

1891, the late A. conducted an ex- then unknown to this city was much good there, his re- ble incredulity, ent in his state- reason, that of lone to return the most acco- id, and the plot- in the Bulkley town, was the

bly the firewood ndering Indians enoved most of on- sult. Some dis- last year who- vored to tie on the coming rush disturbance of are not properly in the provincial steps for a resur- uestion, and the settlement in the of this city, has p- take the work north early next ct with the pro- will resurvey the here decipherable, nd clearly define rent townships. ntral interior this be phenomenal, h the provincial has received and munitations re- uestion. Inquiries rections and been- uly issued bulle- mbla."

r-mountain valley r, but the Peace e mountains, also, unt of attention. In regard to this however, in a fair e time of the Railway Act, 5,000 acres in the as given the Do- consideration of ed, but this area n selected. Com- exchanged between al authorities, as, safe in any event, ave the boundaries e coming survey, so that there rdling len lands for e before such de- rovince is extreme sh from Edmonton ned here. In fact, nquiries received ureau came from y.

SUNSHINE.

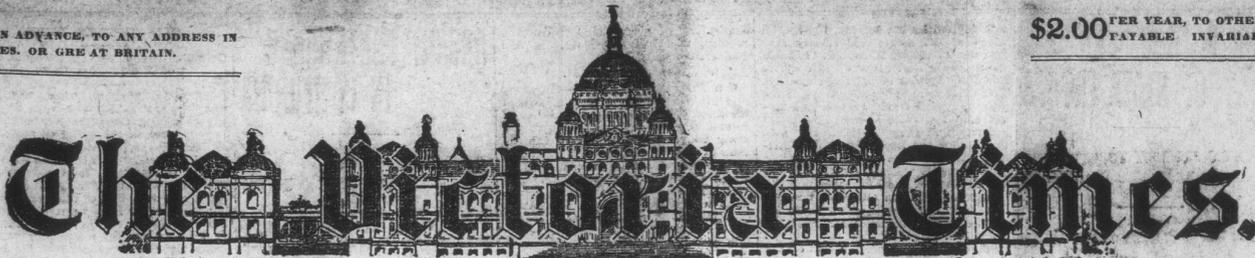
earing of Crops By city. been aroused by ex- the neighborhood of icty is being used h of cereals. The generated by a dy- re horse-power olid to a high-tem- raged" from wire ove the earth from is apart. The con- ally insulated, the through the crops the wires. This ne will, it is claim- ase in the yield of with a correspond- ean. Previous ex- stables have, it is ecker, consult- al Agricultural of conversation w- nteractive, confes- sional as to the val- of electricity to e certainly have the growth of fruit said, "but I cannot liberate and provide and, that, after be the chief consid- a new idea to pass in the air. Some o Mr. W. A. Smeed, of the experiment s by means of an eyed by wires pass- d.

In the neighborhood ed to posts in sur- of the electric cur- rrents. In Nor- strawberry season is the south of England. Aberdeen it is doubt- e like these. I doubt of increasing this manner. You d that in a good fruit do so well as they scarce and enhanced d in certain favored ulation of electricity reveals, its cost must practical usefulness e country could pro- e as she consumes realized. You, it is with an ear half at present. No, it is that Nature does her lit?" was the reply on the subject. "I can provide a satis- for the red rays of the oped under the cont- must be looking in rat qualities. Surely it ke men to those parts e fruits can be grown- ditions. Perhaps the sun has been placed from the earth, other- e lovers of experiment d put it out just to see n."

ary services in con- Centennial Methodist ill be held next Sun- Sipprell, of Columbi- nister, will preach evening. Rev. Lerod pastor of the church eases in the afternoon of the day will be de- day school.

\$1.00

PER YEAR, STRICTLY IN ADVANCE, TO ANY ADDRESS IN CANADA, UNITED STATES, OR GREAT BRITAIN.



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No. 6.

