

The Province AND MATTERS PROVINCIAL..

MONEY FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES

Road Superintendent Edward Trimble, of Revelstoke, has already begun the expenditure of his current appropriation of \$75,000 for roads and trails and \$17,000 for incidental bridges. These amounts being available will permit of very considerable work being done, and will be the means of opening up a vast territory adjacent to Revelstoke. In an interview, Mr. Trimble states that among the principal works of construction to be taken in hand this year and rushed to completion will be a road from Revelstoke to the power house. In this the city and the government will work in conjunction. Mr. Trimble already has a large gang at work repairing and rebuilding roads in the Camboorne district connecting with the towns of Trout Lake, Beaton and Comaplix, also the numerous trails leading to the various mines in the vicinity. Among the bridges which will be built is one across the Illecillewaet river, on the Fourth street extension, which will be erected this autumn. The work as planned so far for this season is as follows:

Road south to be extended two miles below Greenside; all roads in the vicinity of Revelstoke to be gravelled and rolled; Big Bend road to Steamboat Landing to be gravelled and graded; road to Columbia Park to be graded and gravelled; Greely Creek road to be extended at considerable length; Mount Revelstoke trail to be extended two miles; Trail up Jordan Pass to be extended; government and city to work in conjunction in building a road to the city power house; road from Big Eddy sawmill site to Boulder to be rebuilt; four and a half miles of new trail to be built to connect with new bridge across Gold Stream in Big Bend; trail from Gold Stream to Canoe river to be thoroughly repaired and in places rebuilt; several miles of new trail to the famous mica mines to be built; new ferry across the Columbia river near the mouth of Canoe river to be constructed; wagon road around Death Rapids to be completed; a wagon road connecting the town of Arrowhead with the Arrow Lakes to be built; a road connecting Revelstoke with Arrowhead to be constructed, work to commence simultaneously from both ends.

NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS NEEDED

In the course of their presentation to Mr. Justice Morrison at the unusually brief sitting of the Court of Assize held one day of last week at Kamloops, the Grand Jury reported that "An inspection of the Land Registry Office revealed the fact that the floor space afforded is entirely inadequate to present requirements, and with the large increase of business, it is evident that in the course of a very short time there will hardly be room for the present staff to move about. Nor do we consider the building sanitary. The wooden floors are rotting away, consequent upon lack of ventilation. We therefore strongly recommend that immediate steps be taken for the enlargement of the building and the rectification of the defects existing therein. The Provincial Home, in which there are upwards of 87 of our pioneers comfortably housed, we find to be in a neat and clean condition, but its accommodation is taxed to capacity. The Provincial Jail was found to be in excellent order, but crowded to its limit, and, in our opinion, totally inadequate to the requirements of this district, there being no fewer than 81 prisoners confined therein, under five jailers and a warden, which we consider insufficient for the safe handling of that number of prisoners, and we would strongly recommend an increase of the present staff. The Royal Inland Hospital was also found to be in a model condition of neatness, with an efficient staff of nurses.

We must again call your Lordship's attention to the numerous advanced cases of tuberculosis attracted to this district, and the urgent need of an institution for their treatment under government control. We wish also to draw your Lordship's attention to the limited accommodation afforded the traveling public in country hotels, and would ask that the license act be so revised as to increase the number of bedrooms."

CANADIAN DIAMONDS PASS TESTS

"The Canadian diamond has been tested by the greatest gem experts in the world and pronounced equal in quality to the famous product of South Africa," says R. A. Johnston, mineralogist and curator of the geological survey, at Ottawa. In January last diamonds were discovered in the Olivine mountains, in the Tulameen country. This was the first discovery of the kind made in Canada, and Mr. Johnston naturally became greatly interested, and sent for specimens of the glittering gems. The discovery soon became noised about, and other mineralogists in various parts of the world also became interested.

Among those in whom the discovery awakened a keen interest was Dr. Kunz, the Tiffany gem expert, and one of the foremost American authorities on precious stones. He wrote Mr. Johnston from New York and asked him to send specimens of the British Columbia diamonds for the purpose of having them tested. Instead of sending specimens, Mr. Johnston went to New York himself and took a quantity of the gems with him.

"Dr. Kunz and others were greatly surprised at the beauty of the Canadian diamond, and they are now enthusiastically singing its praises," says the Ottawa expert. "Dr. Kunz made tests with radium in a dark room. The Canadian diamond was placed alongside the South African product and showed itself to be its equal. It phosphoresced the same as any well ordered diamond should."

"This particular occurrence is regarded as likely to throw more light on the origin of the diamond than any other occurrence elsewhere. We have been searching through the rock, and with the aid of the microscopic slides have been able to see the diamond in the rock. This is the first occasion on which this has been done."

