

# PACIFIC SECTION

## TO ENCOURAGE MANUFACTURING.

**Waterpower for Vancouver—Building Activity—Increase in Bank Clearings—Prince Rupert's Sale of Lots.**

(From Our Own Correspondent.)  
Vancouver, B.C., May 8th, 1909.

A question of considerable importance to the Province at large was laid before the Board of Trade at its meeting on Tuesday evening, by Mr. H. A. Stone, manager of Gault Bros. Company, who is president of the Board for the ensuing year. In a lengthy paper he set forth the necessity of greater efforts toward the encouragement of manufacturing and agricultural production in the province. Mr. Stone remarked that the subject was of the greatest moment to the Province. It was the long-neglected corner stone of the province's great assets, and in combination with the development of the natural resources was a necessary part to future economic and sound progress. This subject was also discussed in detail in the lengthy article by Mr. R. E. Gosnell, which recently appeared, entitled "Immigration and British Columbia." While there are fertile valleys, the first settlers to come here were attracted by the lure of gold. Following the rush to California, the argonauts found their way into the Cariboo in the early sixties, and many from the south, penetrating into the Kootenay, Similkameet, Nicola and other districts further north found land so suitable for culture and the climate so agreeable that they remained. Many are still on their property. **Seeking for Gold.**

The gold rush to Cariboo built up New Westminster and Victoria forty years ago, and even the first railways were attracted by mineral wealth. Until the Canadian Pacific Railway was built, there was no Vancouver nor any of the towns along the main line which can now boast of fine agricultural districts in their neighborhood. After the first flush of mining, good arable land was found, and to-day, since such a large amount of money is sent out of the province for necessities that might be produced here, every effort is being made by the Government and others interested to bring about the cultivation of the various areas which can be utilized for almost any purpose. As pointed out previously, with the settlement of the land will come the removal of the labor problem. In times of scarcity, men may be secured from the farms, and in cultivation will be found a means of employment in dull times for those who will be needed in time of greater industrial activity. Seldom have the prospects of actual settlers taking up land been better than at present. Particularly in the north, where Government land is available, in the territory contiguous to the Grand Trunk Pacific, people are going in and it will not be many years before British Columbia will spend within her borders the money that now goes to other countries.

### General Building Activity.

A Vancouver business man who has returned from Victoria after a tour of investigation of conditions on Vancouver Island states, that in the capital there is a marked acceleration of activity with the spring and that many business blocks are being erected, while others are projected. Visitors are impressed with the large number of public works going on, over one thousand men being employed thereon, and the extensive building operations in both the business and residential districts.

(Continued on Page 2051.)

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