HOW OUR WHOLESALE TRADE IS EXPANDING

Tour Through Business District Shows Great Growth of City's Mercantile Importance.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

While other places in the province may have made great displays regarding their business progress, each denoting itself "Heir to the Hoopah" of the province in commercial matters, Victoria's increase has been second to that of no other city. In fact, taking all the business considerations including the island, this city may arrogate to itself the premier mark of expansion. This has been felt in every line. Food stuffs, dry goods, lumber, hardware, shipping supplies, licensed victuallers, supplies, farming implements and all other branches have contributed to this success. Victoria's merchants to-day are happy in the possession of heavier business than ever before. Not only has the local market expanded, but sales to outside points show a phenomenal increase.

The causes for this are numerous. A general wave of prosperity has swept over the whole Dominion, of which British Columbia has absorbed more than its share; but, more than all, Victoria has woke up. Its mercantile supplies, licensed victuallers, business and getting it, and to this may be attributed the large measure of increase.

But local conditions in the vicinity of Victoria, and on the Island generally are also largely responsible for the improved situation. The expansion of lumbering, the erection of numerous fish traps; the large influx of wealthy home seekers; the inception of the whaling industry, are all landmarks in this march of progress. Another tributary cause is doubtless the attention attracted to the central interior, the railway surveys projected and being carried on there, and last, but not least, the attractions of Victoria as a tourist resort have been no mean factor in the influx of business.

Most gratifying has been the increased sales of "made in Victoria" goods. These bring not only a profit to the manufacturer but also employment to working people. Statements have been made that folks here are added to their old tools and will not discard these, as pictured in well established trademarks, for goods of local production; but while this is not the reason why the outsiders have declined no signs of this prejudice. Local products are in great demand all over British Columbia and the Northwest, and "made in Victoria" has become a synonym for quality and reasonable price.

A representative of the Times visited the wholesale district and was met on every hand by smiling faces and prompt replies to questions. Though many cases have been heard of the labor of filling numerous orders, one and all united in saying that present conditions are a forecast of still better times to come.

In grocery and food stuff lines the following opinions may be quoted: Hudson's Bay Co.—"We have had the biggest spring since the Klondike rush of 1898. Local trade has more than held its own, while that to outside points has largely increased. In the central interior much heavier shipments than usual have been necessary owing to the number of people going into that territory, and we have sent and are sending in greater supplies than usual to our posts at Hazelton, Babine, Manson Lake, Port Steele, and Port McLeod.

R. P. Ribbet & Co., Ltd.—"We have had a splendid trade so far this year. Not only has local business increased, but every part of the province has been the destination for heavier orders. In the Okanagan we have done better than ever."

Simon Leiser & Co.—"The trade on the Island and in Victoria has largely increased this year. The advance in shipments to the West Coast is particularly noticeable, being traceable to the opening up of the whaling industry, activity in mining and the erection of sawmills at Clayoquot and other places. The erection of fish traps near the city has helped somewhat. But the great thing is we are beginning to reach out. Trade has been done after these days and energy is needed to hold it. Victoria is getting there now and will continue to do so. The Island is under no appreciable disadvantage for the interior trade and the increase of shipments there has been most satisfactory."

Wilson Bros.—"There has been a great expansion in trade here this spring and shipments have been heavier than ever before. Local business is on the increase, while that with out-

side points is going ahead with great rapidity. We think the great factor in this growth is the lumber industry. While mining may be carried on and large returns obtained at very little expense, lumber cannot be milled until the trees are cut down. This means the employment of many additional men, and each workman means another mouth to feed. And that is what helps the grocery business."

M. R. Smith & Co.—"This is the best spring we have ever had, and even in our new premises resources are taxed to the utmost. Local trade is more than good, while interior points have sent more orders and for heavier quantities than ever before."

