

H. C. CUSTOMS RETURNS.

The following is a summary of the customs returns for the four ports of the Province of British Columbia for the month of July, 1894:

IMPORTS.

	VICTORIA	VANCOUVER	WESTMINSTER	NANAIMO	TOTAL
Dutiable Goods	\$137,380 00	\$ 60,331 00	\$ 26,612 00	\$ 11,875 00	\$211,198 00
Free Goods	70,031 00	221,786 00	12,805 00	700 00	305,325 00
Total Imports	\$207,411 00	\$282,117 00	\$ 39,417 00	\$ 12,575 00	\$539,523 00

REVENUE.

Duty Collected	\$ 16,481 11	\$ 21,315 32	\$ 10,011 77	\$ 1,571 73	\$ 49,380 93
Other Revenue	695 11	632 10	139 82	168 92	1,636 98
Total Collections	\$ 17,176 22	\$ 21,947 42	\$ 10,151 59	\$ 1,740 65	\$ 51,015 88

EXPORTS.

The Mine	\$ 27,382 00			\$213,967 00	\$241,349 00
The Fisheries	85,682 00	\$ 10,152 00	\$ 10,599 00		106,534 00
The Forest	3,236 00	60,251 00			63,487 00
Animals and their produce	77,179 96	1,131 00	1,382 00	37 00	80,032 00
Agricultural	62 00	65 00			127 00
Manufactures	3,011 00	1,125 00	21 00		4,157 00
Miscellaneous	1,633 00	30 00		20 00	1,683 00
Total Exports	\$201,488 00	\$ 76,361 00	\$ 11,963 00	\$214,024 00	\$503,776 00

\$957 gold coin, \$21 silver coin.

B. C. BOARD OF TRADE

The council of the Board of Trade met Wednesday morning, with President Flumerfelt in the chair and a full board present. Several letters on the fish industries were referred to the standing committee on fisheries.

The contract for printing and binding the annual reports was awarded to the *Colonist*, the lowest tenderer.

The removal of the San Pedro from the ledge was brought up, and it was resolved to draw the matter to the attention of the Receiver of Wrecks.

Mr. Cowie, Secretary of the Edmonton Board of Trade, wrote asking for information as to the prospects of the British Pacific Railway project in which Edmonton and Victoria were alike interested, and assuring the Board that Edmonton would do all in its power to secure the success of a project which would no longer render it necessary for exports to the Pacific to describe two sides of a triangle via Calgary.

A letter from W. S. Gore, deputy commissioner of lands and works, enclosing the following letter, was received:

Portland, Ore., July 5, 1894.

Hon. Forbes Vernon, Victoria, B. C.:

DEAR SIR—Mrs. Douglas, formerly of your city, gave me your name, and I take the liberty of addressing you in behalf of a friend of mine who is looking for a location to establish a sponging, finishing and dye works. He controls some \$15,000 or \$20,000, and would employ about thirty men. The party, Mr. John S. Clark, will come here very shortly, and I would like to hear from you before he gets here. Advise me if you think such a plant would pay Mr. Clark in Victoria or Vancouver, and if a company with \$30,000 cash capital could be organized, \$20,000 to be subscribed by Clark and \$10,000 in Victoria or Vancouver? He is to be the owner by purchase of the right to waterproof textile fabrics by a porous process. Silks, serges, woollens and all

kinds of fabrics can be waterproofed without any injury whatever. He handles this in connection with the above described plant. Very truly,
W. L. GAZZAM.

In answer to a letter from Mr. Theo. Lewis, president of the Fraser River relief committee, the president was requested to attend the meeting at Vancouver.

Mr. Collyer, secretary of the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce, delegated to interview the Board respecting an exhibit at the Tacoma interstate fair, was introduced by the president. After putting in a few good words for Tacoma and the former interstate fair, he spoke of the exhibits that were to be made at the coming fair.

Several members pointed out the difficulty of obtaining a mineral exhibit.

Moved by Mr. Leiser, seconded by Mr. Croft, that a committee be appointed to wait on the Government and ask that they make as good an exhibit as possible at Tacoma. The motion was adopted and the following committee was named: Messrs. Croft, Leiser, Renouf and Bos-tock.

The Board adjourned at 1 o'clock.

AUSTRALIAN FRUITS IN ENGLAND

Referring to the above subject, the *Australian Agriculturist* says: "Mildura dried fruits have made their debut on the English market, the goal of the colonial culturist's ambition, with a flourish of trumpets which augurs well for future appearances. The first consignment consisting of 800 boxes, realized an average of 98s. per cwt. or 10½d. per pound, which is 15 per cent. above the value set by buyers on the new crop of dried fruits from California. In fact it is declared that the highest recorded price for goods of that kind has been attained. The news received by cable has naturally caused a sensation among those who are looking to this branch of industry for a livelihood, particularly at Mildura itself,

where the season's crop is expected to reach 2,500 tons. For some time past much of the gilt has been absent from Mildura's gingerbread, and the people were beginning to hint that the Chaffey's huge experiment would turn out a gigantic failure. Now, however, the pessimists are silent, and the prospects of the fruit growers of the model settlement are brighter than the most hopeful of them ever looked for. It is to be hoped that the good beginning just made may lead to continued success. There is no reason why it should not. We are told that the demand for fruit of such quality as that which has just been sold at a high price is practically unlimited, as the Californian article cannot compete with it on anything like equal terms, and the inevitable result of superiority of quality must follow the development of trade."

COAST TRADE.

The *West Coast Trade* says:—"Business is on the up-grade. That is the opinion of local jobbers in nearly all lines, and that is the condition which has been looked forward to with the greatest longing for over a year past. We do not look for any remarkable changes in the volume of trade for the immediate future and it is not to be anticipated that the recovery from a long period of depression can occur all at once, but present indications all go to show that the turn in the proverbial lane has been reached and that we may reasonably expect to see steady and satisfactory development under the stimulus of a renewed demand for our products, and that by the exercise of a fair degree of confidence the mercantile business of the Pacific north-west may reap profits from their business in the future. The crops of the entire Pacific coast are, with very few exceptions, going to be larger than the average yield, and this state in particular will this season market a very largely increased amount of agricultural products than ever before. The returns from these shipments both by rail and water will not, of course, be equal to what would be the case in a year of high prices, but the increase in bulk will undoubtedly more than compensate for this difference, and the fact that the money has a greater purchasing power than heretofore will be a factor in assisting in trade revival. Confidence is returning in every section of the country and will be greatly stimulated by congress drowning the tariff ghost. This confidence is being felt here in the revival of interest in the embarking of new enterprises both large and small and the forsaking of that rigid conservatism heretofore in practice, to a certain extent. Merchants are stocking up more freely and are on the lookout for bargains again. With the improvement in collections and finances, the situation shows many points from which to take encouragement."