

could not be maintained for such length of time was more wind. Leather men are chafing under the disadvantages under which they are laboring in the production of leather. They realize that they ought to get more for their stock, but are so afraid of each other that they dare not ask but a moiety of the advance to which they are entitled by the increased cost of their goods. Stocks of leather were never so bare as at present and the slightest acceleration of the demand will bring up prices with a jump. As soon as fall manufacturing is fairly under way the leather market must stiffen. Manufacturers realizing this fact are figuring cautiously in regard to the coming season's goods. An advance is sure to come on all classes of shoes. Retailers should make up their minds not to be caught short on shoes.

### The New Westminster Fire.

One of the most disastrous fires that has ever visited any part of Canada, swept over the city of New Westminster, British Columbia, on the night of Saturday, September 10th, and before it had spent itself or could be controlled, almost completely destroyed the main business and residential portion of the city. The origin of the fire has not yet been definitely determined. First reports attributed it to a spark igniting some hay on one of the private wharves which front along the river, later reports attribute it to the work of an incendiary. Whatever its origin, the result was disastrous in the extreme, no less than half a square mile of territory, containing in the neighborhood of three hundred and twenty-seven buildings of all kinds, many of them handsome business blocks and residences, was burned over and left a heap of smoking ruins. The loss is estimated at from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 with insurance for about half the amount. Worse still, it is believed that some lives were lost although as yet nothing definite is known as to this. By the burning of the residential portion of the city some two thousand of its citizens were made homeless and exposed to the hardship of living in the open air until shelter could be provided for them. Timely assistance was, however, rendered by the citizens of Vancouver and other neighboring communities.

A partial list of the business buildings, etc., which have been burned includes the following:

Market wharf, Brackman & Ker's wharf and contents valued at \$10,000, New Vancouver Coal company's wharf, Cunningham houses (four), Western Fisheries company, with pack, No. 3 fire hall, Gilley Brothers' wharf and warehouse, Canadian Pacific railway station, Caledonia hotel, Quong Onvo Co.'s building, Welsh building, Brackman & Ker's store and full stock of flour, James Wise building, Holbrook hotel, Charles McDonough's store, Armstrong's English block, Eichhoff hotel, McGillivray's building, Occidental hotel, Armstrong-Burk block, MacArthur building, Iron works, Annadeles' and Fales' stores, Bank of Montreal, Douglas hotel, Hambly block, Westminster club, Bank of British Columbia, New Westminster Columbian newspaper, Begbie block Wintermute's furniture factory, Baker's bakery, Y. M. C. A. fire hall No. 1, Library building, postoffice and customs' building, Elliott building, Blackie building, Colonial hotel, Globe House (Mrs. Rae), Mead

building, Grotto hotel, Burns-Curtis block, central telephone office, Trapp's auction store, Masonic building, and Old Fellows' building, Lewis building, Sinclair Canning company's building and season's pack, Central hotel, Depot hotel, True building, Methodist church (\$10,000), Baptist church (\$10,000), Episcopalian church, (\$25,000), Presbyterian church, St. Leonard's (\$5,000), court house, city hall, Herrin's opera house (\$20,000), Lewis block, Hotel Guichen, Merchants' Exchange, Chinese Mission, Ewan's residence (\$35,000), and about two hundred and fifty houses on Agnes street, Royal avenue, Douglas street and other roads.

First reports as to losses stated that the Sun Life company was a heavy loser by reason of mortgages on the destroyed property, but this report has subsequently been denied from the company's head office and the statement is made that the Sun loses absolutely nothing by New Westminster policies.

Some of the leading insurance companies have totalled up their losses as follows. Connecticut \$75,000, Phoenix of London \$80,000, North British and Mercantile \$48,000, Sun \$15,000, Royal \$44,000, London and Lancashire \$75,000, Liverpool, London and Globe \$75,000, Union \$35,000.