The dry goods business is also going ahead by leaps and bounds, as witness the following opinions:

J. Plesky & Co.—"We have been overwhelmed with orders since the beginning of the year and instead of trade showing signs of slackening it is continually on the increase. Business activity on the Island in other branches has helped us considerably and the opening up of the Bulkley valley and other parts to the northwest will afford a new and profitable avenue of trade. We see no reason why this sort of thing should not continue, and look forward with confidence to similar conditions obtaining indefinitely."

Lenz & Leiser—"There has been a great improvement in trade since the new year. That to outside points is heavier than ever before, and Victoria more than equals any previous spring. The railroad construction going on in the Kootenay and Similkameen districts has been a partial cause of the increase, while lumber and mining have also played an important part. The opening up of unsettled districts means a present increase and a continued avenue for sale of goods which is more than satisfactory to us, as to all other wholesalers."

Both shelf and heavy hardware show a great improvement, while the demand for farming implements has much more than exceeded even the most sanguine estimates.

A representative of E. G. Prior & Co., Ltd., said this morning: "Conditions in Victoria are certainly very good. The trade of our firm all over the province has been better this year than ever before. In Victoria many of the new arrivals have made heavy purchases of farming implements, buggies and wagons, while the Vernon branch, although only opened a short time, gives promise of developing a more or less satisfactory business. In fact, all over the province everything looks favorable and the Island is one portion showing an increase equal, if not exceeding, that of any other."

Hastings & Hayman Co., Ltd.—"Yes, this spring has been the first class one in our business—the best yet. Trade has increased in accordance with the rise of population, while trade with outside points has been heavier than ever before. Conditions are good and will continue so far as can be seen, and Victoria need have no fear for the future of her trade, both wholesale and retail."

The Brackman-Ker Milling Company, as closely as any firm having headquarters in Victoria, keeps touch with trade conditions, and D. R. Ker stated to-day that the outlook was exceedingly bright. "We have done the biggest business on record so far during 1906," he said, "both in the sale of foodstuffs and seeds. Particularly is this the case with reference to high class English goods; in the seed line, including flower, vegetable and field. People seem willing to pay a good price for what they want, and this in itself is a most healthy sign. Victoria and vicinity shows a marked improvement, and, in fact, the same can be said of every part of the province."

The state of licensed victuallers' supplies is a certain gauge of general prosperity, and in this respect Max Leiser, of the firm of Pither & Leiser, may be quoted with authority. Yesterday afternoon in the course of conversation he said: "This has been our banner spring since we started in business. From every portion of the province orders have come in largely in excess of previous records, and the same may be said of shipments to Calgary, Edmonton, and other points east of the Rockies. Carload lots are going out with extreme regularity and altogether the wholesalers of Victoria should be more than pleased with the trade done by them."

And so along through the whole list of merchandise. This is a condition of affairs regarding which Victorians are

entitled to feel optimistic, and shows the beneficial effect of the recent wakening up and seeking for new fields to conquer in the world of trade. This article does not by any means tell the whole story. In the course of a few days further particulars will be given regarding other branches of trade that will open the eyes of many who have not kept in touch with the rapid improvement going on in commercial affairs here.

EUROPEANS SLAIN.

(Associated Press.)

Tunis, April 27.—A small number of natives have revolted and assassinated three Europeans near Thala. Subsequently they unsuccessfully attacked the town, which was defended by civilians. In the fight 12 natives were killed and ten wounded. Troops are arriving.

STRIKE MAY FOLLOW.

Anthracite Miners Will Probably Vote For Total Suspension of Work.

(Associated Press.)

Scranton, Pa., April 23.—It is the general impression here that the anthracite operators answer, made public yesterday, was intended to provoke a strike, and that it will succeed in its intentions.

While President Mitchell would give out nothing for publication last night, the calculations he made while reading the answer as it was read over the Associated Presswire would tend to indicate that he was sorely disappointed, and that he would be disposed to take up the constructive challenge that might be read in the operators' answer.

