

The announcement has been made that actual construction on the B. I. & F. V. railway will, at length, be really commenced. This will give employment to a large number of men, and will also put a considerable sum of money in circulation. The building of the bridge over the Fraser river will bring a large amount of trade to both this city and New Westminster, and that will be an important factor in settling up some of the best farming land in the country.

In regard to the Mud Bay canal the Westminster board of trade has passed the following resolution: "That this board earnestly requests the district representative at Ottawa, G. E. Corbould, to ask the federal government to take into its favorable consideration the construction of said canal as a public work, and to this end to have a proper survey and estimate made by one of its own engineers, as speedily as possible."

A deed of assignment from R. W. Bickle, general dealer at Wellington, to W. Patterson, of Hull Bros. & Co., Vancouver, has been recorded. Mr. Bickle carried on business in general merchandise at New Townsite, Wellington, under the firm name of E. W. Bickle & Co., and did an extensive business. Mr. Bickle claims that he has been forced to take this step owing to several creditors in California taking legal proceedings in advance of the time limit under which the goods were sold and purchased. Then as a matter of course others followed suit, and to prevent the assets being taken up in law costs, he decided to assign to Mr. Patterson for the benefit of the creditors, the assignee, however, not being a creditor. There is only a small indebtedness in this province, the principal creditors being in Montreal, Toronto and California. Mr. Bickle expresses the opinion firmly that if he is granted an extension of time he would be able to pull out of the difficulty, and pay 100 cents on the dollar. Thus, Bickle, is also in possession under a chattel mortgage for some \$5,000.

Mrs. Nellie Juhnator, New York Hotel, Victoria, giving up business.

Steamer Coquitlam returned last week from her third halibut fishing trip under charter to the Port and Winch Company. She was away about sixteen days, and the weather only permitted fishing during three days. She, however, brought down fifteen tons of fine halibut, the majority of which were caught in one day. It was shipped to New York. The Coquitlam has gone north again.

The Victoria and Phoenix brewing companies will probably amalgamate and only operate one of the breweries, probably the Victoria. The other is to be closed up, although a suggestion that it be converted into a distillery may be adopted. The matter has been under consideration for some time.

It is reported that a syndicate of English and American capitalists are about to complete the purchase of Toquart Harbor land following the exploration line laid down by W. J. Sutton, the expert geologist, some two years ago. The route as shown on a map made by E. B. McKay, of the Lands and Works Department, follows the shore line from Toquart Harbor to Kennedy Lake and thence up the Elk River, crossing the divide to the Taylor river and thence north.

Hon. Mr. Turner's bill to authorize a grant in aid of the construction of a traffic bridge across the Fraser river at New Westminster sets forth that the cost of the enterprise is estimated at \$500,000. The bill makes it lawful for the city of New Westminster, subject to a by-law being carried by the electors, to aid in the building of the bridge to the extent of \$250,000. The southern terminus of the bridge is to be within ten chains from the center line of the New Westminster and Yale wagon road, near Surrey landing and the northern terminus within the city. The amount of Government aid is fixed at \$62,500, payable in five equal annual instalments on July 2 of each year after the completion of the bridge.

The *Colonist* semi-officially denies the utterly absurd rumor, originated in the columns of the *Nanaimo Free Press*, to the effect that the Canada Western railway promoters entertain the idea of asking an immense cash bonus from the province, in addition to the already secured land grants.

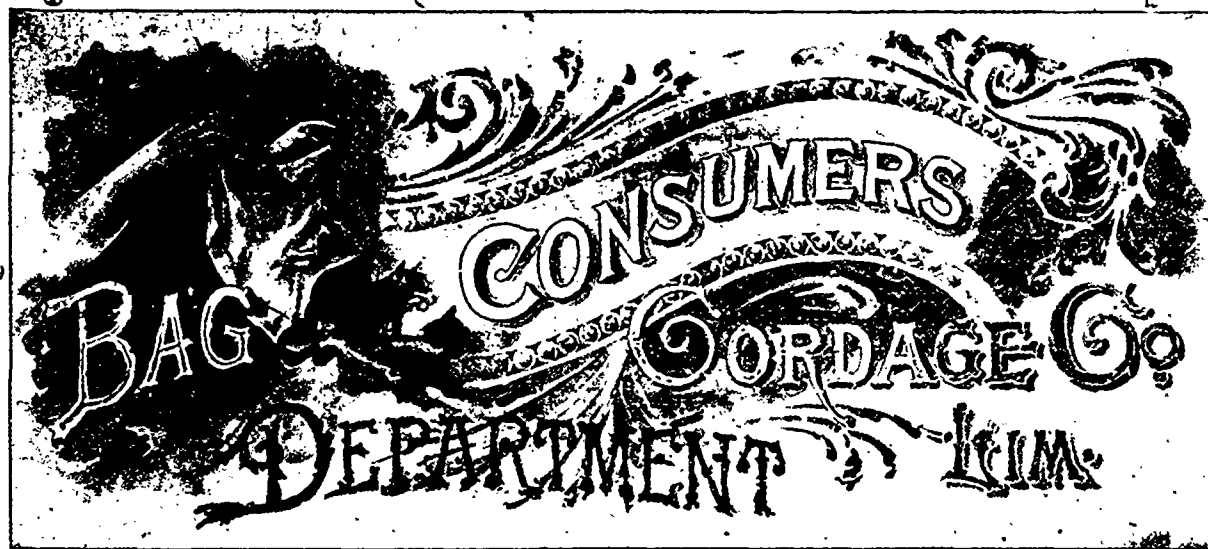
Mr. Postill, of Okanagan Mission, intends bringing in from Washington State 500 sheep next summer, and will fatten them for his market in New Westminster. He is induced to do this by the scarcity of mutton on the coast markets every winter.

It is reliably reported that a fine seam of coal has been found on the north side of Kamloops Lake a few miles from Kamloops, and that several prominent and influential people will be concerned in its development.

Mason Brothers have half a dozen of their teams on the Nakusp road hauling out ore from Four Mile creek mines, and carrying machinery for Hill Bros. sawmill and stores for Bourae Bros. general merchants.

There is to be competition on the Upper Kootenay river next summer. The Great Northern people are building a new boat of sufficiently light draft to run to Fort Steele, and will try to draw the business by way of Jennings to their railway. Efforts are also being made to improve the means of transport to the north and to bring the business to the C. P. R. at Golden.

The exhibit of the native woods of the Province sent by the Hastings Mill to the World's Fair is very interesting. One section of spruce measures 5 feet 8 inches, and was cut 48 feet 9 inches from the butt. A section of Douglas fir measures no less than 6 feet 7 inches across, though cut 45 feet from the ground, so that the size at the butt must be enormous. Two limbs of Douglas fir measuring 16 inches across will also be sent, as well as a log of hemlock 3 feet in diameter. All these were obtained from the mill's camp near Hastings.



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