

them there are objectionable not to say disgusting demonstrations of officialism: the less there is of which the better will every one be satisfied. Moreover, we wish to see the principle of promotion more largely carried out among those who are now members of the service. The recently successful candidates have qualified themselves for office, let them have according to their merits what there is to give.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

SEVERAL British Columbia sealers have already left for the Japan coast to enter upon their season's cruise and others will follow them in a few days.

THE storms of last week have been disastrous almost the world over. The British coast has been severely visited and on the Pacific among others, the well-known coal carrying steamers the Montserrat and Keweenaw, have it is feared, gone down to Davie Jones' locker with all on board.

THE COMMERCIAL JOURNAL'S summary of the trade of the year 1894 not having been completed at the time of going to press, is held over till our next issue. We may remark that judging from all that has been said the figures make a better showing than many people would have had us believe.

SEATTLE, which is bound not to be left in the race for business, has recently formed a shippers' association and expects by its instrumentality to settle existing difficulties between railroads, to secure further wharfage accommodations for ocean steamers, and in the event of the Northern Pacific steamships giving the port the go-by to offer such inducements as will secure the establishment of a line to compete with its vessels, with headquarters at Seattle.

THOSE who are interested in the

British Columbia lumber trade complain that so far they have been unable to enlist the influence of the Provincial Government in the way of inducing the Dominion authorities so to modify the regulations relating to towage and pilotage as to relieve them of the disabilities under which they labor when competing with the lumber mills of the Sound for the California and foreign trade. They claim—and very properly—that British Columbia lumber is superior to the article against which it has to compete, and in consequence is more highly esteemed, but the disability referred to is a most serious one, and ought to be removed.

THERE is one feature of the trade of British Columbia which is well worth referring to and that is that according to the *Winnipeg Commercial* the prairie capital is gradually extending its business operations into nearly all sections of the interior of this Province. Particular and special reference is made to the important business relations at present existing between Winnipeg and the Cariboo and Kootenay countries, with which Vancouver or Victoria ought to be able to successfully carry on wholesale trade. If there are any disabilities under which they labor and which are possible of removal the matter should have the attention of the Board of Trade of the two centres specially affected in order that the necessary action may be taken.

JOHN GRANT, a well-known pioneer and a few years since Mayor of the city of Victoria, is down from the Kootenay country of whose prospects he is most enthusiastic. He bespeaks for it such a boom as no part of this Province has ever seen. He says that all that is required is the judiciously combined expenditure of capital and labor to secure al-

most unlimited results both in gold and silver mining. Mr. Grant while enthusiastic over the prospects of this new country has not lost faith in his old love, "Golden Cariboo," whose future will, he considers, with approved methods of mining, be greater than its past. There is gold and plenty of it to be had for all who go about securing it in a proper manner. Mr. Grant, his friends will be pleased to see, appears to be in splendid health, and is the same hopeful man of energy that he was years ago. Time has dealt with him kindly.

ACCORDING to the official returns issued from Ottawa, the total imports of Canada for the first five months of the fiscal year, amounted to \$42,113,727, a decline of \$7,219,817 on the corresponding period of 1893, when they reached \$50,333,544. The total exports during the same period were \$64,616,750, being a decrease of \$2,314,758 on the same months in 1893. This, as will be seen, means a falling off of \$9,534,575 in the total trade of Canada. If as concerns the imports the decrease is due to a greater consumption of articles of home production, so much the better for the country, which has retained in circulation at home a considerable amount that otherwise would have benefited outside countries. Then, as to the decrease in the value of exports, it has been suggested that it is probably due to the decline in values, for the volume of our principal exports has been much the same as during previous years.

Debs will appeal Judge Woods' decision committing him to prison.

England has determined to sift the Armenian atrocities to the bottom.

Wealthy New Yorkers will contest the constitutionality of the new United States income tax.