

the latter port. At the Hastings and Chemainus mills there is similar activity, all sharing in the benefits arising from the development of China and the demand for lumber there and elsewhere. The bark "Gladys" will finish loading at Chemainus next week for Melbourne, Australia, and will be followed by the "C. F. Crocker," now on the Sound, which will load for Sydney. The ship "John A. Briggs" is also on her way to Chemainus to load lumber for the Cape of Good Hope. The prop-cutters of Salt Spring Island, Saanich Inlet and Cowichan also have a busy time ahead of them. The bark "Northwest" is now loading at Coal Island and the "Vidette" and "J. M. Griffith" are due to load at one of the prop stations, all the cargoes being for the Mexican mines. The supply of props for the southern mines is quite an important part of the lumber industry of British Columbia, and the part from which Victoria draws the most direct benefit, all the supplies for the camps going from here. It is also a source of revenue to the farmers of the district, who are thus enabled to dispose of the timber on their land.

THE YUKON AGAIN.

A marked reduction in transportation rates, between the Sound ports and those of Alaska, is announced by the British Columbia papers of the 8th inst. No explanation of the cause of the step taken has been given, and the agents, in consequence, are a little perplexed. The belief, however, is general that the object of the big transportation companies is to crowd the weaker ones to the wall. Fifteen dollars the ticket for leading Alaskan ports has been deducted and the cut all-round nearly corresponds to this. The steamship "Alki," of the Pacific Coast Steamship Co., will inaugurate the new schedule sailing to-day. The rates which will be charged passengers for single fare will be as follows:

Port.	1st-class.	2nd-class.
Wrangel.....	\$15 00	\$10 00
Juneau.....	20 00	12 00
Skagway.....	25 00	15 00
Dyea.....	25 00	15 00
Sitka.....	20 00	15 00
Sum Dum.....	20 00	12 00
Douglas Isle.....	20 00	12 00
Douglas City.....	20 00	12 00
Ketchikan.....	15 00	10 00
Loring.....	15 00	10 00
Killishnoo.....	25 00	15 00
Mary Isle.....	15 00	10 00

This reduction is a strong indication of failing interest in the Yukon district, and goes to confirm what has been stated of the decreased travel thither.

AUGUST FIRE LOSS.

The losses by fire in the United States and Canada for the month of August have not been excessive. As compiled from the daily records of The Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin they reached \$7,793,500, while the total for the eight months ending with that month was \$74,960,350. This last figure is a slight advance over the light record for the corresponding period last year, viz., \$71,021,700, but is less than was experienced in 1896, when the total for the same time was \$81,888,050. The losses for August, 1895, were \$9,929,000, and for the same month of 1896 they were \$8,895,000. The totals for eight months of each year are shown by the following table:

1895—Eight months' fire loss.....	\$85,857,000
1896— " " "	81,888,000
1897— " " "	71,022,000
1898— " " "	74,960,000

—We are informed that Mr. T. R. Billet, accountant of the Bank of Commerce of Winnipeg, is about to leave for Fernie, B. C., to fill the position of manager of the bank's branch at the latter place. He will be accompanied by Mr. Ray Macgachen, also of the Bank of Commerce of Winnipeg.

THE CHEESE MOVEMENT.

Only twelve boards have met since our last report, and at these 20,007 boxes were offered. Transactions, as will be seen from the table appended, were limited. The same week a year ago at 18 boards 42,202 boxes of cheese were offered. Values ranged last week from $7\frac{3}{4}$ to $8\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pound. The remarkable difference in values this year and last is well illustrated by the fact that $9\frac{1}{2}$ cents was the average price paid in a corresponding period, 1897. Shipments from Montreal for the week ending 10th inst. amounted to 51,233 boxes, against 71,545 boxes the similar week a year ago, while shipments to date are 1,037,360 boxes, against 1,287,454 boxes last year. This showing is the more disappointing because the exports of butter have not made up for the lost trade in cheese. Butter shipments to the 10th inst. were 105,104 boxes, against 134,829 boxes to date in 1897.

Boards and Date of meeting.	No. of factories.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold. Boxes.	Price per lb. Cts.
Kingston, Sept. 8.....	..	1,576	1,576	$8\frac{1}{8}$
Brockville, Sept. 8.....	..	4,294		
Perth, Sept. 9.....	..	1,540	1,540	$7\frac{7}{8}$
Belleville, Sept. 10.....	15	1,000	880	$8\frac{1}{2}$ 1-16- $\frac{1}{8}$
London, Sept. 10.....	..	3,095	1,640	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Lindsay, Sept. 12.....	..	1,917	1,917	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Ingersoll, Sept. 13.....	..	2,140		$7\frac{3}{4}$ 7- $\frac{7}{8}$
Campbellford, Sept. 13...	..	1,118	930	$8\frac{1}{2}$ 1-16
Stirling, Sept. 14.....	..	825	590	$8\frac{1}{2}$ 1-16
Tweed, Sept. 14.....	..	925	925	$8\frac{1}{2}$ 1-16- $\frac{1}{8}$
Napanee, Sept. 14.....	..	945	590	$8\frac{1}{2}$ 1-16
Pictou, Sept. 14.....	10	632	378	$8\frac{1}{4}$

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

A shipment of Milwaukee beer, thirty-two car-loads, was recently made from Vancouver to the Orient for Manila.

Canadian growers of tobacco may be interested in learning that the United States market for Burley leaf shows little change, the demand being chiefly from manufacturers, speculators holding off on account of the excellent crop prospects.

The chief causes of mercantile failure, according to a Scotch authority upon failures, and especially those connected with the grocery trade are, a bad location of the shop, selling too cheap in ignorance of actual cost, injudicious buying and bad systems of book-keeping. He recommended the periodical revision of the grocer's books by a chartered accountant.

Some marked changes are noticeable in the relative importance of tobacco and cigar producing districts in 1897-8. For instance, the Winston district of North Carolina, which was seventh in the output of tobaccos, in 1894-95, is now third. In cigarettes, the first, or St. Louis district of Missouri, is gaining ground, while the fourth, or Durham district of Carolina, is steadily losing ground.

It appears to be true enough that the pack of Fraser River salmon is a distinct failure, as the following figures will show: In 1897 the pack amounted to some 875,000 cases, against 170,000 cases this season, showing a shortage of over 700,000 cases for the season of 1898. There is no Red salmon to be had at the Coast now, and many of the packers have not been able to fill their contracts, owing to the small catch. Higher prices are therefore to be looked for.

Owing to the failure in the supply of fish the British Columbia cannery have little to offer vesselmen. A recent issue of a Vancouver paper says: "The salmon fleet this year will be the smallest that has left British Columbia for many years, for the season's pack has been a very small one. The fleet will consist, as far as is known at present, of the following vessels, the British ships 'Acamas,' 'Blythwood' and 'Ilala,' and the German bark 'Atlanta,' now on her way to Victoria from San Diego."

A special committee of the Chamber of Commerce in London, England, after having investigated a number of alleged cases of poisoning through eating tinned foods, report such allegations to be invariably unfounded. An instance is given of the case of the death of a young woman at Tunbridge Wells, which in the local papers was described as due to ptomaine