Crops have been short. Supplies limited. The scarcity of good coffees and their high prices have brought to the surface all the refuse coffees of the world, such as a few years ago would not have paid for the transportation; and this miserable refuse is now bringing a higher price than did genuine Old Government Java a few years ago.—*Indiana Journal of Commerce.*

Canadian and American companies control the principal part of the life insurance business of Canada; 41,516 policies were issued last year, of which 1,831 were in British, 16,264 in American and 23,421 in Canadian companies.

A fire in Ottawa, on the 3rd instant, destroyed the buildings and stock of Thackery & Co., no insurance; the Ontario Carriage Works partly insured; and a large brick building in which was the offices of the Sanitary Plumbing Company, Heney & , saddlers, Gas Inspection office, and the Ottawa Manufacturing Co. The loss is between forty and fiftythousand.

An American exchange says: Ten years ago a good buffalo head sold for $15 to $40. The price now ranges from $75 to $100. There has has not been a gree buffalo head in Denver for three years. But it is expected that Buffalo Jones' domestic buffalo herd in Kansas will occasionally add a new head to the market. Rocky Mountain sheep are not very numerous, and the head of the animal brings from $35 to $100. Mountain sheep are sold in pairs, when the taxidermist has saved the whole animal, and they sell for $350 a pair. Elk heads sells from $35 to $300 each. Grizzley bear rugs brings from $35 to $200 each; black bear as high as $75. The cinnamon and brown bear are common and not so durable, and the best will not sell over $50.

About 800 head of Canadian bullocks of unusually good quality were landed in Liverpool recently and sold at from 6d to 6½d. Some 5,000 head of State's cattle were also sold, of almost equally good quality, but the most that could be got for them was 5d per pound. The *Canadian Gazette* says Canadian statesmen and politicians should carefully note these prices. It also states that the demand experienced is of the slowest kind, buyers insisting upon dealing at Birkenhead rates. A few sales were made at 6½d per pound, and for anything below choice, it was difficult to make 6½d and in some cases 6d. At Birkenhead excellent [illegible] asses are freely offered at 4½d to 4¾d, equal to 5d or 5½d. In the face of such bottom rates, it is easy to understand how difficult it would be to make 6d to 6½d for best Canadians in the open market.

The Financial and Commercial Situation.

There has been a notable revulsion of feeling in financial and commercial circles during the past few weeks, says *The Iron Age*, which argues well for a recovery in the iron trade. As yet professional operators alone have begun to act on the bull side of the markets, but there are indications that the general public is beginning to be attracted by chances for investment and speculation. Sentiment so largely sways great movements of this character that constant and close study of the indications of a speculative revival is necessary to detect the direction of the current. The time required to carry out projects involving the purchase of large quantities of iron and steel is very short now as compared with what it was ten or fifteen years since. When once the construction of a great railroad is determined upon, it is presumably carried out in an incredibly short period. The building of the Manitoba road is a striking example. It is probable that more time is employed to mature and finance and undertaking than that needed for the actual work of construction.

While relatively little has been done during the last two years in extending our railroad mileage a good deal of work has been carried on quietly in perfecting plans for the extensions. They have reached a point where the only obstacle to the giving out contracts is the floating of bonds and stock. That has been, generally speaking, a very difficult matter. Capitalists and bankers have been busy over reorganization schemes. They have had very little disposition to entertain, and little opportunity to recommend to their clients, new ventures, however promising. But matters may take a very different aspect as soon as the investing public generally has had even a brief period of successful operations, the majority generally acting on a rising market. They will be found quick to change their attitude of indifference to one of activity Then the amount of preparatory work done during the past two years would soon tell, and would tend to lend an impetus to the movement.

Changes of this kind occur very rapidly and influence the iron trade more quickly now than they formerly did for the very reason to which we have already alluded. The mechanical work of construction is now carried out under such high pressure and so quickly that requisitions of supplies follow one another in very rapid succession. In other words, the transition from dullness to rushing activity in the demand for constructive material is likely to be surprisingly short when it does come. That contingency seems to be nearer than the majority are willing to admit.

British Columbia.

Vancouver is to have a rope factory.

J. J. Cowderoy, grocer, Victoria, has assigned.

S. S. Burl, grocer, Victoria, contemplates selling out.

A. McNabb's carriage shop, Vancouver, has has been closed by the sheriff.

F. Norris, of Victoria, is going into manufacturing of trunks, valises and horse collars.

The Perry Creek Gold Mining Company have decided to issue $75,000 extension of capital.

J. Wheeler, Victoria, is enlarging his furniture factory and putting in new machinery.

Coal has been discovered on Moresby Island, near Victoria, on property owned by H. J. Robertson.

The steamer Adelaide has been purchased by the Brunnette Saw Mills Company, of New Westminster.

The generators and dynamos for the electric light and street railway company have arrived at Vancouver.

The fruit crop in and around New Westminster promises to be the largest they have had for some years.

Nebraska eggs were jobbing in Vancouver last week at 17c per dozen. A few Manitoba eggs have been received.

Prout & Insley, Leland House, Vancouver, are dissolving partnership. William Prout will continue the business.

J. Young and J. Bickle, of Nanaimo, have formed a partnership and will carry on a general merchandise business.

The contractor for laying the second main across the Narrows for the Vancouver Water Works Company, has commenced operations.

Roland Smith & Co. are starting a steam laundry at Victoria. R. B. May, of Cincinnati, has the contract for supplying the machinery

A telegraph line is to be built from Revelstoke, on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, to Nelson, the mining town near the boundary.

Vancouver is building a half million dollar sugar refinery, and will draw the raw sugar from Japan, China and the West Indies, and send return cargoes of lumber.

The old Novelty Iron Works, at Victoria, are being transformed into a pottery. T. C. Nantivel, of Los Angeles, is putting in the new industry. The clay is procured from a pit at the northern end of the city.

Creamery butter is quoted at 23c at Vancouver, in jobbing lots. Large stocks of Manitoba dairy are still held, and slow sale at 10c per pound and upward to 20c, as to quality. Fresh California butter is offered freely.

A recent discovery at the coast shows that considerable quantities of opium are being smuggled into the States in salmon cans The drug is packed in cans and with an ordinary salmon label on the outside is shipped to San Francisco. The customs officers do not open hermetically sealed cans and the result is that the fraud is never detected.

J A. McCrae, of Regina, one of the Indian instructors, has been ordered to proceed to British Columbia to organize the four industrial schools for the Indians recently erected by the Department at Kuper Island, Kamloops, Kootenay and Metlakhatla.

A meeting of the council of the Vancouver board of trade was held last week to discuss a preposition from a Glasgow firm to improve the harbor at Vancouver. The company would have a capital stock of $1,000,000 and the expenditure would be $100,000 a year.

Vancouver was heavily stocked with Manitoba flour before the recent advances, and that commodity is now selling for less than it can be laid down for. Considerable California flour is coming in, and can be laid down at $5.10 per barrel for choicest brands, while Manitoba patent would cost $6.40, laid down; Oregon flour can be laid down at Vancouver for $4.75, and Washington at $4 25 per barrel, for best brands.

Speaking of the fur trade of British Columbia the New Westminster *Columbian* says: "As the Indians arrive from their winter quarters the fur market is becoming more lively. This week the receipts of furs and skins have been much larger than at any time since the beginning of the year. The varieties have been land otter, bear, mink, mountain goat and sheep, raccoon and rat skins. All the furs are prime in quality, which is always the case after a severe winter. W. H. Vianen, the principal dealer in furs, has made some large deals with the Indians, and he will have an unusual quantity to ship this season.