

# THE JAMES ROBERTSON COMPANY, LIMITED,

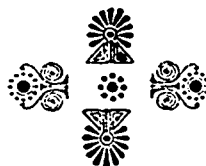
## TORONTO.

Manufacturers and Importers of

## METALS, PAINTERS' PLUMBERS' & TINSMITHS' SUPPLIES

### SPECIALTIES :

ASBESTOS.  
BABBIT METAL.  
BARBED WIRE.  
GALVANIZED IRON.  
INGOT TIN.  
IRON PIPE.  
LEAD TRAPS.  
LEAD SHOT.  
OAKUM.  
SAWS.  
SHEET LEAD.  
SOLDER.  
TIN PLATE.  
WIRE.  
ZINC.



BENZINE.  
BRONZES.  
BRUSHES.  
COLORS IN OIL.  
COLORS IN JAPAN.  
DRY COLORS.  
OILS.  
PUTTY.  
READY-MIXED PAINTS.  
RED LEAD.  
RESIN.  
TURPENTINE.  
VARNISHES.  
WHITE LEAD.  
WHITING.

**WRITE FOR PRICES.**

**Agents: E. G. Anderson & Co, Victoria.**

### COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

J. H. Murden, an express messenger, is under arrest at Hamilton, charged with stealing \$1,500 from the Canadian Express Company.

The salmon fishery regulations for British Columbia have been practically agreed upon by the Dominion cabinet. The offal and other statutory obligations remain in force.

One effect of hard times is to demonstrate the superiority of agricultural over other industrial pursuits. The grand army of workers, houseless and hungry, is not composed of farmers.

The Havana cigar market is at present in a bad way, no orders having been received from abroad for some time. The best known factories are in consequence working on a very limited scale.

The Anglo American Telegraph Company have entered into a contract for a new cable to be laid between Ireland and Newfoundland, to be completed this summer. The cost of the undertaking is \$450,000.

At a recent meeting of fruit growers at Duncan, a resolution was passed suggesting that steps for advancing the dairy interests, by means of travelling dairy instructors, are advisable, and would

supply a want in the agricultural districts.

Mr. A. McL. Chalmers, Wellington, has completed the plans for a 30x40 building, which will be divided into three stores. It will be erected on the adjacent lot to Quennell's meat market, for H. McMillan & Son, and will be constructed right away. A dispatch to the Central News from Rome says: In consequence of the discovery of further defaults the Government has ordered new inquiry into the affairs of the Banca Italia. The Banca Anticipione, of Naples, has applied for more time.

The iron mines in the neighborhood of Bristol, in Pontiac county, have been closed down. The men have ceased pumping out the accumulation of water and the shafts are in some cases filling up fast. A large part of the miners being thus out of work have left for the shanties.

Most of the sugar-producing localities, say Havana advices of date, report an improvement in the saccharine qualities of the yield. It is generally believed that a very large crop will be made. Some of the central factories are having trouble with tenants, who refuse to abide by the contracts they made earlier in the season, and who now demand a larger return of sugar for the cane delivered. Several of the factories have stopped grinding on this account.

### COST OF BRITISH DEFENSES.

The British empire spends as a rule upon defense from \$250,000,000 to \$280,000,000 a year, of which the military expenditure of India, with the direct expenditure for the sake of India on mobile land forces at home, forms the largest item. Almost the whole of this vast sum is expended out of British loans or taxes under the control of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and out of Indian taxes under the direct control of the House of Commons through the secretary of state, who is a member of the government of the day. This expenditure, although vast; although open to the reproach that it does not do more than maintain a fleet slightly superior to that of France and an army of very small numbers, is a fleabite as compare (in its ill effect upon the wealth of the nation) with the military expenditure of Italy, or, in a less degree, with other continental powers. The evidences of the over-pressure of taxation in India itself, many as they are, are slight in comparison with those which are present in the case of Italy, and it may be assumed, therefore, that while the taxpayers of the United Kingdom and of India may make their voices heard in insisting upon better value for their money, the expenditure will not in itself be brought to an end by bankruptcy.