

J. ELLIOTT has opened in the meat business at Lethbridge, Alberta.

JOHN SHARPLESS has opened in the flour and feed business at Calgary.

FERGUSON & McMURTRY have opened in the general store business at Calgary.

THE fire hall and apparatus at Rat Portage, was burned on Friday last. Loss \$5,000.

THE Macleod Gazette reports that the general store business of the Winder estate, will be wound up.

A. V. BECKSTEAD has leased the Manchester House, Emerson, and will conduct it as a temperance hotel.

W. F. SCARTH, merchant, of Virden, Man., writes denying the report that Scarth & Co, of that place have sold out.

HARRY MCINTOSH, of the Grand Pacific Hotel, Winnipeg, will retire and probably be succeeded by Murray & Alexander.

THE Regina Journal says preparations are being made to seed 1000 acres on Sir John Lester Kay's farm at Balgonie.

GEO. H. ROGERS, of Winnipeg, has purchased the wholesale boot and shoe stock of the estate of Pinkerton & Turner, of Montreal. The stock will be moved to Winnipeg.

THE Birtle Observer says: As soon as a thaw comes it is intended to start the Birtle grist mill which has been idle during the winter causing great inconvenience to the people of the district. No doubt steps will be taken to put in rollers in time for next crop.

THE Anthracite Company at Banff now employs about 125 men, and will in the course of a week or ten days be prepared to mine and ship coal for outside places. Self-screening pockets are being put in, and crushers will be placed at the mines during the spring.

Personal.

Mr. W. F. Doll, wholesale jeweller, has returned from the east.

Mr. W. P. Johnson, manager Standard Oil Co., has returned from St. Paul.

Mr. W. J. Mitchell, wholesale druggist, has been called to Toronto, on a painful mission, having received intelligence of the death of a sister.

British Columbia.

T. R. Pearson & Co., stationers, New Westminster, have sold out.

Anderson & Anderson, furniture dealers, Victoria, have dissolved partnership. Style now R. A. Anderson.

P. Frederick, produce and commission merchant, Victoria, has admitted one Maude into partnership. Business continued under style of Frederick & Maude.

C. Levy, dealer in second-hand clothing, Victoria, has absconded.

Muirhead & Carter, dealers in groceries and liquors, Victoria; sheriff in possession.

The Vancouver Improvement Company have advanced the price of the mill property 50 per cent. Lots which were formerly sold at \$300 have advanced to \$450; \$350 lots are now \$525 and \$250 lots have risen to \$375.

The Pacific Coast lumbermen have good pros-

pects for a large season's trade. A number of ships are now on the way to Burard Inlet, to load lumber for South America, Australia, and Asiatic points.

T. F. Sinclair & Co., of Port Haney, have completed arrangements with some Montreal firms to receive their frozen salmon during the coming summer. They are now building a "salmon freezer" of 150,000 pounds capacity which they think will be sufficiently large for the present. They expect to begin shipping as soon as the salmon run commences and will, if the run is good, be able to supply the Montreal market for the balance of the year.—*Vancouver News*.

January Exports.

The showing made by our statistics of bread-stuffs exports is very gratifying. For the month of January we sent abroad nearly double the amount of flour and more than twice as much wheat as in the same month last year. For the seven months ended Jan. 31, our flour exports were about 50 per cent larger and out wheat exports showed an enormous increase, the figures being 59,642,225 bushels, against 24,528,390 bushels in the seven months ended Jan. 31, 1886. The total value of all wheat and flour exported during the last seven months was \$80,956,920, against \$43,506,484 for the same period in 1885-6. The ratio of increase has been greatest from the Atlantic ports, although the Pacific ports make a very good showing. Expressed in bushels of wheat, our flour and wheat exports for the last seven months were 88,850,319 bushels, against 44,976,602 bushels for the same period in 1885-6. We are doing very well.—*Minneapolis Northwestern Miller*.

Canadian Pacific Railway Rates.

Is it to be wondered at, that the farmers of the Canadian Northwest complain of the unfair treatment they receive at the hands of the Canadian Pacific Railway, when their products are so exorbitantly taxed by the freight tariffs of this great monopoly? Let us take one or two instances. Upon wool, hides, etc., the freight rates on shipments from points west of the Rockies to Montreal, range from \$2.95 to \$3.50 per 100 pounds—rates which are so excessive that they tend to kill the development of the farmers' best interests along the route of this grand monopolizing carrying corporation. Although these outrageously high rates are charged on Northwestern produce, shipments of Quebec oats have been made from Montreal to the above points in the Northwest at only 55c. per 100 pounds. Must not this be galling to the farmers of the Northwest, to know that their own products are charged such high rates, whilst the products of Quebec farmers have the advantage of most favorable ones. Such discriminations are an absolute wrong.—*Montreal Trade Bulletin*.

Dressed Hogs.

A Montreal exchange says of the hog market: The tendency of the hog market to improvement noted in our last report, has since become more positive, and sales of car lots have been made at fully 5c. per 100 lbs. advance upon former prices. Holders' ideas have appreciated still

more, several lots which last week could have been purchased at \$6.05 being now held at \$6.10 to \$6.15, whilst other holders of desirable lots have withdrawn from the market. Our advices from a reliable private source in the West, state that Toronto dealers have not yet laid in their usual supply of hogs, and that they will require a large quantity yet, before their wants are satisfied. It is also stated by parties here, that the bulk of supplies to be marketed in the West are comparatively small, most of which they are informed will be wanted by Western packers and curers of meats. The advance in the price of both hogs and their product in Chicago, has tended greatly to strengthen the market here, inducing local packers to cut up more freely, sales of Montreal short cut mess pork having been made at \$15.50 to \$16 per bbl. The receipts have been light during the past week or ten days, but some buyers attribute this to the action of country shippers in holding back for higher prices.

THE Dry Goods Chronicle says: "Not more than one per cent. of the best class of merchants succeed without failing in Philadelphia. Not more than two per cent. of the merchants of New York ultimately retire on an independence after having submitted to the usual ordeal of failure, and not more than three out of every hundred merchants in Boston acquire an independence."

While non-intercourse with Canada is a current topic, it might not be amiss to take notice of a few statistics with reference to our trade with that country. Custom reports for 1885, between United States and Canada of \$86,903,935, while between Canada and Great Britain it was only \$83,234,482. Exports to the United States amounted to \$39,752,734, or 45 per cent. of the total export trade of the Dominion. Exports to Great Britain reached \$41,877,795. Canadians bought in the United States \$47,151,201, 45 per cent. of the total imports, and from Great Britain they only bought to the extent of \$41,406,777. These are Canadian statistics, and they go a great way in showing how closely are allied the two countries in commercial relations, and to what far reaching results a retaliatory policy on the part of this country would extend should the warlike measures be adopted by Congress.—*American Mail and Export Journal*.

THE question of barbed wire fences as an element of danger to cattle and other stock and an agent of injury to hides has been frequently discussed. There is no question that much injury can be done and has been done to hides by the barbs on wire fences, and it is not strange that the subject has come up as a matter of litigation in a court of law. Such a case was tried in the New Jersey Supreme Court, and the owner of a barbed wire fence adjoining a field in which a colt was grazing, was held responsible for the loss of the colt when he got entangled in the fence and injured as to cause his death. Being the decision of a high court, this decision will be a matter of great importance to those who use wire fences or who have stock injured by them. Tanners and hide men will be much pleased to have them abolished. The dangers that menace the quality of hides are numerous enough, without having them lurking in every panel of fence round pasture.—*Leather Gazette*.