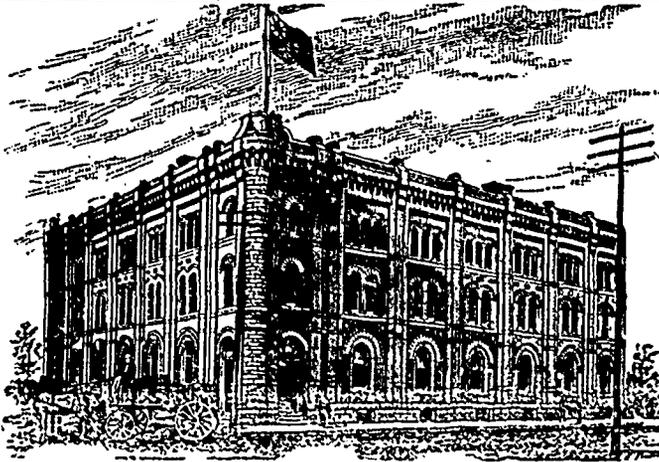


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Saskatchewan Gold.

The early breaking up of the river and the low water ever since gives a better chance for gold washing than has occurred for some years. Bars are bare that have not been so for years, and can now be worked. Although they may have been worked out pretty nearly during a former season of low water, in the time since they have received a deposit of pay dirt well worth working. This skimming is the chief attraction this season. A larger number of men are at work than ever before unless in the first year or two that gold was struck here—between twenty-five and fifty. They make from \$2.50 to \$5 a day, and will be able to work profitably until the summer rise takes place, some time between the 20th of May and the 15th of June. The gold is in flakes so small as to be only visible to the naked eye on account of their brightness. The process by which these fine particles are collected from the river bars is roughly as follows; The pay bars consist of boulders, small stones, gravel, grit, black sand and gold dust, inter-mixed. This is loosened with the pick, and shoveled into the dump box. Water is then poured on, which carries the material on to the "grizzly," a convex sieve made of iron rods which shunts the coarse gravel off to either side while the fine dirt and gold pass through. These fall through the grizzly into the sluice box—a long narrow box set at a slight incline, in the bottom of which blanket stuff is laid, which catches the particles of gold and the heavy black sand which is always found with it in bar diggings. After such an amount of material is run through as causes the blanket to become full of sand and gold, the blanket is taken out and washed in a tub, the bottom of which is covered with pieces of blanket. The water poured into the dump box carries the solid material out at the lower end of the sluice, excepting the gold dust and the black sand. These being the heaviest material stick on the blanket while everything else is floated over. When the blanket becomes so full of sand and gold that it ceases to catch what is passing, it is taken out and the gold and sand

washed out of it into some tight vessel. It is then replaced in the sluice box and the operation continued. After a considerable amount of sand and gold has been collected—generally at the end of a week's work—the gold is panned out. A small quantity of the sand and gold is taken in the gold pan, a shallow iron pan about a foot and a half in diameter with very sloping sides. Water is added and the pan, taken in the miner's hands, is given a certain gentle circular motion which causes the water to carry the greater part of the black sand over the sides of the pan by centrifugal force, while the gold, which is slightly the heaviest, remains in the pan with a little of the black sand. Quick-silver is then put in the pan, with which the gold amalgamates forming a pasty mass, and thus finally gets rid of the black sand. The amalgam is then heated in an iron vessel—generally in the frying pan—and the quick-silver driven off in vapour, leaving a hard and bright but porous mass of almost pure gold. In this condition the gold sells at from \$12 to \$18 an ounce Troy weight, the differences in value being chiefly caused by the greater or less care taken in keeping impurities from getting mixed with the amalgam. The standard value is \$16 an ounce Saskatchewan gold is very pale in color, but it is not less valuable on that account.—*Edmonton Bulletin.*

Grocery Potats.

The *New York Commercial Bulletin* has the following on the mackerel situation:—"At the end of another two weeks the season for the catch of new mackerel will have opened. This year the event is looked forward to with more than the usual interest, as the poor results attending the labors of the fishermen last year have made the period since unsatisfactory as well as unprofitable to all concerned. True, higher prices have ruled, and those who possessed the limited stocks have been enabled to maintain the market at the full point established; but the advance made necessary by the scarcity has limited the trade to such small proportions that the benefits derived have not compensated for the disadvantages which have

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arisen from the absence of the usual demand experienced when the fish are plentiful and cheap. The fish have already appeared upon the coast, but for their protection the law prohibits their taking or bringing into port until on and after June 1. Statements differ upon the number observed at sea, some reports stating them to be abundant, while others say the large schools observed consist chiefly of menhaden and other fish, very few mackerel being noticed. The boats, however, are now in active preparation east, and will soon determine the existence of the fish, thus relieving the minds of those interested in the industry or sale. All are in hopes, however, that a big catch will be the result of the season's labors, for though a large yield will mean low prices, low prices will promote consumption, stimulated demand and give an opportunity to do business, a fact which will be appreciated after the year's vacation which the trade have been forced to accept. Advices from Great Britain report the fish as quite abundant upon the shores of Ireland, and that the taking has begun in earnest. These in past seasons have come to this market in all sorts of order and condition, but some of the members of the trade here have devoted considerable time abroad the past year endeavoring to educate the fishermen and dealers there to treat the fish properly for this market, therefore better results are anticipated for the stock intended for export hither. Should the catch again prove a failure upon our shores this season, Boston dealers, it is said, have entered into arrangements in Great Britain and Norway whereby the bulk of the catch of those countries will be transferred to this side, but should our fishermen succeed in obtaining good results there will be little need for importation of the foreign, though as the fish are not appreciated in foreign markets as in this country, there would in all probability be liberal shipments of stock made to this and other markets, which would naturally cause a shrinkage in value, notwithstanding the exaction of a duty.

Geo. Baker & Son, butchers, Nanaimo, B.C., have sold out to Joseph Ferguson.