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Vo 57.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PRODUCE FIFTY MILLION LAST YEAR.

A BANNER SHOWING FOR THE PACIFIC PROVINCE.

ENORMOUS STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE IN ALL BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY

Wealth to the extent of \$1,250 for every white man in the province was produced during the year ending 30th June, 1906.

Hon. R. G. Tatlow, minister of finance, is entitled to speak with authority on the subject. He was good enough to give a Times representative an interview in which he made public many interesting statistics and a brief forecast of the future of the province. After a residence of 26 years he is as optimistic as ever regarding the future of British Columbia. He spoke with great enthusiasm and pointed to recent progress as a safe criterion by which to judge what is to come.

"I am satisfied," he said in answer to a question, "that every industry in British Columbia is only in its infancy. We have forests limitless for lumber, land in millions of acres for agriculture and the seven thousand miles of shore line are washed by seas teeming with fish.

"To comprehend the future one must study the past. In order to do this with some correctness I had statistics prepared covering the past financial year and was surprised at the splendid showing. The total production of the province for the year ending June 30th, was Over \$50,000,000.

As the population in the vicinity of 200,000 including Indians, Mongolians, women and children I think it safe to say the total number of able bodied white men is not more than one-fifth of this, or 40,000. Dividing the total value of provincial products by this number it appears that for every white man there was produced considerably over \$1,250 during the past year. I do not think any place in the world can equal this.

"Details of this production should be of public interest. Taking, first, the lumber industry the actual receipts were slightly over the estimate I gave you at the end of June. The actual revenue from this source was \$508,000 or within a fraction of double the estimate which was \$325,000. In value the lumber cut Exceeded All Expectations.

As closely as I can ascertain it reached over \$7,500,000. And, best of all, it was manufactured in the province. The government did not reap all the benefit derived from the forests as would have been largely the case if export in a virgin state were permitted. Probably half of this large sum went into the pockets of the thousands of workmen employed in the industry.

"As you know, in 1905 the mineral output of the province was \$22,461,325. This was an extremely high figure for an industry only a few years old to reach and the most satisfactory feature about it is that practically all was not only mined but smelted here. There are now eleven smelters and one refinery in Active Operation with a combined capacity of 7,500 tons a day, and very little goes out of the province in the form of ore. Should at any time an indication be apparent to ship much mineral from British Columbia before smelting I should be in favor of a similar course to that taken

regarding lumber and prohibit such exportation. "Agriculture also advanced in common with every other line of work during the past year. This province has always been a great purchaser up till the present, but now the tide has turned. The most promising feature, I think, regarding this industry is the fact that our imports of this character are decreasing rapidly. Last year the produce of provincial farms and orchards reached the sum of \$6,500,000, and there was a decrease in the value of such goods brought in of \$500,000. If this rate is continued in a short time local produce will fully Supply Local Markets.

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The Pacific Coast Advertising Men Now Visiting Victoria. The above group was taken at 10 this morning at the Tourist Association rooms. Frederick Scottford, of the Queen Hotel, is seated on the floor on the left in front. President Stables is fourth from the left in the second row. Vice-President Hall, fifth from the left and Secretary Mertz second from the left.

changed beyond recognition, running something like the following: "We won't be home until morning. We won't be home until morning. So hip, hip, hurrah! We want to live in Victoria. We want to live in Victoria. We won't go home at all. And so the dinner continued, sparkling throughout with the evidence of perfect good fellowship and unrestrained enjoyment. The viands were all that could be desired, the table decorations of the occasion. The informal lines upon which the affair was conducted made it that they gave their spirits a mine hostess, Mrs. Wark, and the management of the Times feel that the trouble they had gone to in arranging the entertainment was worth while.

The toast list was somewhat irregular. The chairman, Mr. Neilson, in a few remarks, spoke of the pleasure in entertaining a body of men engaged in the exploitation of the resources of the Pacific coast. Some of those present were making their first visit to Canadian soil, and he was sure they didn't notice much difference. (Applause.) Had the Anglo-Saxon nations been as wise as the present generation there would never have been any difference. The flags, it was true, were not the same. It was a trait of the race that whatever form of government was undertaken it was developed to its highest standard. He thought it could be stated without egotism that the President of the United States and the King of Great Britain were the two most progressive and enlightened statesmen of the age. (Enthusiastic applause.)

