

ISLAND LEAGUE IS LAUNCHED

Concerted Action to Be Taken to Urge Development of District

PROGRAMME BLOCKED OUT

Officers Elected and Plans Discussed—Sessions Prove of Great Interest

(From Saturday's Daily)

The Vancouver Island Development League has been formally constituted, its officers elected and a programme defined for it. At the first session of the league yesterday afternoon, W. J. Sutton, president of the Wellington Coal Co., had the honor of the opening address. Mr. Chapman, a publicist expert of Portland and a prominent member of the board of directors of that city, had the honor of the address which was bound to attract a large audience. The speaker, who was accompanied by his wife, outlined the advantages which these resources lent as had been proven in the case of the Victoria alone, but it was a work in the fruition of which the entire island would benefit.

THE MORNING SESSION

The morning session was opened by Simon Leiser, president of the Board of Trade. In asking Col. Prior to take the chair, he referred to the valuable work which the committee, of which he was the chairman, had done. It was not for the benefit of Victoria alone, but it was a work in the fruition of which the entire island would benefit.

Col. Prior, before introducing the first speaker of the day, referred to the pleasure he had in having the delegates from the different portions of the island present. They were busy men, and he was confident that they would find the time which they were devoting to this question well spent. It was necessary for the entire island to pull together if it was to obtain its share of the progress and development which was being made in the province.

He reiterated Mr. Leiser's statement that the movement was not one for the aggrandizement of Victoria alone, but was one in which Victoria would only reap its proportionate harvest. The development of the island would only be in proportion to its population.

Addressing the delegates, who had been asked to deliver a lecture that morning, he referred to him as a man who was probably the best qualified to speak upon the question of the resources of the island, as he knew the better problems that they were facing. He was a geologist and scientist of known fame. Mr. Sutton was relieved with applause.

Mr. Sutton, in commencing, stated that he felt a little hesitation in addressing the delegates, but he felt that it was a duty which he owed to Vancouver Island. He had not developed as quickly as it might have done. This was due to a number of causes, but he would refer to them later.

He directed their attention to a little island in the north Atlantic, concerning which a witty Frenchman had written a clever book. That island was Newfoundland. He had written a book, "John Bull and His Island." That island was very similar in many connections to the island which we are now discussing. It was geographically a very fitting term to apply to the island which we are now discussing. It would be "John Bull, Jr. and His Island."

"Behold another England in the West. With pure air and rural scenery blest."

Its Timber Growth.

Vancouver Island was covered with a heavy growth of timber. This was one of the reasons why development had been slow at first. The timber, while a great asset, had delayed settlement. The vegetation grew rankly and trees required but little soil upon which to grow. There were immense areas of secondary importance, and these in the order of their importance were as follows:—Douglas fir, spruce, balsam, yellow cedar, and hemlock. The Douglas fir, the white pine, the arbutus and the dogwood. But the noblest wood of the entire island is the Douglas fir and its habitat was from Victoria at the extreme south to the neighborhood of Karmutson Lake. From there north the red cedar is predominant though it is also common amongst the fir in the district as far as San Juan and from there the spruce is found most frequently. Along the coast of the Pacific, cedar and balsam is the chief tree as far north as Barkley Sound and Quatsino. It reaches its maximum size up to an elevation of 2,000 feet, but then grows smaller and the hemlock comes in.

He did not wish to appear to be discriminating in favor of any one district, but he thought that the finest area for fir was in the neighborhood of Cowichan Lake. There is no place in the province where fir timber than the timber of this district grows. He knew of a clump in the neighborhood of Robertson Bay amounting to 12,000 acres which went 300,000 feet to the acre. Fine straight timber, it grew so tall that it was the eyes and neck to look up at it and it was of no great that, as the saying went, it took three men and a boy to see the top. He believed that the average of the island's good timber would go about 80,000 feet to the acre.

The Slaughter of Timber

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ed centuries to mature, ten centuries, some of them. A large cedar might take 100 years to mature. By hundreds of years to decay, and even after it fell it would take hundreds of years to decay.

The principal habitat of the red cedar was the West Coast. As one ascended from the coast the wood decreased and the fir is more extensive. The climate had much to do with this. The Barkley Sound is rainy, while Alberni is much more dry. The nature of the underlying rocks also was a feature in determining the nature of the timber. As a rule limestone goes with cedar.

Mr. Sutton referred again to the numerous deep inlets on the West Coast, and corrected a press report of his former address. He had not given the west coastline as 5,000 miles, but had stated that there were 5,000 miles of shore on that coast, including the numerous bays, inlets, and peninsulas of the West Coast as a barren and unsafe stretch. He would strongly advise a trip such as that which he had just made, and which he had just made, and which he had just made.

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Its Timber Growth.

Vancouver Island was covered with a heavy growth of timber. This was one of the reasons why development had been slow at first. The timber, while a great asset, had delayed settlement. The vegetation grew rankly and trees required but little soil upon which to grow. There were immense areas of secondary importance, and these in the order of their importance were as follows:—Douglas fir, spruce, balsam, yellow cedar, and hemlock. The Douglas fir, the white pine, the arbutus and the dogwood. But the noblest wood of the entire island is the Douglas fir and its habitat was from Victoria at the extreme south to the neighborhood of Karmutson Lake. From there north the red cedar is predominant though it is also common amongst the fir in the district as far as San Juan and from there the spruce is found most frequently. Along the coast of the Pacific, cedar and balsam is the chief tree as far north as Barkley Sound and Quatsino. It reaches its maximum size up to an elevation of 2,000 feet, but then grows smaller and the hemlock comes in.

The Slaughter of Timber

The wanton destruction of the island's timber resources was being touched upon by Mr. Sutton. The lumbermen had taken only the choicest portions of the timber. The preceptors had set fire to a tract of cedar worth \$100,000 to the acre. The public little realized the value of these magnificent trees, that had tak-

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to have headaches—an easy-taken body—a stuffy-feeling brain—even kept alert men and women, always their best, to give much chance of success to one thus handicapped.

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