

British Columbia Items.

J. L. McKay, grocer, Wellington, has assigned.

J. Hastie & Co., lumber, Nelson, have dissolved.

A. McBryan, general store Shuswap, assigned.

Mills & Lott, groceries, Nelson, have succeeded C. J. Mills.

Gould & Doty, general store, started business at Kuskanook.

The Empey Bros., grocery, Rossland; style now F. A. Empey & Co.

D. D. Hood, of Sloean City, is opening a general store at Kuskanook.

T. M. LaPointe, cattle dealer, Central Park, is out of business.

Lamont & Co., books, stationery, etc., Kaslo; style now Lamont & Young.

J. F. Travers, hardware, Rossland, store building wrecked by snowslide; loss estimated at \$2,000.

J. A. & F. G. Finkis, general store, Revelstoke, have succeeded to the branch store of C. B. Hume & Co.

The following items are reported from Victoria: The British Columbia Pulp and Mill Paper Co., is incorporating. A. C. Howe, wood, etc., sold out to J. E. Grice, J. Hastie, is opening in stationery, etc. J. Cox, grocer and baker, is burnt out.

The Metropolitan Cigar Co., has opened a warehouse on Cordova street, Vancouver. L. J. Cross, western representative of Brener Bros., London, Ont., is manager. They carry Valdes & Co., and Brener Bros. goods, as well as imported stock.

The Scott-Milne Co., is opening a general commission business with warehouse on Water and Cordova street, Vancouver. Mr. McDonald a well known western traveller, is manager, and the new firm, which will be in their premises about March 15, have secured agencies for a number of good houses, among them McKenzie & Mills of Winnipeg, handlers of packet teas.

The following items are reported from Vancouver—T. Gray, tailor, has sold out; E. P. Queen, Waverley hotel, has left for Klondike; J. G. Crawford & Co., wholesale commission, have secured a license for the sale of liquors. Creed, Slater & Co., wholesale cigars, etc., have secured a liquor license; T. Scott, confectionery, has sold out; M. Goudron, hardware, has sold out to R. R. Sils; D. Panablanco, grocery, has been closed out by the sheriff; J. G. Campbell, tailor, advertising giving up business; R. E. Pounder, saloon, is succeeded by Fairon & Co.; Turner, Beeton & Co., Victoria, dry goods, etc., are opening a branch here.

Western Business Items.

Geo. Baschman is opening in implements, at Rosenfeld, Man.

Robt. Winning is opening business as merchant tailor at Neepawa, Man.

Williams & Hilton, manufacturers, spees, etc., Winnipeg, have dissolved partnership.

B. Van Blaricom has added tin-smithing to his hardware business at Arden, Man.

S. Graham, general storekeeper, Balduf, Man., has assigned. Liabilities, \$4,000—assets, \$500 more.

It is reported that J. S. Donahue has bought the stock in trade of the Western Milling company, of Regina, Man.

The grocery of J. G. Hargrave, Winnipeg, was burglarized Wednesday night, and a quantity of goods were carried off.

G. A. Mackenzie, V.S., of Deloraine, Man., has decided to locate in Neepawa for the practice of his profession.

Josh Ritchie has taken the livery stable in connection with the Queen's hotel at Minnedosa, Man. He will also deal in horses and other live stock.

J. Mills has disposed of his interest in the blacksmithing and machine business at Neepawa, Man., to his brother, Rodney Mills, who will continue alone.

McLean, of Brandon, has purchased an interest in the blacksmith business of Stevenson & Brooks at Douglas. Brooks retires. The business will be continued by McLean & Stevenson.

J. S. Jamieson, formerly with Alexander Kelly & Co., flour millers, Brandon, has entered into partnership with A. McKinnon, of Portage la Prairie, for the purpose of establishing an oatmeal mill at Rapid City, Man. He has gone east to purchase the machinery.

The C. P. R. shops in Winnipeg are working double shifts at present and over 500 men are employed. This is unusual for this time of year, such activity only being looked for in the busy fall season.

