

# THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMERCIAL JOURNAL

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## OUR MEAT SUPPLY.

In connection with the cattle and beef business of British Columbia, Mr. Langley, an extensive stock raiser in the Ashcroft district, is reported to have expressed the opinion that heavy as may have been the losses in some sections already, they are not unlikely to be considerably heavier before the summer. The weather this winter has been the hardest ever experienced by many people in this province and has served to emphasize one consideration that it will be well for those interested to give greater attention to. The idea suggested is to establish cold storage plants and slaughter sufficient cattle during and up to November to supply the coast market for the winter. It is pointed out that this would be true economy, as in this way the cattle would be slaughtered in their prime and the meat could be supplied better and more cheaply to consumers. Moreover, several months feed lag would be saved and the risks of loss from starvation or from storms would be largely done away with.

## MATTER FOR CONGRATULATION.

The Board of Trade are to be congratulated upon their success in stiffening the backbones of and infusing something like spirit into the gentlemen who represent the city of Victoria at Ottawa. The latter appear also to have the co-operation of other British Columbia members. It must have been a revelation to the members of the House of Commons to see the gallant Colonel, oblivious of all Ministerial suggestions to "sit down," take up his parable and say what he had to say. But had it not been for the action of the Board of Trade and the merchants, Sir John Thompson would never have promised to communicate with his pet Tupper and call upon him to explain and make reparation for his cavalier and insulting treatment of the members for and the representatives of this Province. It is to be expected that Messrs Smith and Wilmot will also be called to account. It is about time that they should be made to walk the plank. Their usefulness is gone and their sole mission appears to be to plant themselves in the way of progress.

## THE OSCAR AND HATTIE.

And not at all in connection with Behring Sea matter was played in Victoria on Saturday last, when the sealer Oscar and

Hattie was sold at auction by order of the Admiralty Court. Rumor says that the judgment under which the sale was effected will be appealed from and will be an addition to the complications arising out of American assumptions which are practically being accepted as legalities, although no finding has been given by the Commission to which have been entrusted all the issues involved. Under the ordinary law an accused is presumed to be innocent until he is shown to have been guilty—but in connection with the British Columbia sealers they are assumed to be guilty until they prove themselves to be innocent. Nothing was proved against the Oscar and Hattie except that she went into Alaska territory for water, yet on the strength of a mere presumption—the proof of a definite innocent object having been conclusive—she was declared to have been forfeited and has been formally alienated from her owners.

## MR. GORDON'S SUCCESSOR.

There are, it will no doubt have been observed, a number of parties spoken of for the succession to the late Mr. Gordon in the House of Commons. The relations between British Columbia and the Dominion Government are such that the former cannot well afford to send a dyed in the wool conservative—a gentleman who through thick and thin will endorse Sir John Thompson and all his works. Probably the most useful man the Province had was removed by the death of Mr. Gordon, and it is a gentleman somewhat of his stamp—only of even more pronounced independence—that Nanaimo will honor itself and benefit the province at large by choosing as its member. Mr. Gordon's successor should be a business man—not a lawyer; he should have some definite interest in our development—even should he be only what is known as a workman—and with, in addition, the other qualifications necessary to a public representative there is a reasonable certainty of British Columbia getting a hearing. For men whose only claim to election is that they are good party men or that they shine either in society or in military circles, the people of the coast have but little use. They want to be heard from, and it is men who when they have something to say will not be deterred from saying it, that must henceforth be sent to Ottawa. This province entered the Confederation with the idea of being benefitted by the union; but very much that was expected has not been obtained. This must be had, and we must choose men who will do their utmost to obtain it.

## TARIFF MODIFICATIONS.

As we have from time to time remarked, it is not likely that the Canadian tariff when it next undergoes modification will be materially altered by the imposition of further protective duties. In connection with this, the *Monday Times* observes, "The protected interests are placed on the defensive, with a Government favorable to the continuance of protection, though,

not necessarily, all that exists to-day; but a 'reasonable and sufficient protection,' whatever it may mean. The revision of the tariff, promised for next session, implies that the revision will be in the direction of reduction; though there is nothing to bind the Government to any special line of policy, except the bent of public opinion, which it cannot afford to disregard. But, if the revision be general, it must be in the direction of a decrease of duties. If there be an increase on anything, it will be exceptional, and will have to be shown to rest on some plausible ground."

We are pleased to observe that the British Columbia members have shown some intention of insisting upon the interests of this province being secured in the shape of expenditures of the public money. We trust they will not forget that, in all justice and equity, not a few exceptions should be made in our favor in the matter of collecting duties upon articles which we, from our geographical situation, are forced to import, inasmuch as we have not nor are we likely to have facilities for their production at home.

## OFFICIAL NEGLECT.

The annual report of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture says the branch farm at Agassiz is becoming of great service to the farmers and fruit growers of British Columbia. The report also states that in British Columbia many districts are admirably adapted for dairy farming, but the Dairy Commissioner was not able to overtake the needs of the farmers of the Province for help in dairy matters last season, except through correspondence and the distributions of bulletins and reports. No doubt the branch experimental farm is becoming of service to the farmers; but, so far, we are of opinion that it has not really accomplished much for either farmers or fruit growers at any distance from the establishment itself. Its beneficial effects ought to be more widely extended; and who is to blame for this but the authorities who have not done very much to make its advantages appreciated? Indeed, but among those who are naturally progressive and who are established close by, it is comparatively little known, its agents or managers not having yet in any way "overtaken the needs of the farmers." This is not as it should be, and the excuse offered by the dairy commissioner is really no excuse at all, for it became him or those who sent him this way to take care that much more was done than by the mere distribution of bulletins and reports.

When he came out here, the Commissioner must have known in advance that it was impossible for him to "overtake" the work in the short time he had at his disposal. He ought therefore to have made such arrangements as would have enabled him, either in person or by deputy, to have done more than make little other than a pretence of visiting the province. But this is only the same kind of treatment to which our every interest has been accustomed, and yet the different constituencies continue to elect supporters of the Government as their representatives.