### Dry Goods Trade.

Cotton fabrics in the United States are quiet, but the Canadian and better demand in Fall liver has forced 1-16c. advance in the price of 64 squares in that market.

A Montreal despatch says: The Dominion Cotton Mills company, which recently made an arrangement respecting the production of grey cotton with two Quebec factories, has also adopted a new policy. It is proposed to close several of its mills at outside points, and to increase the capacity of its mills here.

There has been some adjustment to prices in dry goods to meet tariff exigencies. Blue olives in the higher qualities have been reduced in price by the manufacturers 1-2c. This was done to meet competition from outside factories. On the other hand some of the higher grade of Canadian make have been advanced 3-3c. This was possible under the tariff as it is at present, as the duty catches the higher priced stuff.

A Toronto report says: There is not likely to be any large lot of cottons thrown on the market this season at lower prices than jobbers bought the goods earlier in the season, as was done and caused such a lot of complaint one or two seasons ago. The demand for cotton is very active, and it is in some cases, difficult to get orders filled promptly. Pillow cottons and bleached sheeting are very scarce, and cotton grain bags, especially those of a high grade, are not obtainable in large lots from the mills now, and orders placed recently cannot be filled for three or four weeks or more. The market for cottons promises to gain strength as the season advances, and those who wish to be supplied should order early, as a little later it will not be a matter of price, but a question of getting the goods when they are wanted for the trade.

### Vancouver Board of Trade.

The annual report of the Vancouver board of trade has been issued in

pamphlet form and besides the usual information relating more particularly to the affairs of the board contains a great deal of general information, compiled from official sources, relating to the trade and industries of Vancouver and of the province of British Columbia as a whole. The lumbering, fishing, mining, agricultural and shipping industries are all reviewed briefly and the latest statistics presented in concise form. Mechanically and artistically this report is an exceedingly creditable production and it is encased in a beautifully lithographed cover, the whole being the work of The Province Publishing Co., Ltd.

### The Commercial Men.

J. M. Coombs, of Myron, McBride & Co., Winnipeg, has returned from a trip through the Crow's Nest country.

R. H. Climie, western representative of Knox, Morgan & Co., Hamilton, goes east shortly to visit the headquarters of his firm.

F. H. Moon, of the British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading Co., arrived in Winnipeg this week. He reports business good at the coast, but the export lumber trade is quiet.

E. H. Taaffe, western representative for Tooke Bees, Montreal, returned the first of the week from his final trip for this season. He will proceed to Montreal and return later with new season samples. Mr. Taaffe says the season's business has been very good with them and the merchants throughout the country are feeling very hopeful.

Harry J. Madill, of R. J. Whitla & Co., left last evening for the west on an extended business trip.

### A Striking Issue.

The September Canadian Magazine contains four illustrated stories and a beautifully illustrated article on Jamaica; the rest of the issue is taken up with articles as follows: The St. Lawrence route and the Manitoba Grain Trade by Edward Farrer; Canada's International Status, by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper; Failure of the Australian Federation Bill by W. H. Fitchett; The Members of the First Dominion Parliament—with portraits and autographs—by Sir John G. Bourinot; A Review of R. G. Halliburton's Scientific Discoveries by Norman Patterson; The Champlain Monument, by Arthur G. Doucety; Great Britain and Russia, by Charles Frederick Hamilton; and Current Events Abroad by John A. Ewan.

### Effective Advertising.

The Kansas City Journal says that a flour merchant at Edgar let the story get out that while he was stooping over his flour bin a \$150 diamond ring had slipped off his finger into the flour. He appeared to be greatly exercised over the loss, got a notice in the local paper, but finally announced with a sigh that he would have to give it up; that the ring was in the flour somewhere; that he supposed it would turn up in a sack of flour but he had no idea what one. Well you ought to have seen the boom that guileless man had in the flour trade. For the next week he had to hire extra help to fill sacks out of that bin. One man who never bought a sack from him before came in and had a winter's supply. And the smooth merchant whistled softly as he filled the sacks and winked the other eye.