

**DALBY & CLAXTON**Real Estate, Insurance,  
Mining & Financial**AGENTS.**

-AGENTS FOR-

The Yorkshire Guarantee and Securities Corporation, England.  
Alliance Assurance Company (Fire), England  
The British Columbia Fire Insurance Company, Victoria.  
The Great West Life Assurance Co., Winnipeg and Victoria.  
The Royal Canadian Packing Company, Claxton, Skeena River.

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THOS. TUGWELL, Manager.

**SCARCITY OF POTATOES.**

Potatoes are becoming scarce, and the price has lately advanced materially. The potato crop last year was very light throughout the United States, requiring the importation of a large amount, of tubers from foreign countries chiefly from the United Kingdom, Germany and Holland. Even the best potato districts in California are now importing their current supplies from Oregon. The acreage of potatoes in the United States should be considerably increased and maintained at a fairly uniform point. As a rule, potato planting is very spasmodic. Let scarcity be felt, and the next season an over-production is liable to result from excessive acreage, only to be followed by another shortage; and so on. Probably the American market can take two hundred million bushels per year, or something more, possibly two hundred and fifty million bushels, and according to the average product of the past ten years, this would require somewhat over two million acres to be planted with this crop.—*California Fruit Grower.*

**ENGLISH SHIPPING INTERESTS.**

There is no industry in the United States as well protected as England protects her ocean carrying trade. The protection granted varies according to the necessities of the case, but is always enough to accomplish its purposes. The Canadian Pacific Railroad Company receives from the British or Canadian Government enough to compensate for any loss it may suffer by under-bidding American lines. Having driven the American line between China and San Francisco from the field by means of subsidies, it is now proposed to attract the travel from Australia the same way. The *Toronto World* is quite certain that "Canada will take away from the Americans a big share

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of the carrying business between North America and Australia just as the Canadian steamship line played havoc with the traffic between San Francisco and China and Japan." The *World* declares also that the best class of visitors from Australia, China and Japan to the World's Fair will come by the way of Vancouver. England protects her interests where the cost of protection is not greater than its profits. She never refuses protection on principle. She would protect her agricultural interests but for the fear that the greater cost of breadstuffs would disable her in the hand-to-hand conflict for the markets of the world. But the free-trade party in the United States refuses protection on principle. It declares protection unconstitutional. It will have no interests that cannot sustain themselves in competition with the whole world. Steamship lines that cannot compete with foreign subsidized steamship lines must go. Under this rule, the American flag will soon disappear from the ocean. There is also danger that the free-traders may attack the clause in the navigation laws which excludes foreign vessels from the coastwise trade.—*S. F. Call.*

In London, last month, at the rooms of the Medical Society, Dr. Norman Kerr took strong ground in favor of total abstinence, contending that even moderate indulgence in alcoholic beverages lessens the duration of human life and renders the body more susceptible to disease. He said, "We know that one prominent effect of alcoholic poisoning, whether spread over a longer or shorter period of years, is premature aging. If there is one fact concerning alcohol better established than another, it is that it operates in ante-dating the day of our death." He quoted the claims by death expected during 1891 in the Sceptre Life Insurance Company, calculated by the Institute of Actuaries, as compared with those that actually occurred, as follows: General Section.—Expected claims, 115; actual claims, 93. Rate per cent., 80.86. Temperance Section.—Expected claims, 61; actual claims, 30. Rate per cent., 49.18.

Seeding is now becoming general in Southern Manitoba.

A rush is now about to be made for Lardeau as well as Kaslo.

The liabilities of William Darling & Co., of Montreal, hardware, amount to \$65,000.

Mr. A. Williams, of McPhillips & Williams, Vancouver, may open a law office in Kaslo or Nelson.

J. P. Alport's general store at Aldergrove, B. C., was totally destroyed by fire, on April 30. Cause unknown.

James Houston's store and dwelling at Dresden, Ont., was burned. Houston, the night before, gave lodging to a negro, and the man alarmed the occupants, who barely escaped.

A retiring pension of £1,500 per annum and a seat at the directors' table has been voted by the London and Provincial Marine Insurance Company to its ex-underwriter, without directors' fees for four years, at the close of which the pension will be reduced to £1,000 per annum, with fees, estimated at from £300 to £400 per annum.

Sales of Columbia River salmon are reported at \$1.37½ for talls and \$1.52½ for flats. Astoria mail advices are confirmatory of a light run and more or less loss of boat or net met by fishermen with loss, in some instances, of life. From all we can learn, canners on the river are rather indifferent about business owing to the light profit in the business. On the Sacramento River, nothing is being done.—*S. F. Herald of Trade.*

Canadian Pacific earnings for the month of March, 1893: Gross earnings, \$1,568,462; working expenses, \$1,060,657; net profits, \$507,805. In March, 1892, the net profits were \$503,400, and for the three months ending March 31st, 1893, the figures are as follows: Gross earnings, \$4,364,368; working expenses, \$3,102,224; net profits, \$1,262,144. For the three months ending March, 1892, there was a net profit of \$1,437,718. The gain in the net profits over the same period last year is therefore, for March, \$4,369, and from Jan. 1 to March 31, there was a decrease of \$175,573.