If the situation remained unchanged next Thursday, when the delegate convention of the miners takes place

here, it is taken for granted by the people of this region that the delegates will declare the suspension of a strike. The proposition of the miners sent to the operators on Tuesday was the limit to which the state committee was disposed to go.

The answer of the operators last night rejecting this ultimate proposition means war, according to the prevalent opinion here.

OTTAWA NOTES.

Ottawa, April 27.—The Grand Trunk Pacific bill, giving power to the company to issue debenture stock to the extent of \$25,000,000 to acquire equipment, has passed the committee.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised to consider the representations of a delegation who are asking for municipal control of streets, as against telephone companies. Mr. Bragg represented British Columbia.

A BIT OF HOLLAND IN OAK BAY FIELD

Local Florist Has Demonstrated That Bulb Industry is One of Most Promising Enterprises.

Holland has been for so long the seat of the bulb-growing industry and the culture of the tulip, and kindred flowers has been brought to such a high state of perfection there that the ordinary man has come to regard the work of the thrifty burgher as the "classy" in regard to the industry. Massive beds of narcissi and daffodils, were marked by fading flowers, for the task of getting the industry started has been so great that the firm were unable this summer to make all the outside connections to insure the entire crop being sold. Next year this will be entirely obviated, as sample



A VIEW OF WALLACE & WOLLASTON'S BULB FARM AT OAK BAY.

behind the dyked walls of the Netherlands, the statement aroused a great deal of interest. It was repeated by Mr. Wallace at a joint meeting of the sub-committees of the Development and Tourist Association, and at a meeting of the civic affairs sub-committee, of which Mr. Wallace is a member. In the meantime A. W. McCurdy, late of Washington, D. C., and a gentleman of extensive knowledge, had taken the pains to visit the bulb plantations at Oak Bay and became an enthusiastic apostle of Mr. Wallace's theory, declaring that the latter might well be exploited as the Burbank of British Columbia.

It was at Mr. McCurdy's suggestion that Friday afternoon a small party, made up of members of the civic affairs committee and augmented by several ladies, visited Wallace & Wollaston's nursery at Oak Bay. It is being carried on in a large field of bottom land off Poul Bay road, and protected from the southwest, and indeed all winds by a fringe of timber land. The soil is admirably adapted for the purpose to which it is now devoted, and the exposure is southerly, insuring a maximum of sunshine for the flowers.

The spectacle on reaching the boundaries of the nursery was such as to excite delighted exclamations of su-

prise from every member of the company. Great beds of red, of pink, of white and of variegated lines marked the tulip plantation, while the olefactory sense was gratified by the delicious perfume, while the eye was charmed with the beauty of the scene. Massive beds of narcissi and daffodils, were marked by fading flowers, for the task of getting the industry started has been so great that the firm were unable this summer to make all the outside connections to insure the entire crop being sold. Next year this will be entirely obviated, as sample

of the bright sunshine, absence of rain or of extremes of heat and cold. The conditions in fact are perfect for bulb growing, and moreover they are local. Mr. Wallace is of the opinion that the "cool" orchid also can be successfully grown here. The same conditions do not apply even at contiguous points on this coast, because the rainfall and extremes of heat and cold are greater.

The present departure is a result of experiments conducted by Mr. Wallace as manager of Flew's gardens. Having demonstrated how successfully the bulb can be produced, he secured the co-operation of Mr. Wollaston, who was willing to back the venture financially, with the results already seen. They intend to grow these bulbs and wholesale them to dealers and growers.

Mr. Wallace is of the opinion that in a few years there will be hundreds of acres of these bulb and cut flowers around Victoria, furnishing excellent examples of intensive farming and giving employment to a number of men.

Of course, added to the natural conditions mentioned, the expert knowledge of Mr. Wallace must be taken into consideration, but the two combined promise a rapid development of a new industry.

are plenty of sunshine; no extremes of heat and cold; no abrupt changes in seasons, and an absence of cold, so that growth may continue without interruption.

