

INLAND REVENUE AND CUSTOMS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

INLAND REVENUE RETURNS

Victoria Division—Comprising all of Vancouver Island:

The Inland Revenue returns, for the month of January, at the port of Victoria, were as follows:

RECEIPTS FOR JANUARY.

Spirits.....	\$ 5,598 40
Malt.....	358 78
Tobacco.....	1,530 25
Cigars.....	949 95
Petroleum inspection.....	298 80
Total.....	\$ 9,336 18

WAREHOUSED. EX-WAREHOUSED.

Spirits....	4,425.28	p. gals	3,732.30	p. gals.
Tobacco...	8,323 1/2	lbs	6,121	lbs
Cigars....	45,200		16,500	
Malt.....	45,822	lbs	45,822	lbs
Raw leaf tob.	440	lbs	440	lbs
Balances remaining in warehouse:				
Spirits.....	6,036.73	P. gals		
Tobacco.....	2,722 1/2	lbs		
Cigars.....	140,200			

INLAND REVENUE RETURNS

For the month of January, 1892:

Vancouver Division—Comprising the Mainland of B. C.:

WAREHOUSED.

Spirits.....	1,954.24	pf gals
Malt.....	12,755	lbs
Tobacco.....	6,596	"
Raw Leaf Tobacco.....	845	"

EX-WAREHOUSED.

Spirits.....	2,163.67	pf gals
Malt.....	17,529	lbs
Tobacco.....	4,244	lbs
Raw Leaf Tobacco.....	845	"

BALANCE IN BOND.

Spirits.....	9,616.10	pf gals
Malt.....	6,884	lbs
Tobacco.....	6,617 1/2	"

COLLECTIONS.

Spirits.....	\$ 3,245 96
Malt.....	350 68
Tobacco.....	1,061 00
Cigars.....	501 60
License.....	25 00
Petroleum inspection.....	265 50
Methylated Spirits.....	55 43

Total.....\$5,504 97

*Brewers' License, issued to Robert Ockner, Vernon.

†For Vancouver Varnish Works.

THE LEGISLATURE.

One is justified, it would appear, in anticipating that the present session of the Provincial parliament will be lively. There will doubtless be any quantity of fighting—more of it in an organized shape than during the previous sitting of the present house. Lines would appear to have been more definitely drawn, and the place of the Independents would, according to the division the other day, now appear to have been fixed at the left of the Speaker. The Government is certain not to have matters in its own hands as much as it previously had, still a majority of five or six votes ought to enable it to get along nicely with the affairs of the province, its majority not being sufficient to allow it to become careless or overbearing. There is, it must be confessed, a tendency on the part of an over strong cabinet to depend entirely upon its vote, but, in the present instance, the administration has but little more than the vote of its own members to constitute its majority. Had the ministers no votes, as under the system obtaining at Washington, the position would be rather difficult to estimate.

But, to look to actual business rather than mere party strength, there are a

number of important matters already on the list for disposal. Among these is a motion, notice of which has been given by Col. Baker looking to the obtaining of unrestricted reciprocity in British Columbian minerals, timber and fish, the American market to which is practically closed to us. Experience has shown that, in this respect the member for Kootenay appreciates the situation. We have no home market for these products, and, therefore, must look abroad. It is to be hoped that the Dominion will not be slow to appreciate the requirements of the province and, while remembering that we must have an outside market, will not forget the fact that, unlike the other provinces, we are compelled to import many foreign products for daily use, and while bearing the burden imposed on the one hand by the National Policy, have on the other no corresponding benefits accruing from it.

It will be noted that the Government's land and mining policy is being severely challenged, Mr. Kellie being determined to inquire into all matters concerning the Slocan Lake reservation. It is needless to deny that there is *prima facie* ground for a complete ventilation of this subject and all kindred matters, very many people being of opinion that all round there has not been a clean deal. The only way to settle the matter is to have it fully inquired into when, if the Government position is correct, it will be unassailable and add to its strength and popularity.

