

British Columbia.

Theo. Shaw, hotel keeper, Vancouver, has sold out.

McMillan & Son, Greasers, Vancouver, have sold out.

Mrs W. E. Dickenson has opened a hotel at Westminster.

McDonald & Hobbs are opening in wholesale liquors at Nanaimo.

Gallagher & Stevenson have opened a livery business at Vornon.

William Brown, Hotel keeper, Vancouver, succeeds T. A. Shaw.

Emanuel Cook contemplates starting business at Victoria as jobber in dry goods.

J. H. Baker & Co., boot and shoe merchants, Victoria; J. E. Church has retired.

The name of the firm of Lowenberg, Harris & Co., financial agents, etc., Westminster, has been changed to Lowenberg, Harris, Sinclair & Co.

The Bank of British Columbia have added a savings bank department. Deposits will be received from \$1 upwards, and four per cent. interest will be given.

A half interest in the International hotel at Nelson held by W. Hunter, has been sold for \$2000 to Bruce Craddock. The International will now be managed by Dawson & Craddock.

All the shares in the Union Brewery company at Nanaimo have been subscribed to, and active preparations are being made to proceed with the erection of the building as soon as the weather will permit.

The Caledonia, the new stern wheel steamer built for the Hudson Bay Company, at McPhee's ship yard on the Fraser River, has been launched. The boat will be taken to Victoria where the Albion Iron Works will put in the machinery. This fine boat, which is intended for the Skeena river trade, is 100 feet long by 24 feet beam, and has five feet depth of hold.

The annual meeting of the New Westminster board of trade was held recently, and the following officers were elected: T. J. Trapp, president; W. Wolfenden, vice president; D. Robson, secretary. Council, W. H. Keary, C. G. Major, John Hendry, B. Douglas, W. B. Townsend, H. Hoy, G. E. Corbould, D. Drysdale. Board of arbitration.—W. A. Duncan, D. McNair, C. E. Woods, W. J. Walker.

H. McDowell & Co., druggists, Vancouver, have bought out the business of A. W. Draper drugs of the same place, the latter store will be under the management of H. H. Watson, who has been connected with the business for upwards of a year, and has now been taken into partnership. A. W. Draper will continue his tobacconist business at Vancouver, which he has heretofore carried on separate from the drug trade.

The New Westminster Ledger says: "The wholesale market for local produce has a decided tendency to rise. Although figures remain as quoted last week the demand is certainly greater than the supply, potatoes finding a ready sale at \$25 per ton; eggs and butter can be easily disposed of at figures a trifle in advance of those hitherto quoted, and should the cold weather continue all kinds of fodder will undoubtedly be in great demand.

The Union Steamship Co., says the Vancouver News, is calling for tenders for the construction of a wooden steamer. The boat is to

be 80 feet long and 18 feet broad with a hold 6 feet deep. The engines out of the Skidegate will be placed in her, and she will be used principally for harbor trade. With this boat and the three new steamers that are on their way this company will own a fleet of 10 steamers and 8 scows. Monday is the last day for sending in tenders.

The British Columbia Tanning Company, of Nanaimo, at its recent meeting of shareholders, reported a favorable season's business. The question of increasing the capacity of the tannery department was discussed, and it will be further considered at a special meeting to be called in a few days. The election of the board of directors resulted as follows: John Pawson, Thos. W. Glaholm, A. Haslam, J. W. Stirtan, E. Quannel, T. Morgan. At a subsequent meeting of the directors the following officers were elected: T. W. Glaholm, president; John Pawson, treasurer; A. Haslam, secretary; James Abrams, manager.

The Vancouver News says: O. F. & J. Galt have decided to give up their branch wholesale general grocery business at Vancouver, and in future will simply carry on a wholesale tea trade. It was with these intentions that the firm first opened a branch here, and the general grocery business was only carried on until the tea trade could be worked up sufficiently so as to enable them to take this step. They now do business with many of the wholesale houses on the Sound, and consider that they will work up a large and profitable trade. H. Galt is shortly going on a trip to China in connection with their tea trade, and he may probably stay there.

The following is the amount of revenue collected at Vancouver during the month of February compared with the amount collected during the corresponding month of 1890.

