

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, March 17, 1896.

Wholesalers report a satisfactory increase in business this week. The fine summer weather has stimulated trade. Money is easier and merchants are hopeful. All local industries are running full time, while the saw mill companies are working night and day to fill orders.

British Columbia Business Notes

McNair, shingle mill, Hastings, is reported burned out.

A. H. Bain, fruits, Kamloops, has sold out to N. J. Hopkins.

Robert D. Mather, hotel, Fort Steele, is succeeded by A. Morin.

J. J. Kerr, builder etc., Chilliwack is reported to have left town.

The Hall mines are shipping 2,000 tons of ore by wagon and sleigh.

Last week the Kaslo and Slocan Railway shipped 560 tons of silver ore.

Wm. McCarrach, blacksmith, Victoria, has sold out to Wm. Rendell.

B. Robuchie, fruits, etc., Victoria, is advertising his business for sale.

Bailey & Monford, butchers, Kelowna, have dissolved; E. B. Bailey continues.

Nicola Cattle Co., butchers, Vancouver, have sold out to W. H. Marsden.

Hutber & Dixon, saloon, Victoria have dissolved; H. Hutber continues.

Hall & Renouf, grocers, Victoria, have dissolved; F. J. Hall continues the business.

Fuller & Goodwin, general dealers, Equimalt have dissolved; W. S. Goodwin continues.

The amount of arrears on timber royalties and licenses to the dist of December was \$9,892.

The revenue of the government for six months ending December 31st was \$388,517.00 and expenditure \$748,754.17 (parliamentary buildings \$159,792.00).

Halibut fishing is finished for the season. Although immense numbers of fish were sent to the east, as was the case last year, the business was not profitable, owing to the sensitive condition of the eastern fish market.

Twenty tons of B. C. potatoes were shipped to Australia by the last steamer, as an experiment. Owing to the recent drought in the Antipodes, potatoes bring a fabulously high price, and if it is possible to get them through the tropics without rot, the shipper will make a handsome profit and repeat the experiment. With the usual prices prevailing shipping potatoes across the Pacific would be unprofitable.

Thanks to the visit of the federal government commissioners, several creameries will be started in British Columbia this season. The Saanich, Vancouver Island, farmers are choosing a site and are arranging for a guarantee of 280 cows. The subscribed stock so far is \$3,000.

The Dairymen's Association of B. C. meet at Chilliwack on Tuesday next. Papers will be read by prominent farmers on "Winter Dairying," "Creameries," "Silo," "Care and feeding of Cattle."

The provincial government report shows that of \$19,544.1 brought to account under the lumber leases for the year ending June 30th, 1895, the sum of \$18,453.61 was arrears. The amount of arrears to the 31st December, 1895, was \$66,422.95.

The famous silver trout of Kamloops, B. C.—the angler's delight—is to be introduced into California waters, through the persistent application of G. B. Clamore, a disciple of Walton's. Americans have given the name "Salmo kamloopi" to the game little fish.

Spring salmon are bringing \$1 each on the Fraser. They are running light.

Victoria is making a strong bid for Spokane as well as Kootenay trade. The wholesalers claim that owing to their importing their goods direct from Europe around the Horn, they can sell liquor, dry goods, etc., in Spokane cheaper than they can be bought in New York, and can get them there much quicker.

An interesting assessment case, now before the legislature, was decided by S. Perry Mills sitting as a court of revision in Victoria recently. The Bank of British Columbia appealed from their assessment, an income tax \$150,000, personal property 761,517.65. The bank contended that they had no assessable personal property. The court ruled that the money deposited with them on current account or at interest was personal estate, and asked for the names of the depositors if they denied it. The names were refused and the court ruled that these deposits must be taxed and if the bank refused the names of the depositors the bank must be taxed for the deposits.

There is at present great activity among the mining camps. The following are some of the more interesting reports that have reached the city this week: New Denver. The Pueblo smelter is buying the silver ores of West Kootenay. The Moneter has commenced to ship ore. The Slocan state concentrator starts operations early in May, 30,000 tons of ore are in the dump.

The "Two Friends" mine, nine miles from Slocan has proved unusually rich in silver, seven assays have been made. A sample of cupriferous argentite ran 19,731½ ounces to the ton or nearly an ounce per pound. Dry ore ran 1,374, 573, 271, and 238. The galena ran 79 per cent.

