branches of trade for the reception and equipment of explorers and miners were unprecedented in extent and must lead to a very great and Incrative extension of the trade of the country He was sanguine that this improvement would permeate the whole community. The most recent reports of the general business were confirmatory of this expectation, and a further indication was the satisfactory fact that landed estate and other securities had shown a marked improvement in value. The half-years' working showed a net profit of £18,351, as compared with £14,382 for the half year ending 30th June. 1897, after making due provision for all ascertained losses. The directors recommended that a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum be paid for the half year ending 31st December last, leaving a balance of £8,351 to be carried forward. The financial position of the bank, as shown by the accounts in available assets, was undoubtedly a strong one.

C. J. WALKER.

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Provincial Secretary's Office.

His Honor the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to make the following appointment:

14th March, 1898.

FREDERICK WILLIAM VALLEAU, Esquire, to be Stipendiary Magistrate within and for the Counties of Nanaimo and Cariboo, Gold Commissioner, Government Agent, Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Works, and a Collector under the "Revenue" and "Revenue Tax" Acts for that part of the Province known as the Omineca Land Recording. District.

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