

to the fact that holders think they can secure more favorable terms by holding off, which seems unlikely. However, a good business is reported both for prompt and forward delivery. The leather market, too, has been active, and as the shoemen now realize that they will have to pay the figures, and as fresh supplies are absolutely required, they cannot hold off any longer.—*Montreal Gazette*.

### British Columbia Trade Returns.

The following are the customs returns for the port of Nanaimo for the month of August:—

Customs dues .....	\$2,968 43
Sick mariners .....	152 34
Miscellaneous .....	18 82

Total .....

\$3,139 59

The following are the quantities of coal shipped from the Vancouver Island mines for the month of August:—

	Tons.
New Vancouver Coal Company .....	23,938
R. A. Dunsmuir & Sons .....	845
East Wellington Company .....	2,420
Union Colliery at Comox .....	4,500

Total .....

36,703

The Customs returns for the port of Vancouver for the month ending August 31, were:—

	1889.	1890.
Value of imports, dutiable .....	\$42,925	\$57,266
Value of imports, free .....	14,711	20,393

Total .....

\$57,536

Duty collected .....	\$11,185 35	\$16,882 87
Other revenue .....	6,009 06	10,441 22

Total .....

\$17,194 41

Exports .....	\$54,230 00	\$50,492 00
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The following are the customs returns for the port of Victoria for the month of August:—

Value of imports dutiable .....	\$205,466 00
Value of imports free .....	33,390 00

Total .....

\$238,556 00

Duty collected .....	\$70,385 67
Other revenues .....	6,870 51

Total .....

\$77,256 18

Exports .....	\$1,119 00
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The returns for the Victoria division, internal revenue, for the month of August, are as follows:—

Spirits .....	\$3,934 51
Malt .....	1,655 65
Tobacco .....	776 80
Cigars .....	834 15
Petroleum Inspection .....	123 60

Total .....

\$7,324 71

### Up go the Duties.

The tariff bill which has been the subject of such unlimited discussion in the United States Congress was passed last week by the Senate. This bill has already been discussed in this journal, with reference to the changes which it proposed to make in the tariff. The bill provides mainly for higher duties on agricultural produce, and it will be a heavy blow to the Canadian export trade to the United States. Nearly all commodities exported from this country to the United States will now be subject to greatly increased duties, and the loss to the Canadian producers will be very serious. Those in

Canada who favor freer trade relationship with the United States (and that means practically our entire population), had their hopes revived for a time by an amendment proposed by Senator Sherman, favoring reciprocity with Canada. The bill, however, has been passed without any reference to Canada, and there is now no hope of any move of this kind at least during the present session of Congress.

### Winnipeg Board of Trade.

There was a meeting of the council of the board of trade held last week. The old question of mail supply to points touched by the Northern Pacific railway was brought up. There were many complaints of the delay in sending letters by tri-weekly or less frequent stages to places which were in direct communication with Winnipeg, and it was decided to petition the Postmaster-General praying that mails to points on the Northern Pacific railway be forwarded by railway and not by stages.

The Transfer railway matter was also brought up. No action having been taken by the Dominion authorities on the petition presented some time ago by the board urging that this road should be allowed to connect with the Canadian Pacific railway, it was decided to send a telegram to Sir John Macdonald, minister of railways and canals, urging that this petition be acted upon.

### Northwestern Ontario.

The flat cars for the Port Arthur, Duluth & Western railway have arrived.

J. C. Vivian, clothing and gents' furnishings, Port Arthur, moved to Port William.

The rate of taxation for the ensuing year at Rat Portage will be 19 mills, which rate includes school and all other municipal taxes.

J. T. Mackay, dry goods dealer, of Port Arthur, is moving to Rat Portage, where he will carry on business in the same line.

W. Rapsey, proprietor of the Continental hotel, Port Arthur, has accepted a position with the West End Mining Company and the hotel, furnished, will be leased.

Notice is given that an application is to be made to the Lieut.-Governor of the province of Ontario for letters patent incorporating the Port William Gas and Electric Company.

The machinery for the Rat Portage reduction works which has been held for duty by the collector of customs at Port Arthur, has been released with the condition that the importer amends the entry and pays duty should the Minister of Customs so finally decide.

The customs returns at Port Arthur are steadily increasing. August shows the following as compared with the corresponding month of 1889:—

Value of imports .....	\$61,000 00	against .....	\$45,388 00
Duty collected .....	18,550 25	" .....	12,865 49
Value of exports .....	61,000 00	" .....	4,750 00

The chief exports were produce of the mines and fisheries.

The Port Arthur *Sentinel* says: "Toronto and Port Arthur people who hold 35 per cent. of stock in the West End Mining Company, are dissatisfied with the recent sale of the mines made by United States parties interested in the property and on Tuesday they issued a writ for the purpose of setting aside the transfer to Mr. Drake, of Chicago. The Canadians claim that a Paris syndicate offered \$500,000

for the property less than a year ago, and that they should have been consulted about this sale for \$150,000.

At a recent meeting of the Port Arthur board of trade W. J. Bawlf was appointed a delegate to Winnipeg for fixing grain standards. Grain examiners were appointed for this year consisting of W. J. Bawlf, W. C. Dobie, A. Squier, Jas. Meek, and G. V. Hastings. Secretary O'Connor was instructed to exhibit the mineral exhibits at the Algoma fair here and to communicate with the various boards throughout the province for the purpose of securing a flour mill for Port Arthur town. The subject of a blast furnace was also discussed. Geo. V. Hastings, of Keewatin, was elected a member of the board.

### Minnesota Oats.

The new crop of oats has been long enough in the market now to determine the point of comparative weight with that of last year, and shows that the shortage is about three pounds per measured bushel below last year. That will naturally cause a reduction of about 10 per cent below the amount indicated by the measured bushels, making a probable decrease of some 5,000,000 bushels in Minnesota below expectations.—*Minneapolis Market Record*.

M. Morse, of Miller, Morse & Co., went east last week.

D. G. McBean, of McBean Bros., grain dealers, Winnipeg and Montreal, has arrived from the east and will likely remain until a considerable portion of the crop has been marketed.

Thos. McNicol, merchant, of Oak Lake, was accidentally shot recently while out hunting. The charge entered his left shoulder, wrist, neck and face. He is not believed to be dangerously hurt.

Louis E. Ekstein has been appointed general passenger agent of the Wisconsin Central railway. The passenger and ticket department has been moved to the Grand Central Passenger Station, corner Harrison street and Fifth avenue, Chicago.

Mr. Adair, of Adair Bros., Toronto, was in Winnipeg last week on a western tour. The firm of which Mr. Adair is a member are manufacturers of and dealers in fancy goods, small wares, jewelry and plated ware, and a great variety of sundries articles. They have worked up a good trade in the West.

Henniker Heaton, the English member of Parliament who is known as an earnest advocate of cheaper ocean postage, has addressed Postmaster-General Wanamaker, of the United States, a letter in which he suggests that the rate on letters from the United States to Great Britain and Ireland be reduced from 5c. to 2c. per half ounce.

The Dominion statement of revenue and expenditure on account of the consolidated fund for the first two months of the present fiscal year shows the revenue to the 31st of August to be \$8,525,691 and the expenditure \$4,274,434, leaving a surplus of \$2,251,257. The public debt showed a decrease of \$1,483,707 on the 31st of August last as compared with the 30th of June last. The final statement for revenue and expenditure for 1889-90 shows a surplus of four millions.