a valuable safeguard towards preventing a recurrence in the case of British Columbia of those sounding reports and tinkling prospectuses which were so successfully employed by unscrupulous promoters in the South Africa boom. All efforts should be used to save the fair carcass of this new El Dorado from a gathering together of those vultures of finance in gleeful anticipation of another unholy traffic."

The Chicago board of aldermen are discussing an ordinance by means of which retail cigarette dealers will have to pay an annual tax of \$100. It is predicted that the bill will be passed, and that from 8000 to 12,000 dealers will be "closed up."