Active mining operations are in progress at Alberni, Vancouver Island. The hydraulic machinery has arrived for the Duke of York claim, and the success of this district will depend on the results obtained.

The miners are satisfied with the amendments to the mining tax act before the legislature. The tax will be one per cent on the gross output instead of two per cent, and this will be less carriage and cost of smelter treatment.

Nelson. They are already sloping the famous Silver King. A full gang of men will be put on.

H. Y. Symonds of Calgary has bonded the Magestic mine for \$2,000. The final payment is due Nov. 1st. The total amount \$30,000.

The Surprise mine tunnel has disclosed a two foot vein running 200 ounces of silver.

The Deadman has been shipping 100 tons a month all winter and will now put on a full gang of men.

A. Finch recently bonded the Enterprise, for \$22,500. The first months work uncovered enough ore to pay the bond.

The Trail Creek British Columbia Smelter and Railway Co., are asking concession from the government. They are constructing a railway from Trail to the famous Trail Creek mines, 600 men are at work.

The company want to extend their railway to the famous Boundary Creek country, fabulously rich in low grade ores. Their smelter has purchased a quarter of a million dollars worth of ore which is stored ready for treatment.

The bill to allow traction engines to run on the Cariboo road was defeated in the House, it is said through the influence of the farmers. Many of the miners are sorely disappointed.

While J. Knowles was working on his placer claim on Lardeau Creek, West Koot-

onay, he was surprised in turning over a boulder to discover 3 or 4 small nuggets aggregating \$100 in value. Mr. Knowles took out \$600 last winter on the same claim after a short season of active work.

The famous Le Roi mine has paid 8 dividends in about that many months aggregating \$100,000.

Last February the receipts from the three customs houses for the Trail Creek district alone were \$10,402. This is all new business for the province.

Gold has been discovered in the middle of main street Rossland. Capt Carter, the lucky prospector is sinking a shaft to ascertain the richness of his strange find.

Trail Creek stocks are holding firm or advancing. It is reported that sharp advances have taken place in War Eagle and Josie stocks.

The O. K. mine, Trail Creek, it is said will prove a bonanza, bearing out the theory that Rossland mines get richer as you go down. The O. K. vein has widened from 2 to 5 and afterwards to 10 feet. The ore is spotted with pea gold the size of a pin head.

While the men were at work grading for the Trail Creek tram line they uncovered an 8 foot ledge of gold bearing ore, across the "Center Star" ground.

It is estimated that the rich lands of the Fraser Delta can be effectually dyked, and protected from periodical floods at a cost of \$600,000. The proposed land to be dyked comprise 68,000 acres of the richest soil in the province, capable of producing two crops a year. The provincial government have undertaken to guarantee the bonds of the Dyking Commissioners appointed to the extent of \$15,000, and are appealing to the federal government to guarantee the bonds at the rate of four per cent. The provincial government will also ask the Dominion government to place a tug on the Fraser for the purpose of towing away landed trees and keeping the stream clear.

The terrible fatality at Rossland this week in which four men were killed by the discharge of giant powder has cast a gloom over Rossland, but it will be a sad lesson in the careful use of explosives at the camp. Familiarity breeds a contempt for danger and disasters eventually follow. One instance happened recently which would send a cold chill down the spinal column of a timid man. A box of candles is kept at the mouth of most of the mines. Two men who had occasion to visit a mine recently, dipped their hands into the box for their candles before entering. One man lit his candle readily enough. The other man stood talking for a moment to his companion wondering why his candle did not light, as he had been holding a match to it for some time he made an investigation and discovered to his horror he had been trying to light a stick of dynamite.

Butter for the Orient.

The Parsons Produce Co., Winnipeg, are this week in receipt of a letter from Robert Scott who is now making a tour of China and Japan with a view of introducing Manitoba butter into these countries. The letter is mailed from Shanghai, China, under date Feb. 17, and speaks very hopefully of his being able to establish connections that will probably prove valuable not only to himself as one of our creamery men, but other dealers in that line. The Australians are apparently making a great effort to capture at least a portion of the Japanese trade by offering a bonus of 4c per pound on all shipments into that country until such time as a profitable trade is established. Mr. Scott expects to be back in Winnipeg by the middle of April, in good time to arrange for next summer's operations.