

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

[This department is in charge of R. E. Gosnell, who is permanently engaged as a regular member of The Commercial staff, to represent this journal in British Columbia. Parties in British Columbia who wish to communicate in any way with this paper, may apply directly to Mr Gosnell at Vancouver.]

## The Beef Supply of the Coast.

Reports from the upper country vary very much. Some recent arrivals from the interior say that cattle will not suffer very much, and that when they left the live stock was in good condition, but the fact that feed at Ashcroft was \$35 a ton last week and that stock men have been on the coast looking for hay for feed does not look encouraging. Besides, if the recent storm was as bad in the interior as on the coast, and there is every reason to believe that the snow was deeper and the cold much more intense and prolonged, there can be but little hopes of the cattle being able to live through it. Even where feed existed, it would be difficult to drive cattle to it. There is every prospect, therefore, of a beef famine on the coast next spring, as reports in British Columbia are to the effect that stock in the Northwest are not faring better there than here, and quarantine stands in the way of imports. The Times, of Victoria, has the following editorial remarks on the situation:

"If we mistake not, the people of the coast, as well as those of Kootenay, will be treated to something like a beef famine this spring. The severe weather has already made serious inroads in both the British Columbia and Alberta herds, and the winter's ravages are not yet over. Recent advices from the interior are that the frost and snow have proved fatal to thousands of animals. This misfortune is to be deplored for the sake of the ranchers and also for the sake of the people on the coast, whose available beef supply is certain to be seriously reduced by it. American cattle cannot be imported alive, because quarantine here is virtually impossible. We may therefore look forward to beef being scarce and dear, as it will apparently have to come to us in the shape of carcasses from over the line. The outlook is not at all pleasant to contemplate, and will be apt to give our people a pointed interest in the study of quarantine vagaries."

The quarantine laws which stand in the way of import of cattle under circumstances of actual need, and where no earthly reason exists for keeping them out, cannot be regarded in any other light than as a barbaric system of reprisals on both sides of the line.

## The Canned Fruit Business

The O'Kell & Morris Fruit Canning Co. held its annual meeting in Victoria last week, and it was stated that the financial statement showed a profit of 25 per cent on six months operations. Ten per cent of this was paid in dividends and 15 per cent carried forward to reserve fund. Considering all the difficulties surrounding the fruit canning business in B.C., the dearth of labor, lack of fruit of the right varieties, the limited market, etc., etc.—this seems to be rather remarkable.

Out of the directors' report the following extracts are taken:

"One of the first problems we have had to devote attention to has been to find a market for our products. Our principal sales so far have been in Victoria and Nanaimo, but we find that every year some \$15,000 worth of jams and jellies are imported for consumption in Victoria alone. We shall use our utmost exertions to develop the local market, and intend to go all down the line to Winnipeg, the Northwest districts not adapted for fruit culture offering a fine field for the distribution of our products. As we are the only manufacturers of orange marmalade in Canada, we expect to sell it from the Pacific coast through to the Atlantic.

THE  
Rigby Porous Waterproof Cloth

Is worn by the most fashionable ladies in eastern cities for ulsters with deep military capes. These are an elegant garment and serve the double purpose of an ordinary ulster and waterproof combined. We are showing very handsome patterns in checks and plain effects all in six quarter goods. Sample clipping will be sent on application,

To the Trade Only.

—We have a full assortment of—

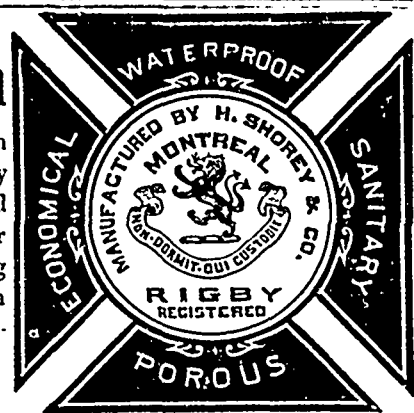
## Rigby Tweeds in stock for Men's Suitings &amp; Overcoatings

RIGBY CAPE and SPRING OVERCOATS, READY MADE

In a great variety of Patterns

(LETTER ORDERS SOLICITED)

H. SHOREY & CO.,  
MONTREAL.



"But we have another important branch which should be carefully developed, and that is the putting up of whole fruits in cans with very rich syrup. California has had this trade principally in the past, for she sends to England every year about 140,000 cases and receives back some \$700,000. Anxious to build up an export as well as home trade, we sent four small cases, each containing six cans to four large buyers in England. They were whole fruits put up in cans and we have received flattering notices concerning them from the greatest market in the world."

## Collecting Bad Debts.

An interesting decision was given in the Supreme Court of British Columbia the other day by Justice Walkem in Wolfenden vs. Giles, an action of alleged libel, arising out of the following circumstances:

Defendant is a collector of debts under the style of the British Columbia Mercantile Agency, the methods of whose business is evident from the following circular and poster, sent to the plaintiff:

Col. R. Wolfenden:

Dear Sir,

Enclosed find sample poster. You may still have your name lifted by paying the amount on or before the 27th inst., after which date the poster will positively be issued.

The object of advertising this and other claims for sale is that in default of payment by the debtors of the amount due by them in full, the largest possible amount may be realized by their creditors from the claims, and for no other purpose.

Yours truly, &c.

The "Poster" referred to was a large yellow bill containing the following:

## ACCOUNTS FOR SALE.

VICTORIA, B.C., July 20th, '92.

The British Columbia Mercantile Agency offer the following for sale at their office, 16 Broad Street:

(Then follow several names, and then)

Col. R. Wolfenden, 125 Menzies St., Drug Bill.....\$ 9 67

The bill was not posted owing to an interim injunction issued to prevent it. During the injunction proceedings it was made clear that a majority of the judges were of the opinion that the methods of collecting debts pursued by the British Columbia Mercantile Agency were most reprehensible, and now the judgment of Justice Walkem disposes of the question of the legality or illegality of such methods. The learned judge followed closely the decision given in the

## CAUTION.

EACH PLUG OF THE

Myrtle Navy!

IS MARKED

T. & B.

In Bronze Letters.

None Other Genuine.

## SMALL FRUITS.

Write for catalogue of Plants. I guarantee all Plants to reach Destination in good condition, and will forward post paid.

W. W. HILBORN, Leamington, Ont.

recent Ontario case of Green vs. Minnes, which was on all fours with the present case. There the yellow posters and the threatening letters were used with the same effect, and the same disastrous consequences as in this case, the judges on appeal holding that the publication was clearly libellous and that the defendant, in order to successfully plead justification must prove the truth of everything contained in the alleged libel, even to the smallest particulars. His Lordship in this case decided that the publication was libellous, and that the plea of justification was not made out, and awarded the plaintiff \$50 damages, with costs on the Supreme Court scale, and granted a perpetual injunction against the defendant restraining him from further publication of the posters containing the name of the plaintiff.

## C. P. R. Extension in British Columbia.

H. Abbott, general superintendent of the Pacific Division of the C.P.R., has returned from Montreal. He made the following statement to the press: "I am authorized to spend \$750,000 on the Pacific division this season in renewals and permanent improvements, replacing the wooden culverts and bridges with

(Continued on page 688.)