All of these conditions are found in and around Victoria. The bulb commences to grow in the fall. It makes root and stores up strength throughout the winter, and by spring is a vigorous plant, capable of producing the highest type of flower. The result is that they flower earlier, and ripen earlier, and this district is in consequence weeks ahead of Holland in these respects.

In all, of course, the bright sunshine is an important factor, and this, too, is felt in the cut flower trade. Mr. Wallace contends that flowers which, by forcing for instance, can be produced for \$2.50 per hundred in hot houses in Chicago, can be grown in the open in Victoria, transported to Chicago and duty and brokerage paid at 75 cents a hundred. Beside, when the hot house grower forces his bulb and destroys it, so that he has to throw it away, the Victoria bulb is always capable of replanting. This has an important bearing on the character of the bloom produced, for where bulbs have to be discarded after use the florist is compelled to buy the cheaper kinds, whereas in Victoria this is not a factor at all.

The shipping quality of these flowers have been proved this summer to be excellent, due also in a large degree to

REAL ESTATE MARKET ACTIVE BUT MODERATE

Several Important Transactions at Low Prices in Comparison With Rental Values.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

The real estate market in Victoria and vicinity is active, but not inflated. The cause for great congratulation, for when prices go up like a balloon, they are apt to share the fate of the unfortunate Andree and descend to become lost for ever in the chilly embrace of commercial adversity. Commercial or commercial opportunities may make a city, but when they are both combined as is the case here, nothing but a cataclysm of nature can stop its progress.

In this respect Victoria stands unique in the world. There are other cities in the province that have equal commercial advantages, and may be one or two in the interior that enjoy somewhat the same climatic advantages, but neither on this nor the other side of the line can a city be found that is as beautiful for situation and of such maritime and commercial importance as this, the Queen City of British Columbia.

Possessing as it does the most salubrious climate on the coast, without the rains of the mainland, and the generally cold winters of the interior it is no wonder that many people who, in the pursuit of a competence braved the frosts and blizzards of the interior, to their delight, found Victoria an ideal location in which to spend their remaining years. Educational advantages undreamed of in many cities of larger and more rapid growth are to be found here. The comforts of life are at all times available. For natural beauty a few minutes' walk from the business sections is all that is necessary. Landscapes and marine panoramas, hills and valleys, meadowland and purring stream, all unite to render Victoria a beauty spot of creation; the choicest gem in the greatest province of the Dominion.

Of commercial advantages residents need not be reminded, but for the benefit of a large circle of outside readers the Times prints, in this issue, an article describing the trade of the city from the wholesaler's point of view. But there are other points that need to be emphasized. Victoria is the headquarters of the sealing industry, and of the operations of whalers from British Columbia. It has large manufacturing establishments, many of which are not duplicated in any part of the province. The provision of artificial fertilizers is based on the products of the Victoria Chemical Co. The production of pottery, drain and other tile is practically controlled by the B. C. Pottery Co. There are but a few of the most appropriate stages evident to the cursory observer.

But the vicinity of the city must also be taken into consideration. Oak Bay, Cadboro Bay, Cordova Bay, Gordon Head, Esquimalt and the numerous islands and valleys, are all tributary to the city. For fruit and mixed farming these lands cannot be excelled in the province, and that is not the only reason upon which their title to consideration is based. Beautiful residences with spacious, elegantly laid out grounds are beginning to dot the landscape and the good roads and splendid views make the suburbs mentioned well worthy the attention they are beginning to obtain from the wealthier classes of the Dominion east of the Rockies.

These residential districts are only just being discovered, but each resident is missionary to his friends. Many recent sales are traceable to the glowing accounts sent to old home towns by those who have settled near Victoria of late years, became enamored with their surroundings, and sped along the good news of the discovery of an ideal residence to their friends.

