

### British Columbia.

Demeres, will open a grocery at Victoria.

Two more B. C. sealers, the Minnie and Pathfinder, have been seized in Behring sea.

J. A. Russell, LL.B., has been admitted a partner in the law firm of Yates & Jay, Vancouver.

The *Victoria Colonist* is calling for more hotel accommodation. All the hotels in the city are crowded.

Heavy fires, thick smoke, continued drought and short crops says the *Colonist*, is the gist of news from Comox.

D. J. Levy, the Victoria tailor who absconded, has been heard of in Tacoma. His establishment is in the hands of the sheriff.

A Chinese leper, at Victoria, was examined by the eastern physicians who recently visited that city. They pronounced the case genuine.

The C. P. R. Co. has offered half fares and half freight rates throughout the Pacific division for all passengers and exhibits for the provincial exhibition.

F. C. Gamble, Dominion government engineer, is calling for tenders for work to be undertaken this year in connection with the improvements at the mouth of the Fraser river.

A. J. Hill and H. G. Ross, commission agents and surveyors, Westminster, B. C., have dissolved partnership. Ross will continue the commission business, and Hill the engineering department.

L. Goodacre, Victoria, has the contract for supplying the naval forces at Esquimalt with fresh beef and mutton, corn beef, suet and vegetables for the next five years. King's tender has been accepted for the supply of bread.

A meeting of Victoria citizens, called by Mayor Grant to discuss the best method of welcoming Hon. Mr. Dewdney, minister of the interior, was held recently, and it was decided to welcome the minister, who is an old British Columbian, with a banquet.

The British barque *George* has arrived at Victoria, having made the run from Saigon, China, with a cargo of 1,300 tons of paddy, in 64 days. The cargo of paddy, which is the name given unprepared rice, is for the Victoria rice mill.

The Columbia River Transportation Co. is completing arrangements to build another steamer for the trade between Revelstoke, Sproat's Landing and the Little Dalles in Washington. Her length will be 110 feet, 23 feet beam and 5 feet depth of hold.

The work of construction on the British Columbia section of the Westminster Southern railway is progressing satisfactorily. Mr. Leamy reports that he has let 67 sub-contracts, which are now under way. A new bonus by-law for the railway will soon be voted upon.

The elevation of M. W. T. Drake, Q.C., to the seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of the Province, made vacant by the death of Justice Gray meets with general approval, owing to the fact that Justice Drake is a local man and for many years has occupied a prominent position at the Bar of the Province.

In the last official *Gazette* the Kootenay Valley Co., limited, capital \$100,000, is registered. Its objects are general and include various investments.—The Lilloet Hydraulic Mining Co., Victoria, which proposes going into tanning and the manufacture of boots and shoes, applies for incorporation and has a capital of \$100,000.

News has been received at Tacoma of the formation of a company in New York with a capital of \$2,000,000, and having for its object the placing of a new line of steamers on Puget Sound. The company is composed of Northern Pacific railroad directors and will be controlled by that company. The new organization will absorb the Washington Steamboat Company, now doing business on the Sound. Several new steamers will be built, and two are to ply between Tacoma, Victoria and Seattle.

A market building will be built at Vancouver. The building will have a frontage of 63 feet and a depth of 100 feet. It will be 40 feet high and contain two storeys and a basement. On each side of the main arcade, will be eight stores, sixteen in all. All the stores will be the same size, and will have doors leading on to the arcade and also to the verandah, which runs along each side of the building and which is intended for the convenience of farmers and gardeners who bring their produce to the city. In the second storey will be a large public hall, 60 x 80, intended for public meetings, etc. The building which will be of brick with cement finishings, will be a handsome structure.

*Vancouver World*. John Gilmore, of the Nicola Valley, passed through the city yesterday, and reported the grasshoppers as having played great havoc with the crops in that entire section. He said that the insects made their first appearance in June. They swept the whole country in one great black cloud, and the entire extent of the magnificent bunch grass country, about 25 miles in width and 60 miles long, extending from Spencer's Bridge to Douglas Lake, is as bare as a floor. They are still numerous at Nicola, but are fast dying out on the ground they have so fearfully devastated. The cause of their extinction is a small parasite that, it has been discovered, stabs them under the wing.

*Vancouver News*: Secretary Seitz, of the B. C. exhibit for the Toronto Exposition, is working with excellent results in preparing the samples of fruits, vegetables, minerals, etc., which will be sent from here. The room at the city hall in which the samples are at present stored, is filled with bottles, containing preserved fruits, vegetables and roots of all kinds, and there is little doubt but when the people of the east gaze upon the samples of British Columbia's productiveness in these various lines they will desire to come to such a land of promise. There will be also an excellent exhibit of furs and material from the mills. Samples are pouring in now in big lots, owing to the fact that the time is rapidly approaching when they will have to be shipped.

The Indians have lots of money as a result of their fishing for the canneries, and they are spending it freely, as is their custom. The Van-

couver *World* says: "An Indian came into a musical establishment a few days ago and bought a beautiful organette. Another invested in a large outfit of expensive clothes. The latter when giving his order, paid cash down, drawing from his pocket what appeared to be an endless array of silver dollars. It appears at the canneries they all get paid off in silver as most of them prefer it to paper money. The Indian last referred to stated that he had cleared a little over \$700 in the five weeks since the salmon run properly commenced. This sum was rather above the average, he said, but all the Indians and Chinaman did well."

At the last meeting of the Westminster board of trade the secretary was instructed to reply to a communication from the department of marine asking the department to withdraw the late Fraser river chart on account of inaccuracies and issue a new chart as speedily as possible. The secretary was also instructed to ask the marine department to have two beacons erected so as to show the channel between Lulu Island and the B. C. cannery, and to have the buoy replaced on the spit at Woodward's slough. In reply to a communication from the inspector of fisheries, asking the board's opinion with respect to the advisability of closing the Fraser river hatchery, a resolution was unanimously passed expressing the opinion that the present hatchery should not only be continued, but should be enlarged and another constructed at Harrison lake. The board considered that the unusually large run of salmon last year and this year afforded abundant proof of the efficiency of the hatchery, and that to close it would be very much mistaken economy on the part of the government. A. J. McColl, G. W. Grant, S. T. McIntosh and W. J. Mathers were proposed and elected members of the board.

At the last regular meeting of the Vancouver board of trade, president E. V. Bodwell tendered his resignation on the ground of ill-health, which was accepted with regrets. R. H. Alexander, first vice-president, was elected president, and H. T. Ceperley was made first vice. The secretary then read communications from Thos. H. Jennings asking for information as to the chances of success in establishing a cigar factory in Vancouver; from J. H. Murch asking information regarding the support a soap factory would receive; from W. Williamson, of the Shetland Islands, enquiring as to the fishing industry; from Geo. D. McKay resigning his position as a member of the board. Mr. Ceperley drew the attention of the board to the fact that Mr. Apenas was in the room and desired to present to the board some ideas in regard to the desirability of establishing a pulp factory. He said that the demand for manufactured pulp was rapidly increasing on the continent and that a trade in this article could be established with Japan and China. Mr. Berteaux introduced the question of placing the harbor in the hands of a commission, and after some consideration, it was resolved that the secretary write to the harbor commissioners at Montreal and obtain information relative to the proposal. V. R. Winch and James Orr were elected members of the board.

JOHN A. McDONALD has opened a meat market at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.