While in New York, Mr. Johnston gave an address on the Canadian diamond before the New York Mineralogical Club at the American Museum of Natural History. He exhibited the diamond and all were enthusiastic as to it.

Mr. Johnston stated that prospectors are likely to enter the new diamond fields in great numbers as soon as the snow in the mountains melts.

"The quality of the diamond is beyond dispute," says Mr. Johnston. "The only uncertain thing about it now is the size."

DOMINION GOVERNMENT MUDDLE

Another good example of how not to do it has been afforded by the Dominion Government but on this occasion the Ottawa authorities seem to have got their wires crossed in the process of shelving a somewhat controversial subject that they were asked to deal with.

For several months past the city of New Westminster has been endeavoring to have the B. C. E. R. company's high power wires across the Fraser river at the New Westminster bridge raised to a sufficient height to allow deep sea sailing vessels to pass up and down the river without lowering their masts. The question has been taken up by the Royal City Council, Board of Trade and Pilot Board with the B. C. E. R. company, the Provincial and Dominion governments, and with the Railway commission.

When the question was brought before the Railway commission recently the opinion prevailed in New Westminster that it would be speedily adjusted. A few mornings ago, however, Mayor Lee received two letters from Ottawa, both dated May 1. One was

Vol. 13 is of particular interest to Canadians, as it contains many accounts of early explorations in the Northwest. The work will prove a valuable acquisition to the library.

The public school attendance in Vancouver reached the high water mark last month, when the number of pupils attending totalled 10,200. The highest previous enrollment was 10,173 in January last, February showing 10,056 and March 10,038. These figures do not include the schools in D. L. 301 and Hastings townships, the returns from which will not appear until after the summer holidays, as the board do not take over these schools until July 1.

The Mother Lode mine, near Greenwood, has enough ore in sight to ship 1,000 tons every day for six years. It is possible to break down 2,000 tons of ore every day in the Mother Lode, but the capacity of getting it out of the mine is only equal to half that quantity.

The Gabriola tobacco plantations are distributing 60,000 tobacco plants for distribution on the island. The Dominion government is supporting the project.

TREKKING TO THE PEACE

One of the pioneers of the Peace River district, Mr. Russell Walker, has written a most interesting letter to his friend, Mr. J. B. McKenzie of Vancouver, giving an account of the journey, and the difficulties experienced en route. Mr. Walker states that he had to "go home" since he got in last fall, to make preparation for the winter, but there was every encouragement for the settlers, as the land they passed through gives much promise for its future development. The trail was a long one, the way being by Athabasca, Candiz, Merrior Landing, along Little Slave river, Shawbridge, across Lesser Slave Lake, to Shaw's Point, and from there to Girouard, then 90 miles more trail up to the Peace River Crossing. Here they struck down to Duvegan by way of Old Wives' lakes, and Cold Springs from there through the Birch hills, and over the Saffie mountain to the Beaverdam, and thence to Bare lake, Saskatoon lake, the Beaverlodge valley, across into Red Willow river district, a distance of 580 miles. They left Edmonton on September 20 and reached Saskatoon lake on November 5, which Mr. Walker calls "go in some." They carried two loads, each weighing about 3,800 pounds, packed away on separate wagons. The weather on the trip was good all the way up until the party got to Spirit river, when it began to snow. Game was plentiful and it consisted of prairie chicken, partridge, wild geese, turkeys, ducks and moose, assuring them sufficient fresh meat. Matters became pretty tough when the snow caught them. It snowed until it was up to the hubs of the wagons. The loads were considerably harder to pull, and camping out was both a difficulty and a hardship that caused them to rejoice when the journey came to an end. They immediately began to build their shacks, but at the time of writing they were not quite finished, although 160 logs had been skidded and decked up ready for the start. The cold was very severe for about a week and they were told the thermometer registered 60 below zero during the last winter. The country is described as fine, with all kinds of No. 1 lands and the very best soil waiting for the settlers. These are going in rapidly, and the district is being mapped out for cultivation for the coming summer. Rapid construction work is expected to reach the district this year. Mails come only once a month but a better service is in course of inauguration, and will be in use before the summer turns.

CORONATION REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD HURRY

British Columbia members of the coronation contingent will require to be on their journey very shortly to the Eastern rendezvous for the various branches of the service, under the terms of the current militia orders, which give all particulars regarding the contingent in great detail.

The contingent will be composed of 708 of all ranks, comprising 53 officers and 655 non-commissioned officers and men. The 34 regiments of cavalry in the Dominion will be represented by 83 men, and the horse, field and heavy artillery will be represented by 52 men, making a total of 135 men for the mounted troops. The five regiments of garrison artillery will be represented by 47 men, the various corps of engineers by 25 men, 100 regiments of infantry and one company by 277 men, and all other branches of the service by 48 men, making a total of 475 men for the dismounted troops. There will also be the band of the Royal Canadian regiment with a strength of 45.