Mr. Bell, of the Consolidated Stationery Co., has returned from a buying trip to New York and other points. In Eastern Canada he reports business good. Factories are busy turning out goods, and there is greater difficulty than usual in getting orders filled promptly.

A meeting of the council of the Pharmaceutical association was held in Winnipeg this week for the election of officers. C. Flexon, Winnipeg, was chosen as president; W. R. Bartlett, Brandon, vice-president, and E. D. Martin, Winnipeg, treasurer. W. D. McDougall was reappointed registrar. The following were elected as a board of examiners: C. Flexon, W. Pufford, Alex Campbell, Winnipeg; W. R. Bartlett, Brandon, and A. R. Leonard, Stonewall.

En Route to Yukon.

One of the largest and most important parties for Yukon that has yet arrived in the city, came in Friday night on the delayed express. The party numbered thirty-one persons, who were in charge of Dr. Gilchrist, of Detroit. They are travelling in a special tourist car and remain in the city until to-night in order to purchase dogs to transport their goods across the passes. The doctor stated on Friday to a Free Press representative that this was his fourth trip into Yukon. He has claims on Hunker creek, and came out last fall with the intention of organizing parties to develop these claims and prospect for others. He was successful in getting together four parties. Two are already in Victoria, having left Detroit last Tuesday; another follows from the east on Saturday and he will leave the Canadian coast cities with 190 men, including carpenters, blacksmiths, cooks, engineers, etc., well qualified to undertake the responsibilities of gold digging in Klondike. They are all travelling via the C. P. R., and outfitting entirely in Canada—at Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Victoria and Vancouver. The

members of the party are from the state of Michigan and the vicinity of Windsor in Canada. They carry machinery for boats which will be built on the rivers when navigation opens, and have also steam boilers and pipes for thawing out the ground, a more modern process, the doctor thinks than the old one of burning timber on the frozen ground. W. F. White was wired to meet Dr. Gilchrist and Saturday they selected several trains of dogs.

Hudson's Bay Route

London, March 4.—In the course of an interview yesterday Rear Admiral Albert Markham, the well-known explorer of Hudson strait and bay, expresses his surprise at the account received at Ottawa of the experiences of the exploring steamer Diana, while along the Labrador coast and in Hudson strait and bay. This account, he said, was at variance with all previous experience. In his opinion the Hudson bay route is open certainly four months and possibly six months a year. He declares that it would be an immense boom to commerce, cheapen the transport of cattle and wheat to Great Britain, be invaluable from an imperial standpoint in saving time in the transport of men and stores to the naval base at Vancouver and afford a duplicate British route should the Canadian Pacific railway be seized by the United States in time of war.

According to the report which is the subject of Rear Admiral Markham's remarks, the Diana was only able to reach the mouth of the Hudson strait as late in the season as June 22, even then passage was badly blocked with ice. The steamer's daily journal from that date furnishes a terrible record of hardships and difficulties in making the passage. The Diana stuck fast in the ice for days together and was frequently jammed and crushed in terrible ice floes. Her rudder was lost, her screw smashed and the vessel was frequently thrown entirely out of the water. At times her situation was so critical that the lifeboats were made ready to quit the ship. Captain Wakeham, her commander, says that no heavy vessel could have withstood the ice which was often twenty to thirty feet thick. The whole time until July 16 was occupied in pressing through the strait into the bay.

INLAND REVENUE COLLECTIONS.

The inland revenue collections in the Winnipeg February were as follows:

Spirits	\$17,800.12
Malt	1,578.43
Tobacco	14,235.63
Methylated spirits	47.78
Patroleum (inspection)	211.80
Cigars	1,101.15
Seizures	150.00

Total \$35,124.91
Collections, Feb. '97 26,253.98

Increase... .. \$ 8,870.93

LONDON MONEY.

London, March 4.—4 p.m. close—Consols for money, 111 15-16; consols for the account, 112 1-4. Bar silver, steady, 25 1-4d. Money, 2 3-4 per cent. Rate of discount in the open market, short bills 2 7-8 per cent, do., for three months bills, 2 15-16 per cent.