Vice-President Hall, in a brief address, remarked that the visit of members of the Pacific Coast Advertising Men's Association to British Columbia's capital had opened their eyes to the possibilities of this country. The little feast which had been so much enjoyed would always remain one of their pleasantest recollections of "Victoria, the Beautiful, the Gateway to the Orient from Canada."

F. E. Scottford's speech was along much the same lines as that of the vice-president. E. Gosnell, editor of the Colonist, then was called upon to propose the health of the visitors. It gave Victorians great pleasure to co-mingle with the "ad" men of the coast on the occasion of their annual convention. They were in perfect sympathy with the laudable endeavor towards the development and the bringing into prominence what the coast has to offer to the settler and to outside capital. He asked that all drink to the visitors, which was done, the chorus, "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows," being sung with enthusiasm.

After a toast to President Roosevelt, proposed by Dr. Elliott S. Rowe, had been honored, one was drunk to the management of the Times Printing & Publishing Co., coupled with which was the name of the hostess and proprietor of the Strathcona hotel, Mrs. Wark. The gathering then broke up in time to catch the returning E. & N. train. Arriving in Victoria the visitors marched in line to the front of the two newspaper offices and serenaded them. Thus ended the first entertainment in Victoria in honor of the delegates to the annual convention of the "ad" men's league.

Those whose modesty kept them in the background, therefore, were the privileged spectators of the downfall of the dignity of several of Victoria's most prominent citizens. Another favorite of the forenoon was the crowd going from one car to another, and making the windows shake by the concert of their lusty voices in exploiting the advantages of advertising through the medium of the press. It is a venture to state that ten years from now British Columbia will have attained the prominent place in the world that is her's by right.

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VICTORIA'S MILES OF GARDENS UNDER GLASS

This City Supplies Hot House Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers to Pleased Purchasers From Winnipeg to Alaska.

From the snow-clad plains of Alaska and the blizzard swept prairies of Manitoba came last winter the call for Victoria hot house vegetables. Needless to say the demand was met as far as possible, for this city boasts a record extent of gardens under glass. The trade in forced garden products is practically a new one here, but is rapidly attaining large dimensions. A crown of floral beauty has for many years rested on the head of this city beautiful, but utility, too, has its place in commercial economy. It was Arthur Brechley, formerly manager for F. R. Stewart & Co., started the idea and it has been taken up with avidity. But credit should be given where due and public acknowledgment made of the father of a new and growing industry. Twenty-five acres is an expert estimate of the total area of glass covered greenhouses in this city. To glaze these—sides lights and roof slopes being taken into consideration—required 2,178,000 feet of glass. Under these extensive areas are grown tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce in winter and spring, while flowers replace the vegetables at other seasons of the year. Placed end to end these greenhouses would form a line ten and a half miles long of twenty-foot wide structures. If Government street were swollen miles long this glass would make a flat roof for it.

By this continuous succession of profitable cultivation local florists are achieving great prosperity. In the winter lettuce is the principal crop, and it is shipped as far east as Winnipeg. Small quantities have even been taken over the midwinter trails to Dawson. Swiftwater Bill, when on his periodical blow-outs, has probably added many dollars to the wealth of Victoria gardeners. Cucumbers are first placed on the market in February and the supply is continued until the advent of the open air crop. Tomatoes arrive fully ripe about May and there is a continuous output until about the end of August. The value placed on the latter crop can be well judged by the following extract from the current issue of the Winnipeg Commercial: "British Columbia hot house tomatoes, perfect in texture and flavor, are now offered for 30 cents per pound, while Texas come at 10 cents. The British Columbia tomatoes are beautifully packed and the crates are a perfect picture. They are much cheaper at 20 cents than southern ones at 10 cents, as there is no waste."