A certain portion of the outfitting is made from the clothing and accoutrements in the present possession of members of the contingent, and it will be completed at the point of mobilization.

The contingent will embark at Quebec on June 2, on the steamer Empress of Ireland, and will leave Liverpool on the return journey on July 2, by the steamer Empress of Britain.

Mr. J. D. Craig has left with a party of fifty members of the Dominion government geodetic survey to explore the Yukon district contiguous to the Alaska boundary line, between the Yukon river and the Arctic ocean. Accompanying the expedition will be Mr. D. D. Cairns, an expert, who has been doing field work in the Yukon for years; and other members of the party will be Mr. E. W. Nesham and Mr. Noel J. Ogilvie, who will lead one party.

Indian Agent Perry, of Prince Rupert, has got together a fine collection of Indian curios. These he has just forwarded as a free gift to the Ottawa museum.

Many prospecting parties are leaving Stewart for the placer mining ground just discovered on the Naas, 24 miles distant over the Glacier.

Hawthornthwaite and Socialist Party

For some months considerable friction has existed between the provincial Socialist leader, J. H. Hawthornthwaite, M.P.P., and the Nanaimo local of the Socialist Party in Canada, of which he has been a member. On Friday week the Nanaimo local made an official announcement to the effect that Mr. Hawthornthwaite had resigned his membership in the local on February 26 last, and that a committee had been appointed to investigate the cause of his resignation. This committee has submitted its report, which was unanimously adopted.

The report is addressed to the Nanaimo local of the Socialist Party of Canada, and its general tone is rather hostile to Mr. Hawthornthwaite. It sets forth that Mr. Hawthornthwaite undertook to organize Vancouver Island for the Socialists, but did not devote himself with any enthusiasm to the work.

"On February 26, 1911," continues the report, "Hawthornthwaite was criticized for congratulating the Conservative government regarding the Coal Mines Regulations Act. This was followed by a suggestion to form a committee to outline a plan of organization of Vancouver Island to be carried out by Mr. Hawthornthwaite. As soon as the suggestion to form a committee was made, he immediately stated that it seemed to him that he had lost

the confidence of the local and that he would resign his membership, stating that he was all right anyway. On being asked if he had always received a fair and square deal from this local, or if he could name one occasion on which he had not been treated fairly, he replied that he had always been shown every consideration, and had been treated as well as any man could wish to be treated by any set of men, stating that he could not rise above his environment and that he belonged to the bourgeois. The following week he made a statement on the floor of the legislature that this would probably be the last speech he would make in the House. As a result, he was asked to attend a special business meeting of the party and explain his position. To this Mr. Hawthornthwaite replied in effect that he had no further explanation to offer, that he did not intend to run for the Dominion House and that he was simply trying to attend to his own private business. He added that he would resign his position in the Provincial Legislature.

"If your local," said he, "will give me the date when it desires the Speaker should take action to fill the seat, I will date my official resignation in accordance, and do all I can to help elect your nominee."

"Despite this promise, the committee has been unable to find any trace of his resignation

of his seat in the legislature. So far as they can ascertain, he is still a member and in no hurry to resign.

"In regard to flim-flamming this local," says the report, "we wish to state that in our opinion he did not possess sufficient ability to do so, as he found out on various occasions when with all his ability and his bourgeois education he failed to hold his own with a coal miner in discussing proletarian monistic philosophy, and in discussing sociological questions he proved himself a novice in the use of the dialectic."

After reviewing all the circumstances and setting forth the efforts of the Socialists to elect Mr. Hawthornthwaite, the committee finds that he has not lived up to his obligations, and says in conclusion: "In the estimation of the committee, this local has nothing to take back, and further state that in their opinion Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite, by his double-dealing and treacherous actions, has demonstrated that he is an enemy to the revolutionary working class interests, and the committee, as members of this local and members of the revolutionary working class, warn our class against this man—James Hurst Hawthornthwaite."

This report will be given the widest possible publicity through the Socialistic press of the world.

PRESBYTERIANS AND THE MARRIAGE LAW

In the course of the proceedings of the sixth annual session of the Presbyterian Synod of British Columbia, held in Vancouver during the just ended week, a distinctly strong resolution was introduced by Rev. Dr. Fraser, bearing upon the recently promulgated marriage laws of the Roman Catholic Church, which resolution provoked very considerable differences of opinion as to the policy of adopting an attitude that savored of attack on the Roman church.

