

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

Manitoba will have its Arbor Day on May 7th.

The estimates will be ready when the House opens, and the budget delivered early.

J. P. Donald, alias Heeney, has been arrested at Portland for the alleged crime of embezzling a large sum of money. Donald is wanted at Toronto.

The Haggert Bros. Manufacturing Co., Brampton, have gone into liquidation, the Council having decided on Wednesday night to take legal proceedings under the bond and mortgage held by the corporation.

A letter from the Secretary of the Interstate Commerce Commission says that the Commission will be in Spokane between the 15th and 20th of May, and asks if the Spokane merchants desire to bring a case on the freight question.

It is estimated that the wheat crop of Europe will be short 11,000,000 bushels, and competent authorities say that Australia and India will not increase their production, so that good prices are promised Manitoba farmers next fall.

Previous to his departure from Toronto for British Columbia, Mr. J. H. Falconer, of the Victoria Sauce, Pickling and Preserving Works, was presented with an address by the Caithness Society, expressive of the high appreciation in which he was held by the members, and of their regret at his departure.

The C. P. R. Company has commenced the construction of a three-wire line of telegraph from Mission Junction to Sumas City, to make connection there with the Pacific Postal telegraph system. This will give complete railway telegraph connection from British Columbia to Seattle. The new line will be completed in about two weeks. Mr. James Wilson is overseeing the work.

An invoice received by the caterer of an English regiment stationed in India, contained this bewildering item: "One case of Tomcats." No one had asked the caterer to order any dainties of that kind, and the mystery remained unsolved until the package arrived. Then it appeared that the grocer's assistant had a fancy for abbreviation, and that "tom cats" was only his way of writing the name of that useful condiment, tomato catsup.

It is understood that there will not be more than one or two changes in the tariff this session.

It is currently reported that the Calgary & Edmonton Railway will be extended to Macleod this fall.

Welsh tin-platers will close their works for one month from July 1, being forced to restrict the output in consequence of the new American tariff law.

Surveyor-General Deville says that it is not so that Canada has lost a large slice of territory along the southern boundary of British Columbia, but that the contrary is the case.

An American inventor has brought out a process for making soap from the resinous matter in the needles of the pine tree. The resin is extracted by means of alkali, and the woody fibre is removed from the product, which, on condition of fat, yields an ordinary soap containing resinous and fatty acids.

The Toronto Board of Trade has adopted the following resolution: "This board is of the opinion that the time has come in the interests of the Empire when closer fiscal relations should be entered into between Great Britain and her colonies, and that the import duty, imposed by Great Britain, on the food products of other nations with no tariff against her own products, will not enhance the value of food products of the Empire, but will materially increase production therein and place her in a position for her food supply in the near future."

The tenth annual meeting of the shareholders of the C. P. R. for the election of directors and the transaction of business generally will be held on Wednesday, the 13th of May next, at the principal office of the company, at Montreal, at 12 o'clock, noon. The meeting will be made special, for the purpose of taking such steps as may be deemed expedient, in order to give effect to any legislation by the Parliament of Canada authorizing the issue of consolidated debenture stock in respect of company's for the Souris branch railway, Columbia and Kootenay railway, Lake Temiscamingue Colonization railway, Calgary and Edmonton and a railway from Saskatoon to the waters of North Saskatchewan River and of outstanding obligations in connection with the Manitoba South Western Colonization railway.

The work of grading and building the Great Northern road through the Kootenay country will soon employ several thousand men.

Construction work on the big ditch or canal of the Northern Pacific & Yakima Irrigation Company has been commenced. This work as laid out will require the expenditure of about \$3,000,000.

It is shown by the report of the United States consulate that there has been a decrease in exports from Northern Germany to the United States for the first quarter of 1891 of \$2,439,855, as compared with exports during the corresponding quarter of 1890.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has entered into an agreement with the Manitoba Government to build the Souris branch, and has made a contract with the Dominion Coal Co., whereby the latter will develop the Souris coal mines, and land coal in Winnipeg at \$4 per ton. The Manitoba Government is to pay the C. P. R. a bonus of \$150,000, for 150 miles to be built this season.

A likelihood of higher prices for tea is argued by the Pall Mall Gazette as under. "Tea has risen in price on the strength of the statistical position, and it looks as if the advance would be maintained for some time to come. On the one hand the supplies from China have continued to shrink as they have done for years past, while in consequence of climatic conditions the Indian crop has not increased. The total export from China, this season, is not more than 70,000,000 pounds, whilst last season it was 94,000,000, so that there is a shrinkage of 24,000,000 pounds. The first estimates of the Indian crop put the total at 115,000,000, but revised estimates brought the amount down to 110,000,000, and the latest figures indicate a still further shrinkage. After other requirements have been provided for, the amount available for export in 1890-91 in Great Britain is not likely to exceed the 98,000,000 pounds shipped in 1889-90. Simultaneously with this decrease in the supplies, there has been an increase in the consumption to the extent of 5,000,000 pounds. The reduction of the duty has apparently stimulated tea drinking (in Britain,) and after remaining stationary for some time, the amount per head has gone up."