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Mining & Financial**AGENTS.**

-AGENTS FOR-

The Yorkshire Guarantee and Securities Corporation, England.
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The British Columbia Fire Insurance Company, Victoria.
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The Royal Canadian Packing Co., Claxton, Skeena River, "Globe Brand of Salmon."
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THOS. TUGWELL, Manager.

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

The World's Fair has two miles of lunch counters.

In the world there are 51,000 breweries, nearly 26,000 of them being in Germany.

A recent invention is a triple pen, which rules the three lines of a cash column at one stroke.

Buyers at Belleville are paying as high as \$200 each for stylish horses suitable for the United States market.

A gentleman in Vancouver, who is connected with the Haytian Republic, says that \$7,000 worth of opium and 174 contraband Chinamen have been taken across to the States by that steamer since December last.

A Chicago retail grocery firm estimates that the fellow who comes in and sociably helps himself to a piece of cheese or a bit of candy and sometimes nibbles away until he has had a substantial lunch, costs them about a thousand dollars a year.

The New York *World* says the plan of refunding the Northern Pacific railroad floating debt is assured. The mortgage is made to the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company and is limited to an issue of \$15,000,000 of notes payable in gold, and amply secured.

Messrs. R. P. Rithet & Co., have applied to the Dominion Government for permission to erect a wharf at Telegraph Bay. This is where the new powder works are being erected, and it is for the purpose of shipping powder that the wharf is required.

A general meeting of the Union S. S. Company was held at Vancouver one day last week, when a by-law for the issue of \$50,000, 6 per cent., preference stock was passed. Ten thousand dollars had already been subscribed in England, while a number of those present subscribed.

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A high-speed locomotive has been sent from England to the World's Fair, the driving-wheels of which are seven feet six inches in height. It was built for private use, and is said to have covered ninety miles an hour. There are four cylinders on the front of the engine, and the driving-rods are so arranged that each driving-wheel is connected with a different cylinder.

According to last year's census, the results of which will shortly be published, there are 12 cities in France with a population of over 100,000 inhabitants. They are: Paris, with 2,147,000; Lyons, 138,000; Marseilles, 403,000; Bordeaux, 252,000; Lille, 201,000; Toulouse, 150,000; Saint-Etienne, 133,000; Nantes, 122,000; Havre, 116,000; Roubaix, 115,000; Rouen, 112,000; and Rheims with 104,000.

At Starks' crossing, about eight miles south of Nanaimo, along the line of the E. & N. railroad, the New Vancouver Coal Company is laying out a large tract of land in five-acre blocks for homestead purposes for their employees working at No. 5 shaft and in the vicinity. A depot will be erected for the convenience of the settlers. Roads are being opened up and a great deal of clearing is being done.

Advices from Cuba announce great depression and distress in the island owing to the heavy deficit in the sugar crop. Dalziel, telegraphing later, says that the reports regarding the Cuban sugar crop are very conflicting. It is practically conceded that there will be a heavy shortage this year, but the leading authorities are apparently unable to arrive at an agreement on the amount. The receipts are beginning to decrease.

Coal is being shipped very rapidly by the New Vancouver Coal Company at present. The new shaft on Protection Island contributes 500 tons daily, and as there is a separate wharf there, it is promptly despatched. Both seams are being worked at present from this shaft, but in another month it will be connected with No. 3 of the Esplanade shaft, when the motors will probably bring the coal from the top seam to the Esplanade shaft.

It seems that for some time Canada has been made the dumping ground for all teas rejected by the United States and English tea inspectors. During the space of ten days, the tea inspectors rejected some 4,200 packages of pingsueys. It was the vilest kind of stuff, and the arbitrators at New York refused to allow it to enter there. It is understood that it is the purpose to also throw these teas on the Canadian market. The Minister of Finance's attention was drawn to the matter a couple of weeks ago, and it is imperative in the interests of the trade that some stringent measure should be taken to prevent a continuance of the pernicious custom.

English grocers are experiencing a good deal of difficulty with co-operative stores. This movement, which began a great many years ago, has now reached very considerable proportions, and it is, therefore, worthy of careful study on the part, not only of those traders whom it is intended that the stores should displace, but also of the public, remarks a local paper. In considering the question, it is well that a broad distinction should be drawn between this movement generally and a few large stores in the west end of London, which are frequented either by rich people who have a passion for small economies, or by those in society who are not particularly well off, and who desire to make money go as far as they can.

Advices from Puget Sound report fish running fairly free. On the Columbia River, very little packing is being done. The catch is light, while at some places high water interferes with the working of the canneries. At last mail advices, there were still large deposits of snow on the mountain ranges, which, with warm weather, would melt and cause still higher water. The traps on the river catch but few, while fishing by nets is dangerous and unprofitable. The average catch to the boat is from 6 to 8 at Astoria and 4 to 5 up river. The fish average around 23 lbs. each. The flesh is firm and of good color. The pack, so far, is of exceptional good quality. We are not advised of anything regarding Alaska salmon, different from that heretofore published.