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British Columbia Brief Business Notes

Canadian Australian Commission and Trading Co., Ltd, Vancouver, opened branch at Sydney, N. S. W.

W. H. Hooper, auctioneer and commission merchant, formerly of Brandon, Man., has opened at Vancouver.

The Gulf of Georgia Canning Factory is completed. It has a capacity of 30,000 cases and a large pack is expected.

A. D. Whittier is back from London, having floated a company of \$500,000 capital to operate a William's Creek mining proposition.

The following canneries are packing spring salmon: Ewen's, Canadian Pacific, Good Murphy's, Moss Ross and Dunsmuir Island.

A dispatch from Australia states that Mr. Cooté has received an offer from a French firm to build a sugar refinery in Westbury, Australia, to cost 40,000 pounds sterling.

The Real Estate Loan Company of Canada has been registered in the Companies act. The company will engage in business in British Columbia. Head office at Toronto; capital, 1,600,000.

R. Dunsmuir & Sons, Victoria, have placed a large order for "mineral wool" for their cold storage establishment with M. Strouse, who represents the Canadian Mineral Wool Co. of Toronto.

The Empress of India arrived from the Orient on May 22 bringing 175 saloon passengers, 226 Chinese and 2,800 tons of cargo, amongst which is a quantity of new tea and fifty four sacks of mail.

The North Star Mining Company has made application for incorporation. The applicants are John Milne Browning, Edward Pease Davis, and Chester Benjamin MacNeill, all of the city of Vancouver, and the capital stock is fixed at \$100,000, in \$100 shares.

Ashfield & Company, wholesale produce and fruit merchants, have been succeeded by Aitken & Mowat, Mr. Ashfield having sold out his interest to Mr. Mowat. Mr. Ashfield intends to devote his whole time to his general agencies.

Logs are very scarce at present, and it is difficult for local men to obtain sufficient supplies. It is said that too many timber limits are locked up through the alleged owners disregarding the enactments of the Provincial legislature.

The Albemarle paper mill is now in operation. The paper and pulp mill machinery is of the most approved description for working up the refuse from the saw mill, and also any other paper making material, consisting of rag and rope cutting machine, wood barking, chipping, crushing and pulping machines, two large globular boilers, two roller gangs with granite runners, five rag beaters, four Driver paper making machines with five cylinders, large reel paper cutting machine, bag making and printing machinery, capable of turning out 10,000 bags an hour. There is also an engineer and blacksmith's shop, fitted with large lath, saw bench, etc., a massive steam boiler for boiling and drying.

Live Stock Market.

At the Montreal stock yards, Point St. Charles, the receipts of live stock for the week ending May 19, were: 1,500 cattle, 923 sheep, 477 hogs, 461 calves; lost over from previous week, 120 cattle, 100 hogs; total for week, 1,680 cattle, 923 sheep, 577 hogs, 461 calves; on hand, 307 cattle, 197 sheep, 1,600 cattle were received at these yards during the week, of which about 500 were for local consumption, which met with a slow trade, closing with several lots unsold. Quite a large number of export cattle changed hands on Monday. A limited supply of hogs this week, closing higher. Sheep and lambs firm. Calves an over supply. We quote the following as being fair values: Cattle, export, 3½ to 4½; cattle, butchers' good, 3½ to 3¾; cattle, butchers' medium, 3 to 3¾; cattle, butchers' culls, 2 to 3c; hogs, \$5.25 to \$5.40; lambs, 4 to 5c; calves, \$1 to \$5.

The Liverpool cable on May 21 says: "Notwithstanding the heavy receipts and the general supply of cattle being fair, the tone of the market was firmer and values were ¼ to ½c per lb higher, with the prospects better for the future. We quote:—Finest steers, 10c; good to choice, 9½c; poor to medium, 8½c; inferior and bulls, 5 to 6½c."

The Montreal Gazette of May 22 says:—"The fourth shipment Manitoba cattle arrived at the Canadian Pacific stock yards yesterday. It consisted of twenty cars of cattle and four cars of hogs for Gordon & Ionside and two cars of cattle for O. L. Head, which are all for shipment this week. The freight market continues to rule weak, and rates have a downward tendency; in fact, the indications are that they will touch the lowest point so far this season this week. It was rumored to day that Liverpool space was off-red at 30s, while on the other hand some shippers stated that they were paying 35s on regular lines, and we quote 27s 6d to 35s all round."

Frost in the States.

St. Paul, Minnesota, May 19.—The frost, which struck the Northwest last night, extended over all of Minnesota and South Dakota. It cleared off shortly before midnight, and a heavy frost was the result. Farmers from the country districts around St. Paul report that the damage to small fruit, small grain and vegetables is large. They express the fear that the young corn is entirely killed, and that strawberries will be a light crop.

Springfield, Illinois, May 20.—The frost of last night did practically no damage to the wheat crop here. At the time of the frost the weather was dry and the wind blew continually. Wheat in general looks well, and there is a prospect for a fair crop.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 20.—Reports from the lake shore counties show that there have been frosts there yesterday and to day, and it is feared the crops have been severely damaged. The fruit crop in the entire tier of the lake counties is ruined. Frost is reported from a number of inland points. In some places ice formed.

Topeka, Kansas, May 20.—Thursday night the temperature fell rapidly throughout Kansas, and Friday and Saturday nights heavy frosts occurred. Wheat fields have turned brown from the effects of the frost, and growth will undoubtedly be retarded.

Omaha, Nebraska, May 20.—Reports from fifty counties in Nebraska show that the frost last night was general over the state. Winter wheat in many sections is turning black, but farmers generally are of the opinion that it will recover from the set back.

Clinton, Iowa, May 21.—Reports from agricultural districts extending over a distance of a hundred miles are that the frost Saturday night was general and heavy, freezing small grain, vegetables and oven clover, which blackened and wilted the next forenoon.

British Grain Trade.

The London cable on May 19 says.—The weather during the week has been cold, and, owing to the lack of sunshine on the poor lands, the wheat has been injured. The wheat market has been depressed. There was some demand for cargoes arrived, but in forward business there was nothing doing. Russian and La Plata wheats were freely offered. Stocks were ample and buyers were scarce. California loaded was quoted at 25s 4½d. Parcels were quiet and weak. All wheats were 8d to 1s down. Red winter parcels, June delivery, were quoted at 20s 3d. Flour was dull and inactive at 3d to 6d lower. First Minnesota bakers' was quoted at 16s to 10s.

Cold Weather in the States.

The weekly weather report issued at Washington, for the week ended May 21, says:—"The week has been one of unusual temperature extremes, the difference between the highest and lowest temperatures amounting to as much as 60 degrees in the upper Missouri valley, and ranging from 40 to 60 degrees over the greater portion of the country east of the Rocky Mountains. Ice formed in Wisconsin, and snow fell in Michigan, Indiana and Kentucky, being unusually heavy in the eastern and central portions of the last named state, which was covered with from two to eight inches on the 20th. In Kentucky and northern Florida the temperature reached the lowest point that has been recorded in May since the establishment of the weather bureau. Frosts, more or less damaging, occurred in New England, the lake region, generally throughout the states of the upper Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio valleys, and as far south as northern Mississippi."

The New York Herald announces that the Standard oil company has concluded negotiations with the Russian oil companies which will result in a division of the entire world's market between the two. It is said that the Standard company will have the monopoly of the British Islands, France and most of western Europe.