	1890.	1891	IN- CREASE.	DE- CREASE.
Exports	\$13,184	\$21,074	\$19,690	
Imports				
Free	\$14,489	\$11,891		\$2,598
Dutiable	\$36,884	\$33,076	\$57,092	
Total	\$51,361	\$45,867	\$57,092	\$2,598
Duties	\$9,041.36	\$22,220.03	\$16,178.24	
Other revenue	\$2,274.02	\$2,450.96	\$1,206.94	
Total	\$11,315.38	\$28,701.76	\$17,386.18	

The Short Crop Theory.

There has been so much short crop literature this season, that the public had expected to see before this, some of its effects. The claim was accepted at the early part of the season and acted upon, prices of wheat going well above the \$1 mark. The rise was on the expectancy of witnessing some proof in the visible supply melting down, but as there was no such demonstration of it, support was withdrawn temporarily.

Still it was told that small receipts at the leading grain markets might be expected, at least after January 1. On its strength there was a moderate January bulge, but the wheat continuing to come forward, a loss of confidence followed and market values declined. For several weeks the arrivals of grain have been larger than usual, and the public is again asked to wait for proof of a short crop. There is more or less demoralization now in the ranks of supporters of prices, and there are signs of a

change of base. There is no question of the small crop, or the smaller reserve to be carried over into the next. But there was never any reason to suppose there would not be wheat enough to serve all needful requirements this season, and people who thought otherwise, adopted the belief with too little reason. Acting upon it as they did, without justification, there is no wonder they are discouraged now.—*Minneapolis Market Record.*

Raw Fur Prices Abroad.

The New York Fur Trade Review quotes the following prices current there for No. 1 prime northern skins, the variation being for size or color. Prices per skin except beaver, which is quoted by the pound,—Black bear, northern Canada, \$12 to \$25; cubs and yearlings, \$5 to \$12; brown bear, \$10 to \$14; cubs, \$3 to \$6. Grizzly, \$10 to \$15; cubs and yearlings, \$3 to \$8; fisher, northern Canada, \$4 to \$7; Otter, northern, \$8.50 to \$10; beaver, Canada and western, \$4 to \$4.50 per pound; beaver castor, \$4 to \$6 per pound; silver fox, \$20 to \$100; cross fox, \$3.50 to \$8; red fox, \$1.50 to \$1.65; grey fox, 60 to 70c; marten, 70c to \$2.50; mink, 70c to \$1.75; skunk, black, \$1.25 to \$1.30; skunk, half stripe, 70 to 80c; skunk, full stripe, 35 to 40c; skunk, white, 15 to 20c; raccoon, 60 to 80c; muskrat, fall, 13 to 14; muskrat, winter, 12 to 13c; lynx, \$3 to \$3.50; wild cat, 10 to 60c; prime badger, \$1 to \$1.75; unprimed do., 5 to 20c; rabbit, 1 to 2c; timber wolf, \$1.50 to \$2.75; prairie wolf, 70 to 85; wolverine, \$3.50 to \$5; deer skins, 22 to 32c per pound; antelope, 10 to 25c per pound; elk, 10 to 25c per pound; buckskin, 70c to \$1 per pound.

Eby, Bain & Co., wholesale grocers, Toronto, have been looking for larger premises for some time and they have now bought out the wholesale grocery business and building of Frank Smith & Co., and will move into the Smith building about June 1, taking over any stock then on hand. Their new premises cover about 10,000 more square feet of ground than the present building Smith & Co.'s liquor department has been sold to Adams & Burns.

AUSTRALIA is evidently thoroughly dissatisfied with its present colonial status, divided up as it is into a number of separate colonies. A movement is now on foot for a federation of the different colonies, under one form of government. What is evidently puzzling the Australians is the form of federation which they should undertake. This is the point which has probably maintained the separate colonial existence of the different divisions up to the present time. A conference is now being held at Sydney, in the colony of New South Wales, to consider the question of federation and if possible unite upon a constitution. The constitution of Canada is the one most likely to be taken into account by the Australians in shaping their own course. According to cable despatches, however, there appears to be a considerable party in favor of the absolute independence of Australia and the formation of a federal union on the lines of the constitution of the United States. The trade question is also a trouble some one with the Australians, public opinion being divided between protectionist and free trade doctrines. The outcome of the Sydney conference will be a matter of general interest to Canadians.