"The 'made in Victoria' label should have been placed on the produce mentioned, as these tomatoes were grown by A. J. Woodward in his greenhouses at Ross Bay. Horticultural experience covering many years has been gained by the gentleman mentioned. The fruit of it is shown in the large area he now has under cultivation. His gardens cover the extent of eight acres, of which three and a half are under glass. He was one of the pioneers in the export business and raises his produce directly for the market. Tomatoes have been shipped for the past two or three years, but a further branching out was made last winter when flowers were sent east for the first time. The new provinces and Manitoba are the principal places to which he ships, but has also been opened in Alaska and the Yukon. Other growers are in a similar position; he is only one of many who are attaining a competence by furnishing vegetables in winter to places having a cold climate. During the present season up till the end of June F. R. Stewart & Co. handled \$12,581 worth of these hot house products. This does not include by any means all the shipments. At least one of the larger growers of whose product no information is obtainable, not being included.

The rhubarb was received during the winter months; the lettuce from November to May; the cucumbers from March onward, and the tomato crop is now in full swing. Following are the details: Exported. 1,180 crates tomatoes \$3,503 1,232 dozen cucumbers 1,350 2,150 lbs. rhubarb 357 2,972 crates lettuce 3,250 Total value \$8,500 Used Locally. 473 crates tomatoes \$1,473 212 dozen cucumbers 468

3,729 lbs. rhubarb 465 1,665 crates lettuce 1,715 Total value \$4,681 Other houses handling this class of goods will probably bring the total up to \$20,000. And this for practically the first year of an industry that is yet in its infancy. Turning now to Victoria's export of cut flowers, an even Newer Branch of Industry is reached. This was only started last winter, but initial shipments were so encouraging that arrangements will be made for a much larger trade at the end of the present year. The blossoms of bulbous plants formed a large portion of those exported, the varieties being principally daffodils, hyacinths and narcissi. But Victoria roses were not forgotten. The queen of flowers is too much a favorite and grown in such profusion, both in greenhouses and gardens. There is ample opportunity for an extended market, and full advantage will be taken of it. Carefully packed in cotton wool, carried rapidly by railway and ferry, Victoria flowers adorned the tables of people in Winnipeg around the Christmas season.

Although not actually within the purview of gardens under glass, the trade in nursery stock is germane to it. This industry, one of many years in existence in Victoria, is growing rapidly. One nurseryman has been in the business for 23 years, and his only change during the whole period has been to add to the land originally purchased. All varieties of desert and cooking fruits, flowering and ornamental foliage plants are being successfully grown for the market. For roses Victoria has always held a high position, and some nurserymen have between 60 and 70 varieties under cultivation. Every part of the world has been called upon to provide stock for propagation here. Not only the average trees and shrubs that seem synonymous with happiness are grown, but also the yew and cypress usually associated with habilitations of woe. The success attained by Sir Henri Jule in acclimatizing eastern hardwood trees has induced others to embark in this line of effort. In a year or two small sized trees of this kind will be secure here.

Orchard fruits attain the verge of perfection in and near Victoria. Apples particularly are known far and wide as being produced in heavy crops of the highest quality. Small fruits of many descriptions thrive and bear plentifully. Strawberries grown just outside the city Command the Highest Figure wherever displayed. The failure of the Hood river crop this season caused a great shortage on the mainland, and it was to Victoria the merchants of Vancouver looked for their supply. It was forthcoming, and local fruit growers reaped a large amount of cash from their gardens. Of course, the prairie provinces will be ultimately the most important outside market for Victoria fruit, and it is interesting to know that already the country as far east as Winnipeg has been tapped. California fruit has heretofore been the principal supply in the provinces east of the Rockies, but buyers are more than willing to pay much higher for Victoria fruit that ripens to perfection and for quality and flavor, has competed successfully with the banner districts of the old country.

As stated in the Times a couple of months ago, the recent discovery that the climate of Victoria is eminently suited to the propagation of bulbs has created great interest. The "bit of Holland at Oak Bay," in which E. B. Wallace carries on his experiments, has been the subject of enquiries from all over the world. Advantage will be taken of the fact that bulbous blossoms that have to be produced under glass in New York and Chicago can be obtained here from plants grown in the open air. Cost of production is thus practically cut into three. Flowers that are rated at \$2.50 per hundred in the outside cities mentioned, can be raised in Victoria for less than \$1, including bookerage and transportation charges. The shipping quality of these blossoms has been tested and found admirable, and there will be no difficulty, with careful packing, in landing Victoria cut flowers in first class condition in New York. For the sale of bulbs for planting, Victoria possesses equal advantages to the best

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