

British Columbia.

Walter Wilson, hardware, Nanaimo, has sold out.

C. B. Eagle, general store and rancher, Clinton, is dead.

Henderson & Couth, shippers, Vancouver, have assigned.

Rowlinson Bros., grocers, Nanaimo, have sold out to Hirst Bros.

Miss Nelson, millinery, etc., Vancouver, has sold out to D. Spencer, of Victoria.

A nugget of gold recently taken to Victoria from the Cariboo district, has sold for \$1,250.

Carscaden & Peck, wholesale clothing, Winnipeg, have opened a branch of their house at Vancouver.

The ice which broke up in the Fraser river last week, did considerable damage to wharves, &c., being heavier than usual.

The British Columbia Fire Insurance Company only met with \$200 in losses during the last year. The company has had a successful year.

The mine at Field, the property of the Vancouver smelting concern, has been seized by Sheriff Redgrove underwrits aggregating nearly \$8,000.

The partnership existing between Milligan & O'Brien, wholesale liquor merchants, Donald, has been dissolved. G. Milligan assumes all debts of the firm.

W. Leonard & Co., dealers in machinery and mill supplies, Vancouver, have made an assignment. A local paper says: "Most of the stock in hand, it is understood, is covered by a bill of sale, leaving assets of only about \$4,500, with liabilities of probably three times that sum."

The business of the well known house of T. N. Hibben & Co., stationers, etc., Victoria, will not be changed by the recent death of the senior member of the firm. The business will be carried on by the surviving partners and the widow, administratrix, of the deceased. James Parker Hibben, the eldest son of the deceased partner, will be employed in the firm in his late father's place.

Alex. Begg has been considering the servant girl question and has arranged to have a number sent out from Scotland, provided situations can be guaranteed for them beforehand. He has arranged that those desiring domestics can have them by leaving their names and guaranteeing their passage money, namely \$80. This will be deducted from the girl's wages at a certain stipulated rate per month.

The *Victoria Colonist* suggests the utilization of the cod fish of the coast for the manufacture of cod liver oil. The paper says: "Should some enterprising capitalist see fit to embark in the business, there is money to be made in the manufacture of cod liver oil on the Pacific as well as the Eastern coast, and a shortage of fish would never be met with. It seems strange that no one should have yet turned to advantage the immense quantities of cod now swarming just outside the harbor; and it is to be hoped that they will before long."

Victoria Colonist: Henry Abbot, superintendent of the Pacific Division of the Canadian Pacific Railway, yesterday informed a *Colonist* man that the preliminary survey for the Columbia and Kootenay Railway was now complete, and work would be pushed on without

delay as soon as the necessary legislation in regard to the road was accomplished. Nothing at present is being done in regard to the proposed Mission branch, as the C.P.R., is awaiting the action of the American roads interested and who have the most track to lay. When these roads move in the matter of building, the C.P.R., will complete their portion of the line at once.

Victoria Colonist: E. M. Johnson, secretary of the Canada Western Hotel Co., stated to a *Colonist* representative that arrangements had been completed for the immediate construction of the new hotel on the site originally selected—the block bounded by Government, Courtenay and Wharf streets. It is understood that Messrs. Redon & Hartnangle, of the Driard Hotel, have joined forces with the Canada Western Hotel Co., taking \$60,000 stock. The architect has been instructed to prepare plans for a building costing about \$250,000, which, when completed will be one of the handsomest and best appointed first-class hotels on the Pacific coast.

Vancouver *News*: Uriah Nelson, the produce merchant of New Westminster, who, in conjunction with a number of other merchants, secured some months ago a corner on potatoes in the province, was in the city yesterday. In conversation Mr. Nelson said it looked very much as if the supply of potatoes would be entirely exhausted by the month of April. There were now he said only 200 tons of potatoes on the mainland, and these were rapidly being consumed. Orders were being received from the upper country and points along the coast as far as Frisco, and when any of these orders were filled the price readily given was \$42.50 at the warehouse. The price to Vancouver merchants to-day, he said, was \$40.00. At San Francisco and in the cities on the Sound they were selling at \$3 per sack.

