

## THE DRY GOODS TRADE

## IMPORTANT DRY GOODS CHANGE.

An important change in the organization of one of the wholesale dry goods concerns of Winnipeg is now on foot. Application has been made by Stobart, Sons & Company, for a charter of incorporation under the name and style of Stobart, Sons & Company, Limited. The object for which incorporation is sought is to carry on business in buying, selling, manufacturing and importing dry goods, clothing, furnishings and fabrics of every nature and kind and generally to carry on the business of wholesale merchants and all other business arising out of that. Winnipeg will be the chief place of business. The capital stock of the company will be \$1,000,000 divided into 50,000 shares. The names of the applicants are as follows: W. Stobart, Margaret S. J. Stobart, A. C. Relling, H. M. Howell and A. G. Mathers, all of Winnipeg.

## ADVANCE IN KNITTED GOODS.

Fuller information regarding the advance in prices of knitted goods in Canada, advices of which were published in our Toronto wire of last Saturday, is contained in the following from The Globe: "On Tuesday of this week the largest manufacturers of knitted goods in Canada sent out to their customers here a revised list of prices that show advances over the old list of 15 to 17 1/2 per cent. The principal of the concerns in question was in this market a short time ago, and stated that unless his firm could obtain advances on the prices they had been getting they had determined to close down their mills, as there was no profit in the prices at which they had been selling the goods. There is no doubt, however, about the advance for these goods being established. Owing to the steadily rising markets abroad for fine wool, all goods of the class in question have gone higher, and so long as orders can be promptly executed the prices in the present situation are a secondary consideration. There will be a very large demand for knitted goods within the next few months, and, owing to the fine quality the Canadian mills are now turning out, the purchases of domestic makes are likely to be larger the coming season than ever before."

## DRY GOODS TRADE NOTES.

Refract manufacturers of linens have notified their customers in Canada of a general advance in the price of linen goods.

There is still some speculation as to the possibility of a general advance in the price of cotton goods at Canadian mills. The agent of one of the leading mills stated recently that he fully believed there would be an advance and that it would come soon. In some wholesale centres the opinion is held that the advance if it occurs at all will not be for some time yet.

The advance of 12 1/2c per 100 pounds in the price of white and red lead at Montreal last week was due to continued strong advices from abroad, coupled with an active demand from all Canadian markets.

Cold chain was reported firmer in our Toronto telegram of last week. Mail advices convey the intelligence that a substantial advance has taken place. No. 6 chain is now quoted at 10 1/2c, an advance of 3/4c over previous prices. Other sizes have advanced proportionately.

## THE LUMBER TRADE.

## LUMBERING AT THE LAKE OF THE WOODS.

A special correspondent of The Globe in the Rat Portage district writes as follows regarding the outlook for lumber this season: "The present season promises to be one of the most prosperous that the lumbering business has ever seen in the Rat River district."

Mr. Margach, crown timber agent, states that there has been 30,000,000 feet of timber cut in Canada during the past winter, which will be sawn in the mills here, while about the same amount of United States timber will come to Rat Portage to be manufactured. There has also been cut 500,000 railway ties, 10,000 telegraph poles, and 20,000 cords of fire wood, so that it can be seen that the forests have been the scene of great activity. This year's cut is almost double that of the previous season. It is estimated that over a thousand men were employed in the woods during the winter.

All of the timber cut here is sold in Manitoba and the Territories, where a ready market is found. The increased activity in business there has given prices a better tone, while the immense number of new settlers brought into the country by the vigorous immigration policy of the Dominion government has created a demand for lumber for building purposes that lumber companies will find hard to satisfy. The activity in mining has also created a good local demand. Additions are being put to some of the saw mills, and when the logs begin to come in the hum of the saws will be heard day and night."

## LUMBER TRADE NOTES.

D. Sprague's saw mill at Winnipeg resumed operations for the season last week, the first drive of logs having arrived from up the Redoubt river. Another large drive is now on the way down and will be followed by a third from below the boundary line.

It is stated that the output of the Columbia river Lumber company's mills at Golden, Beaver and Kault will be larger this year than in any previous season. The output of the Glen mill has been enlarged by the introduction of new machinery.

## Incorporating.

The Stuart-William Machinery Co., Ltd., is applying for letters patent of incorporation. The applicants are: A. R. Williams, of Toronto; James Stuart, W. J. Levy, W. A. McLeod and R. M. Stuart, of Winnipeg. The capital stock is placed at \$49,000, divided in \$100 shares. It is understood the company will take over and continue the machinery business of Stuart & Harper, Winnipeg. Mr. Williams is head of the large machinery manufacturing concern of Toronto, known as the A. R. Williams Machinery Co. W. J. Levy, who has been connected with the Toronto company, will take up his residence in Winnipeg and take an active part in the business here. W. A. McLeod has been with Stuart & Harper for some time, practically as manager. R. M. Stuart is a son of James Stuart. The business of Stuart & Harper has been steadily expanding, and the new company will make improvements so as to be in a better position to handle the business. A siding will be put in from the Canadian Pacific railway track, for convenience in receiving and shipping goods.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE COMMERCIAL

## BUSINESS AT VANCOUVER.

Vancouver, B. C., May 22.

Jobs in Victoria and Vancouver report business good and prices almost stationary. Fresh eastern eggs are now selling at 13 cents, case eggs 15 cents, and ranch eggs, from the British Columbia farms, 20 cents. There is an abundance of good butter, though the Manitoba article is not so favorably spoken of as usual, in many cases the grade not being up to the standard of first class creamery butter. Business up towards the north pole is good, particularly to Astoria. Victoria and Vancouver wholesalers have loaded up boats recently sailing to their fullest capacity.

The different industries on which British Columbia depends are not in the best shape possible. In the salmon industry there are not sufficient fish to go around, and the ridiculously stringent regulations will seriously handicap the canners without doing any good. The New Westminster Sun recently obtained interviews with a number of canners in New Westminster, who expressed alarm at the probable result of the federal government's unwise regulations governing the industry.

Fraser river farming is in peril by floods, at this writing the water in the lower Fraser is rising rapidly. Warm weather has not yet set in. The spring is as backward as the year of the great floods. While raining on the coast it has been snowing in the mountains—piling up the snow against the evil day when the hot weather comes on suddenly and melts the mighty mass down into the valley. The Westminster and Vancouver newspapers become indignant when any warning is given of the probable approach of the terrible floods, but the truth may be written at all times, and certainly the signs are very ominous.

In mining the eight hour metalliferous mine law is the last legislation born at Victoria of moment and has been ushered into the world in the throes of convulsions. Mine owners objected to the law in a body from some sections, particularly Slocan, the most prosperous district in British Columbia. The government decided to suspend the law, but immediately they were deluged with protests from organized labor all over the province and again yielded to their demands announcing that the law would go into force June first. This means trouble ahead. The Slocan mine owners have issued a proclamation that they will reduce wages from \$3.50 to \$3.00 per day. In Slocan alone there are 800 union miners. A strike is imminent.

In the lumber trade Vancouver is still without a mill. The Hastings mill is not yet completed and the Ross McLaren mill recently started up is making New Westminster its shipping point owing to inconvenient highways to Vancouver, while Ludgate, who wishes to establish a mill on Deadman's Island, claimed by both the Dominion and provincial governments, is the victim of vexatious delays and law suits owing to the rival claimant's aggressive attitudes.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce will erect a new bank building at Vancouver, plans of which are now being prepared.