

Business at Vancouver.

Vancouver, Jan. 2.—Parson's Produce company, Griffin & company, Malkin & company, Brackman & Ker, Oppenheimer Bros., F. R. Stewart, McMillan & Co. and other wholesalers, report that the holiday trade was in advance of other years, and what is most gratifying business was good before and after the Christmas rush. Collections are good and money fairly easy. Careful enquiry secures the information that over \$1,500,000 worth of building has been done during 1898, counting the value of blocks under process of construction, in Vancouver. Conservative people also figure that the population of Vancouver has increased 25 per cent. Imports have increased in Vancouver \$1,450,580 over last year. Exports show a decrease of \$218,608. General mail matter has increased 831.3 per cent., and Australian mail matter 100 per cent. Revenue of post office \$15,000; increase \$15,000. Savings bank, increase of deposits 25 per cent. School population 2,315, increase 312. Assessed value of city property \$14,948,519. City revenue \$146,548; increase \$37,057. Customs revenue \$902,618; increase \$315,819 or almost 50 per cent. Inland revenue, \$287,890; increase \$102,900.

The events which happened, important to trade, during the year were the Klondike boom. Opening of the following banks: Commerce, Moisons and Merchants; opening of the Vancouver clearing house, the Western Union Telegraphs; extension Canadian Pacific railway wharfage system; extension Evans Coleman wharf; extension sugar refinery; extension street railway system; opening new city hall building; marine railway establishment; another daily paper, the building of 279,160 square feet of block pavement, etc. From the figures quoted it must be admitted that Vancouver has had a big year. There is every indication that in 1899 the city will not only hold its own, but make further advance.

While Vancouver has been going ahead fast, Victoria has also had a very prosperous year and according to statistics the capital city of British Columbia has had a very satisfactory increase in trade, getting the lion's share of the Klondike outfitting. There have been some reverses during the year to affect prosperity, the greatest perhaps being the destruction of the Hastings lumber mills at Vancouver, by fire, and the failure of the B. C. Iron Works company, of Vancouver. There also seems to be trouble ahead for the salmon industry, most of the canners threatening to retire from business altogether owing to the restrictions placed upon the industry, apparently in obedience to the demands of the labor organizations in the province, on behalf of the fishermen.

The farmers of British Columbia are grumbling very much at the present low prices offered for their produce. In the feed business many of them are peddling direct to the customer, at prices charged by wholesalers, which has very much affected legitimate business. There is, however, generally a tendency to hold for higher prices. In the dairy market there is a very aggravating state of affairs. Lard, butter and cheese are selling for less than they can be laid down for.

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