

LUMBER.

The lumber market is quiet. There is a continued scarcity of tonnage, which is caused by the strong tendency of grain freights and the weakness of the Australian market. The bark Formosa has nearly completed her cargo at the Hastings Mill, for Valparaiso. The Moodyville saw mill started running last week to supply the American barkentine Catherine Sudden with cargo for Tientsin, China.

There is little to speak of doing in Eastern shipping, which does not develop until the spring opens up in Manitoba and the Territories. The demand in the eastern market, this coming season, is expected to be greater than ever before, as it has increased yearly. In the local trade it is reported that more bills are offering than ever before at this time of the year. Finer residences are going to be built this season and a better class of business blocks erected. Competition is very keen for the trade and prices are low. We quote; rough, \$10; dressed, \$17.50@30; shingles, \$2; laths \$2.

BRADSTREET'S FINANCIAL REPORT.

NEW YORK, March 20.—Bradstreet's says speculation has been extremely dull and prices have generally tended lower during the past week under the influence of gold shipments and continual signs of financial uneasiness abroad. It is true that fears of the collapse of a large London firm, whose entanglements in South American railroad contracts made it a very disturbing element in the London market, has been averted, and at the same time the financial crisis in Buenos Ayres seems to be passing over, and the premium on gold there has fallen, but it is evident that London is not yet in a condition to take any interest in our security market, unless it is for temporary speculative turns, encouragement for which must come from this side of the ocean.

Unfortunately, immediate influences here are not calculated to encourage speculative improvement. The action of the treasury in placing restrictions upon the facility with which gold can be taken from the treasury for shipment abroad is no doubt a salutary exercise of the powers conferred on it at the last session of congress. In charging a premium for gold bars, finally in deciding to redeem legal tenders or gold certificates only in coin, our government only conforms its practice to that of the Bank of England and continental state banks.

The strong demand for and large sales of Australian wool have been the principal features of the wool markets during the week. Fine territorial and Texas wools are the most active of domestic grades. Other wools are comparatively quiet, but values remain unchanged. Australian wools have taken the place of Ohio fleeces to some extent, and sales which have been made of the latter are small and have shown a gradual decrease for several weeks. Quarter and three-eighths blood wools are in strong request and very firm. The supply is very small, and the quantity which has changed hands during the week has been large, considering the size and quality of stocks. Pulled wools are moving well, and few choice lots can be found in any of the leading markets. Carpet wools are in fair demand, and quotations are firm and unchanged.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

D. C. Coverlay has opened a grocery at Mount Pleasant, Vancouver.

Weeks & Ford, grocers, Vancouver, have dissolved. Geo. W. Weeks continues.

Mr. Cartwright, of Vancouver, has bought the Landsdowne Hotel at Lansdowne.

E. H. Cole, grocer, Vancouver, has sold out to Andrew J. Whitenack, from Portland.

The Dominion Hotel, Kamloops, is advertised for sale by Mrs. P. Nelson, the owner.

Howell & Logg are opening a tailoring establishment in the Priard block. Both practical men.

Schneider & McDonald, Landsdowne, have dissolved partnership, Schneider continuing the business.

John Tiernay intends opening a grocery store at the corner of Howe and Pender streets, Vancouver.

Chas Herd, late of Beggs & Herd, New Westminster, intends going into the tailoring business in Victoria.

Adderton & Smith, bakers, Nanaimo, have dissolved partnership. The business will be continued by Smith & Hague.

Chas. W. Minor has taken over the interest of W. H. Pennock in the jewellery firm of Pennock & Kingham, Victoria.

W. E. Cook, late with Lenz & Leiser, intends opening out in dry goods and gent's furnishings about May 15th in Victoria.

Alex. P. Joyce, real estate agent, Victoria, has admitted J. T. L. Meyer, late of Calgary, as partner, under the firm name of Joyce & Meyer.

S. F. McIntosh and J. W. Endean have bought out the Rock Bay Coal, Wood and Lumber Yard, Victoria, from Richardson & Heathorn.

Richard P. Sharp and Samuel Maclure, New Westminster, have entered into partnership as architects, under the firm name of Sharp & Maclure.

McMillan & Son, Vancouver, have sold their grocery business to Brown Bros. Messrs. S. H. and Alex. Brown come from Prince Edward Island.

The firm of W. L. Davis & Co., grocers, has changed. Edward Burrows sold out his third interest, and Frank Fillion has been admitted as full partner.

Prout & Insley, proprietors of the Leland House, Vancouver, have dissolved. Chas. Edwards, formerly of Melbourne, Australia, has bought Mr. Prout's interest.

H. C. Macaulay retires from business as proprietor of the Victoria Coal, Wood and Lumber Yard; the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Co. (L'd) succeeding.

D. Lyal & Co., New Westminster, have bought out Zed. S. Hall, bookseller and stationer, of same place. They intend opening a wholesale stationery warehouse.

The partnership between James Rosseau and H. R. Dewsbury, under the firm name of Rosseau & Co., boots and shoes, New Westminster, has been dissolved. James Rosseau continues.

William J. and Thomas B. Whitley, formerly of Emerson, Manitoba, have bought the grocery business of Major Wilkins, Vancouver, and will continue it under the firm name of Whitley Bros.

BACK AGAIN.

Mr. Robt. Ward, president of the British Columbia Board of Trade, returned from England, on Saturday last, after six months absence from this city, and on reaching town remarked that he had been wonderfully well pleased with the marked signs of progress and prosperity which characterized Victoria. He returned by the Inman SS. City of New York and Northern Pacific Railway, making the journey, exclusive of a day and a half's stay in New York, in the rapid time of twelve and a half days. He observed that, except for the attention which the late Dominion elections had aroused, but little interest was taken in matters Canadian, and he thought the opportunity a grand one for making known to the people at home the resources and development of this magnificent colony. He spoke of the comparative lack of business confidence which prevailed in the mother country, caused by late financial and commercial complications, on which account it was by no means as easy to negotiate loans as had been supposed. He thought it was a great mistake to attempt to sell *furo per cent.* loans of Victoria, or any other Colonial city, upon the London market. There was not such a plethora of money as would induce capitalists to readily let out their money at such a rate. It would be far more economical to place them at 4½ as relatively a much higher price for the debentures could be obtained. The city of Montreal had signally failed with its million dollar issue of 3½ percents. They had altogether gone a begging, the very best offer having been 79. At present that loan had not been placed. Referring to the salmon trade, he had found that the large consignments of Alaska fish of indifferent quality had tended to keep down the price of the better grades of British Columbia goods. This showed that the canners sought to be afforded every facility for putting up their goods as economically as possible. The outlook might be regarded as fairly good, although there was the same lack of speculative feeling in this line as in most other branches.

A WEAK POINT IN STOREKEEPING.

Upon the readers of the Monetary Times has frequently been urged the importance of the care and intelligence necessary to a proper reckoning of the profits of a business. We fear that in too many instances it is a feature of a storekeeper's bookkeeping about which a great deal of ignorance, or culpable neglect is shown. Instances of almost weekly occurrence may be had from the columns of this journal which indicate that there are traders who have never known what it meant to take stock, and even where this had been done the system pursued was so crude that the most vital elements in the calculation were never included.—Monetary Times.

Another month will see all the rock work finished up on the Columbia and Kootenay. Grading will be re-commenced as soon as the frost is out of the ground. The weather has just been cold enough to require vigorous exercise to keep warm, hence the rapid progress reported by Mr. McCammon, who has charge of the work.—Nelson Miner.