Another company recently incorporated with a capital stock of $250,000 is Jas. Alexander, Limited, in which D. C. Alexander, steamship agent, of Montreal, is the prominent figure. It will buy, sell and deal in butter, cheese, provisions, grains, and other agricultural products, and carry on business as steamship, freight and produce agents.

The salmon canners of British Columbia are already preparing for fishing operations during the coming season. The steamers on the several northern routes are loaded up with supplies required for repairs and improvements.

A Montreal produce firm, the D. & A. McPherson Company, achieved a few days ago what is considered a remarkable shipping feat. It consisted in sending off no less than nine car loads, or 4,500 boxes, of cheese by the "Fremona," which left New York on the Saturday morning, they having received the order by cable only on the previous Thursday afternoon. By dint of working overtime and a hard struggle, they succeeded in getting the merchandise safely on board.

It is estimated that there are probably 30,000 bushels of beans held by large shippers in Western Ontario, but that there are in the neighborhood of 20,000 bushels held by the farmers of Oxford township, the same by both Howard and Harwich townships, while Aldborough has 10,000 and Dunwich 5,000, making a total of 75,000 held by the farmers, besides what is held by the local dealers, which is put at 25,000 bushels, or a total of 100,000 bushels in all. Prices in Toronto and Montreal markets are steady to firm, though reports from New York speak of some pressure to sell.

—The civic elections at Fredericton last week resulted in the defeat of the most representative and most progressive men at the council board of that New Brunswick city. They met their Waterloo because of a proposed new sewerage system. Assuredly it is the irony of fate that their successors should now admit that the plan these men proposed, and which they (the victors) condemned, was the right plan. Immediately on getting the reins of power the new board sent for the engineer, intending to have him make the changes they had won upon. He, however, convinced the new men that the old plan was best, and they accepted his view.

—The Maritime Coal and Railway Company of Cumberland, N.S., has a project for establishing an electric power plant at the mouth of the company's mines from which power will be transmitted by wire to Amherst and several other towns in Nova Scotia. The idea being based on Edison's dictum that "It is preposterous to put coal mines on wheels. . . . We can ship 100,000 horse-power over a wire quicker and more economically than its equivalent in coal over a railroad track." The general plan to be followed will be that employed at a similar undertaking at the Outwood mine in Lancashire, where there are four 2,000 kilowatt turbine generators, each delivering 500-cycle, three-phase current directly at 10,000 volts. The president of the above-named company is Senator Wm. Mitchell.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian Clearing Houses for the week ending with Thursday, March 22nd, 1906, as compared with those of the previous week:—

	March 22nd.	March 15th.
Montreal	$26,276,917	$25,658,894
Toronto	20,247,635	22,205,105
Winnipeg	6,981,535	6,385,663
Halifax	1,613,488	1,372,160
Hamilton	1,195,157	1,298,546
St. John	877,841	976,988
Vancouver	2,107,003	1,944,938
Victoria	911,436	980,059
Quebec	1,516,422	1,486,347
Ottawa	2,429,565	2,347,563
London	907,280	931,065
Total	$65,064,279	$65,587,328

FACTS ABOUT JAPAN.

We find some recent facts about Japan in the journal of the Tokio Chamber of Commerce just received: As is generally well-known the late war was responsible for a big increase in the number of steamers passing under Japanese control. According to statistics the total number of steamers owned by Japanese at the end of 1903 was 1,088, with an aggregate tonnage of 657,269. This was increased at the end of December last to 1,365 steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 926,285, thus showing an increase of 277 ships and an aggregate tonnage of 269,016.

According to investigations completed by the Department of Finance of that Empire, the number of banks throughout Japan at the end of November was 2,255. Their combined capital reached 530,880,819 yen. A yen nearly equals a dollar.

It is said that the Japanese Army intends to cast medals out of the metal of the field guns captured from the Russians in the last war, for the soldiers who followed the expeditionary forces. After the 1894-5 war a medal of the kind was cast and 53 field guns captured from China were converted into 400,000 medals. As over 1,500,000 medals are required in the present case, about 200 prize guns must be appropriated for the purpose.

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