Principal Mackay advised the synod to go carefully into the rights of the Roman Catholics of Canada. Certain privileges were accorded them, and he did not believe the Privy council would undertake to withdraw what had thus been granted. Such a resolution as that proposed by Dr. Fraser meant the stirring up of sectional bitterness, and the country was in no mood for anything of such a nature at the present time.

Dr. Fraser appreciated the standpoint of Dr. Mackay, but thought that the Catholic church had not been content with the rights guaranteed to it. Its marriage laws went back to the Council of Trent. He did not object to change in the form of the overture, and did not want to precipitate any strife or trouble, but the Roman Catholic Church could do in Canada today what it could not do even in Italy.

Professor Pidgeon held it to be a lamentable thing that strife should arise. He understood from a high authority in the Catholic church, that while the church looked on the marriage as invalid, it did not desire the separation of the parties (married according to other rites than those of the church) but their re-marriage in the Catholic rites.

Eventually the proposal was referred to a committee consisting of Dr. MacRae, Dr. Pidgeon, Dr. Mackay, Dr. Fraser, and Rev. W. L. Clay, to draw up a more acceptable resolution to be submitted to the general assembly.

The Columbia & Kootenay Railway & Navigation Company, following in the footsteps of the government, have announced an increase in their wild lands to \$10 an acre.

from the Department of Public Works to the effect that the question of the height of the high power wires at New Westminster was now in the hands of the Railway commission for settlement; the other was from the Railway commission stating that the Department of Public Works was dealing with this question of high power wires.

The wires across the river at the bridge are 165 feet above high water mark. In order to accommodate all sailing vessels it is necessary that these wires be at least 210 feet above high water mark. A suggestion has been made that the wires might be carried by cable on the bottom of the river.

Considerable excitement has been created in Nelson military circles by the recent action of the Militia Department in ordering the militia out for a 12-day camp, and at the same time intimating that if the orders are not complied with, the legal penalties involving a fine of \$120 for each officer, and \$60 for each man or 60 days in jail, will be enforced. The camp is to be held at Kamloops, and compliance with the order is felt to involve such a sacrifice that if some alternative is not adopted, it is believed the Nelson corps will resign en bloc.

The provincial government has let a tract of 50,000 acres to Messrs. Green Bros. & Burden to survey for pre-emption purposes. This is adjacent to the block of 200,000 acres north of the Nechaco river, and between the Salmon and the Stuart rivers, already surveyed. The surveying for bona-fide settlers of an immense tract of 500,000 acres is contemplated in the scheme of the government. This will mean 3,125 pre-emptions, or, reckoning on families of five individuals each, room for a farming population of almost 16,000 in the Fort George district.

An interesting and valuable addition to the Vancouver public library is John Pinkerton's "A General Collection of Voyages and Travels," which was pronounced by Dibbon, the great bibliographer, "the most valuable collection of voyages extant." The work comprises seventeen quarto volumes, with 107 fine copperplate engravings. All accounts of travels, considered worthy of preservation in prior collections, are included, as well as translations not before known to English readers.

OSTRICHES IN EAST KOOTENAY

During the past three weeks or more a certain Otto Becker of Hamburg, Germany, has been in the Cranbrook district, overlooking the country and investigating the possibility of securing an in-every-way suitable site for the establishment of an ostrich farm. He has been successful, having purchased a block of land near Warden through the C. P. R.'s British Columbia Land Department.

Ostrich farming in East Kootenay strikes one, at first blush, as being almost as impracticable as banana-growing, but in this case, the experiment is based upon the knowledge and experience of a man who has engaged in the ostrich farming business in Africa and, presumably, knows what he is about. Whether or not the climate of East Kootenay will be suitable for ostrich breeding and raising doubtless remains to be proved.

The first experimental exportation of ostriches into California was made in 1882 and has proved successful. About 1,500 of these birds are now to be found on ranches in California, Arizona, Texas and Florida. When the American stock has become thoroughly acclimatized the industry is expected to yield rich returns, as some of the South African farms are reputed to pay 40 per cent. net profit on the investment. Experiments in ostrich farming are now being carried on in Mexico, Central and South America.

Chief Wedilaheid, of the Kitselas tribe of Indians, in the Skeena country, is on his way to the coronation. He has \$8,000 in hand for the purpose of his trip and is spending it freely. He shows with pride a totem of black slate, about a foot in height and carved with the emblems of his tribe, which he intends to present to King George. He has also a banner of buckskin with the tribe's totem, an eagle, burned on one side and a bunch of maple leaves opposite. This is to be engraved with the names of all the Indian chiefs attending the coronation.

The Queen Charlotte Islands will shortly send to the British Columbia markets strictly native oysters of far better size and better quality than the imported Easterners.