Every mail reaching the city brings news of residential locations. And they are attainable in profusion, at prices far below their true value. Even for speculative purposes the purchase of lands near this city are most desirable. They will earn more than interest, and double and treble in value within a very few years.

Business property is also on the up-raise, but prices remain reasonable. Though there is not a store and hardly an office vacant in the whole central section still a couple of recent important transfers show that holders are not anticipating the future in their prices, and only demanding a moderate valuation under present conditions. Taking it big and large there is no better opportunity available in the province for real estate investment than in Victoria. Whether residential or business, farming or manufacturing areas are required they are available at just

prices, without any undue inflation, and those who buy now will not regret their purchases.

During the past week there have been several transactions of importance. One will considerably affect, and pleasantly so, the numerous creditors of the Green, Woodcock assets, who have been patiently waiting dividends since the suspension of the bank in 1884. It was the sale of the lot 60x120 on Government street, running along Trounce alley and including Wilson Bros' clothing store, C. P. R. telegraph office, the alley bootblack stand and the adjoining vacant lot. The purchaser is stated to be William Wilson at a consideration of about \$50,000. This will mean a dividend of between 15 and 20 per cent. for the depositors. Another sale may shortly take place of the adjoining property occupied by Kingham & Co., the Y. M. C. A. and others. The very reasonable figure at which this property was disposed of shows what great opportunity exists here for investment in business property.

Another transaction that took place yesterday was the sale by auction of 120x120 at the southeast corner of Yates and Douglas streets. This was the property of the Northern Counties Investment Company, and was knocked down to Beaumont Boggs, representing Alex. McKay, of London, England, for \$48,000. This is also an instance of the moderate prices prevailing in central locations. The eastern one-quarter of the lot is occupied by the Sylvester Feed Company, in a building costing some \$8,000, who have a lease at \$75 per month rent with the option of purchase at \$11,300. The total rents aggregate over \$2,000 per annum, or about six per cent. on the value at which the property changed hands. With the erection of a modern structure on the property the lucky investor should obtain nearly ten per cent. on his outlay.

The Douglas estate is being rapidly snapped up by local and outside investors, in fact only some nine acres remain of the portion south of Oscar street recently placed on the market by the B. C. Land Investment Agency. During the past week less than thirty subdivisions were sold, aggregating thirty-six acres, and the greater portion of the Chinese truck garden that has been an eyesore in the vicinity will be shortly a thing of the past. The only portion left is that between Oscar street and Fairford road.

A local resident a few days ago completed the purchase of a tract containing 44 acres at the base of Shoebolt hill and the Shoal Bay road. The buyer was F. M. Rattenbury, who obtained it from R. Kaye, of Winnipeg, the original purchaser from the Green-Head estate. The use to which the fine piece of land will be put is not known, but, even for speculative holding, it is a particularly healthy investment.

In the Seaview estate, fronting on Hillside avenue, there have been several recent sales. R. Holmes, of Manitoba, purchased four acres, and F. H. Lattimer, also of Manitoba, eleven acres, and both will erect homes. These are a couple of new residents coming from the Northwest. In this estate also is the ten acres purchased by Capt. Clarke, harbor master here, who has fenced in the whole area, erected a large residence, and greatly improved the tract by planting fruit trees, flowers and laying out a tennis court, etc.

Several visitors from outside points are looking for location of a similar character. There are known to be three, and probably many more, people in the city with the intention of purchasing homes with ample garden space and a number of transactions of this kind will be concluded next week.

In building circles there is great activity. Work is rapidly progressing on the new office building for the B. C. Electric Railway Company at Langley and Fort streets. Several old-fashioned blocks are being remodelled inside and heavy improvements made on many directions. Houses of all kinds are being erected by recent arrivals in different parts of the city, and generally the trade is in a most healthy condition.

Though the transactions mentioned are the most important during the past few days it must not be supposed they represent more than a fraction of the business done. There have been dozens of smaller sales of property, and a few of some importance. In several cases, however, there is a personal objection