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VICTORIA, TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1894.

THE AGASSIZ CONVENTION.

An important and interesting meeting is to be held at Agassiz on the 10th and 11th instant, being a convention of farmers and fruit growers, for whom a very interesting programme of papers and discussions has been prepared. Not alone will the subjects of dairying, fruit-growing and agriculture be discussed, but that of dyking will also be handled. We regard the meeting as a very important one, and hope that the practical men, who as a rule have but little to say, will not be debarred by their more voluble neighbors from describing in short words what they are accustomed to do and to do well. As for the dyking, we trust that the people who are most directly concerned will see to it that what experience has shown to be their requirements will be so formulated as to ensure action upon them when the Dominion and Provincial authorities come to take this matter up. Within the last few days two dyking commissioners from Matsqui have waited on the Premier, whose desire as expressed is understood to be to have a new dyke, higher and stronger than the old one, constructed inside the remains of the latter. For this estimates furnished by a competent and practical man show that the expense would not be probably more than \$5 an acre.

We may add that to enable all who desire to attend the meeting a cheap rate of \$3 for the round trip from this city to Vancouver and return, good from August 9 to August 15, has been arranged for those holding certificates, procurable from Mr. J. R. Anderson, of the Department of Agriculture.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AT OTTAWA

Mr. Mara, M.P., seems to have done the Province considerable service during the closing days of the session, when the House of Commons was in committee of supply. Mr. Chariton, Sir Richard Cartwright, the redoubtable McMullen and others manifested their determination to obstruct as far as possible the votes in which British Columbia interests were

involved, apparently refusing with their eyes wide open to see that anything good was to be found in the Canadian Pacific coast country. They refused to believe facts, but fortunately their fellow members were open to evidence and argument and, in consequence, several important local enterprises, declared to be for the general advantage of Canada, received the assistance that was demanded for them.

In regard to the Nakusp and Shocan road, Mr. Mara explained that it is a line connecting the mineral sections of Kootenay with the waterways connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway. He went on to say that in the fall of 1891 rich argentiferous galena, believed to be the richest mineral body on the North American continent, was discovered in that section, adding that since 1891 over \$1,000,000 have been expended in opening up and developing the claims, many of which are now ready to ship ore. Moreover, it will obtain for Canada a large and valuable trade that would have been lost, if this line of railway were not constructed. In fact it was a question whether Canada or the State of Washington would get that trade.

GETTING RID OF WEEDS.

There is a subject which in addition to that of destroying insect pests on our fruits and other products is one that should have more than ordinary attention at the hands of the members of the Agassiz convention. We refer to the matter of noxious weeds. The other day, telegrams from Winnipeg announced that the frequent appearance of the Russian thistle had given considerable cause for alarm in the Northwest. We suppose that it has been brought across by the Mennonite and other Slavonic settlers, it may be in the same way as the Scotsman did with the thistle. Whatever may be the reason for its appearance, however, this is a growth of which together with many other weeds we cannot too soon get rid. But, whatever there may be in the prairie provinces and territories, there are sufficient weeds here that appear to be holding their own to require more than passing attention. Among others may be mentioned several varieties of thistle, the chickweed, the wild parsnip and a whole lot of others, the mere suggestion of which will remind the reader what pests they are. These are not only neglected in the early weeding, but are allowed to go to seed and to increase the crop twenty, thirty and a hundredfold.

Were there practised here, as in some countries, the system of a rotation of crops—particularly the occasional reversion to hay—the evil would not be so bad, as it is certain the more perfect cultivation of the soil would have the effect of killing out many of these intruders, and the

practice of allowing lands to lie fallow would also have a beneficial effect. But, as in this Province, there are really scientific agriculturists and other practical farmers who are not altogether governed by the rule of thumb, it is to be hoped that some of them will have anticipated these remarks and prepared papers on this and kindred subjects to be submitted at the convention and then published and circulated among the farmers for the general benefit. In other provinces and by the Dominion Government, much good has been done by the circulation of agricultural pamphlets. Undoubtedly much beneficial work could be accomplished here in the same direction, and would undoubtedly be productive of more lasting good than all the campaign literature with which the different constituencies have recently been flooded. The old saying is that variety is charming. A change of this kind would, we are sure, be appreciated, and during the dull recess, the provincial types and presses could not be put to much better use.

MANUFACTURES.

Again we would recur to the subject of manufactures, and would do little more than remark that the successes of those who have made the departure ought to encourage others to follow the examples which have been so well set. We do not think that we can urge this matter too strongly. Our conditions require a departure of some kind; we cannot all live directly off the land, though from it the greater part of our wants can be supplied. We must have a variety of avocations in the same way as the farmers cannot confine themselves to the one product. The community must be built up out of all sorts and conditions. We cannot live by dealing in real estate, by keeping store or by practising the learned professions. Some must actively illustrate the Divine mandate "By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread," while it must also be by the sweat of the brains or of the trained hands of the skilled artisan that the general and individual wealth shall be augmented. But all tends to the one common object, the general well-being. We frequently, it would appear, take the matter of avocation too much as a matter of course, and it is in a haphazard sort of way that too many people settle down to their life's calling. As a rule, nature adjusts matters to a nicety, but, by our individual neglect, we have allowed things to get out of their courses and then have striven to regulate them by tariffs and drawbacks. But in this we cannot succeed, unless we get down to foundation work.

We have many people on the land who cultivate it in a shipshod sort of way, content, in many cases, if their own