A somewhat significant-looking notice of motion has been put upon the paper by Mr. Beaven. It is for a return showing the section of the act under which the land was purchased, the minerals of the Crown grant, if any; the name, acreage, price per acre, and district from which the sum of \$243,551.42 has been received at the Treasury from the sale of Crown lands for the fiscal year 1890-1891. The production of these papers will, without doubt, be the prelude to an interesting and at the same time important debate, for it is beyond question that although legislation has placed restrictions upon Crown land transfers, the number of alienations has been immense, and there are grave doubts as to the regularity of some of them. It is upon our lands in addition to the comparatively small Dominion subsidy that the province must depend for its revenue, unless we are to fall back upon direct taxation; hence the greater necessity for their economical administration.

It is noteworthy that the eight-hours-a-day question came up in the shape of a question by the leader of the Opposition: "Is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation this session recognizing eight hours as a day's labor in carrying on provincial public works, or in a broader sense?" To this, the Hon. Mr. Robson replied: "The Government is not at present in a position to answer the question." No doubt the Chinese will have their full share of attention. That it is a subject to which attention will be given, is manifest from Mr. Keith's notice of the introduction of a bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act, chap. 84, vol. 1, Can. Acts, B. C., 1888, and the Coal Mines Regulation Amendment Act of 1890.—*B. C. Commercial Journal.*

B. C. FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

Below will be found the fifth annual report of the British Columbia Fire Insurance Company:—

GENTLEMEN:

In accordance with established custom, your directors beg to present the fifth annual report of your company, and are pleased to report an increased business over the preceding year.

The agreement entered into with the Fire Underwriters' Association has had to the effect of establishing uniform rates among all the companies doing business in the province, and thereby lessening the unbusiness-like competition that existed prior thereto.

Our losses during the year have been considerably less than those of 1890, and we trust by careful distribution of our risks to keep them within a reasonable limit for a company doing an active fire insurance business.

The number of policies in force is 374, insuring property to the value of \$462,900.

Desiring to place the fullest information in the hands of the members, the directors have adopted a new system of balance sheet, which should commend itself to all interested, the object being to show in concise form the actual position of the company, its receipts and expenditures, assets and liabilities, and premium notes.

The cash assets and investments of the company show an increase of 33 and 1/3 per cent. over previous years.

The future prospects of the company are encouraging, and your directors feel that with a little hearty co-operation on the part of the members, by recommending the company to their friends, that the ensuing year will prove the most satisfactory one in the history of the company.

The books, accounts and vouchers have been regularly examined by the company's auditor, whose certified copy of the annual statement is attached hereto.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed on behalf of the directors.

N. SHAKESPEARE, Pres't.

WM. DALBY, Manager.

F. J. CLAXTON, Secretary.

The following are the officers of the B. C. Fire Insurance Company:—N. Shakespeare, president; Wm. Wilson, vice-president; Wm. Dalby, manager; Fred J. Claxton, secretary-treasurer; Charles Wilson, solicitor; Geo. Berridge, auditor. Directors—F. H. Worlock, Esq., banker; Wm. Wilson, Esq., merchant; W. P. Sayward, Esq., lumber merchant; William Denny, Esq., gentleman; N. Shakespeare, Esq., postmaster; G. L. Milne, Esq., M.D.; E. B. Marvin, Esq., merchant; Wm. Dalby, Esq.; Alex. Dunsmuir, Esq., president E. and N. Railway; James Cunningham, Esq., merchant; Benjamin Douglas, Esq., merchant; W. B. Townsend, Esq., merchant.

The proprietors of the Seattle restaurant have left the city.

The new engine lately put in the Times office is a horizontal 10-h. p. It was built by Spratt & Gray, and being a first-class stock engine, is a creditable home production.

G. F. & J. Galt have gone out of the commission business, and are succeeded by Martin & Robertson, who have taken over their agencies, and will continue as wholesale commission and brokers. Mr. Robert Martin, the late manager, will continue in Vancouver, and Mr. Arthur Robertson in Victoria.