Grain and Milling.

Brockman & Kerr, of Victoria, B. C., recently imported over 100 tons of mill feed from San Francisco.

Several municipalities in Manitoba have adopted resolutions in favor of an increase in the duty on flour, to be forwarded to the Ottawa Government.

R. Whitelaw, of Woodstock, Ontario, owner of the mill recently burned at McGregor, Man., it is said, has concluded to rebuild the mill on certain conditions which will no doubt be decided by the council.

A CORRESPONDENT at Gladstone, Man., writes: "It is understood that a gentleman has offered to put up a roller mill, here if we lend him \$5,000 for a few years. This would be much better than giving a bonus."

It is said that a number of St. Paul capitalists purpose visiting Manitoba early in the spring, their intention being to look over the Northern Pacific & Manitoba railway with a view of erecting a line of elevators. Martin & Mitchell have elevators along the railway, erected last fall, with a capacity of 450,000 bushels.

"In the background," says *Chicago Daily Business*, "looms up the fact (based on official data relative to crops and requirements) that unless there should be a big increase in the foreign demand the United States is liable to have a larger quantity of wheat undisposed at the end of the crop year than there is any real need of."

The Geo. T. Smith Middlings Purifier Company, of Jackson, Michigan, has been forced to assignment by a bill of sale for \$150,000, given last July to the Preston National bank, of Detroit, by Geo. T. Smith, to cover indebtedness of some \$85,000 incurred before and since July. The total indebtedness is \$484,000 with the assets \$500,000.

Deerbohm, of January 6, says of the Indian wheat crop outlook: "The first forecasts of the wheat crop in the Punjab and the Central Provinces have just been published. Owing to the want of rain, the sowings were not completed in the Punjab when the return was made up, but the large trade of last year has stimulated cultivation, and it seems likely that the area under wheat will fall little, if at all, short of last year. From the Central Provinces the reports are good, although there also unfavorable weather retarded the sowings. More rain is wanted in many places, and the chances seem to point to a reduction of the out-turn."

A telegram from Ottawa recently says: A large delegation of Ontario millers arrived here and had an interview with the Government in regard to the duty on flour and wheat. They asked that the duty on wheat imported to Canada be \$1 per barrel, the same as the duty on Canadian wheat imported to the States. This is an increase of fifty cents. It is understood that while the Government made no definite promise, they will increase the duty to 75 cents, which would be a little more than equalizing the duty on wheat and flour. W. W. Ogilvie, of Montreal, one of the delegates, stated that his company were paying 80 cents for wheat in Manitoba, while the ruling price in Dakota was only 60 cents. This was a good inducement to immigration, but was rough on the miller, who was not able to secure enough wheat, and had to fight against the fierce competition of American flour."

Business in British Columbia.

The volume of trade was if anything larger than for the past month and everything points towards renewed activity in all branches of business. The weather of the past few days has been more favorable and gives promise of the speedy opening of spring trade. A large number of shipments have been received both over the C.P.R. and by boat from California and Oregon. The produce merchants have received large consignments from Manitoba, Nebraska and San Francisco. Small quantities of California cabbage, celery, and cauliflower have been placed on the market during the week and are rapidly disappearing. Cabbage is quoted at 3 cents per pound, celery at \$1.20 per pound and cauliflower at \$1.20 per pound. Washington naval oranges and Riversides are beginning to arrive and are quoted at from \$4.50 to \$4.85. There is plenty of butter on the market but it is of an inferior quality and high in price, creamery being quoted at 28c. and dairy at 25c. Eggs and fish are both practically out of the market. Potatoes are increasing in price daily and are exceedingly scarce.

In real estate the market has shown signs of increased activity, but as yet very little beyond the usual small transactions have been effected.

Collections are better than for the last fortnight and merchants generally say that they are more than satisfied with the condition of the money market.—*Vancouver News*.