

PEOPLE OF PRAIRIES HAVE EYES ON COAST

In His Travels Through the New Provinces, D. R. Ker, of
Victoria Learns of Thousands Bent on Moving
to Vancouver Island

The majority of the old-time residents of the prairie provinces are looking towards the Pacific coast. Those who have already visited the country west of the Rocky mountains have been so favorably impressed that they are cherishing the ambition to earn competence sufficient to enable them to make their homes in Victoria or at some of the other favored spots on Vancouver Island. Those who have not yet been able to come West have heard it talked of to such an extent that they are looking forward to making the trip and, if the country and climate meets with their expectations, settle here. This is the sentiment announced D. R. Ker, of the Brackman-Ker Milling company, which prevails all through Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Mr. Ker has just returned from a business trip to the Northwest. Mr. Ker says that prosperity prevails from one end of the prairie to the other. Immigrants are pouring in from the four corners of the earth and the farmers who are fairly well settled are doing well, while those who have been here for years are making money every year. It was only natural that, as the latter accumulated wealth, they should look around for a place where they could spend the remainder of their lives amid pleasant climatic and scenic environments. As a place where such a life could be lived, the C. P. R. was spoken of by them. All were turning their eyes in this direction and Mr. Ker assured that, in his opinion, this city's future as a tourist and residential resort was assured. The wealthiest people of the Northwest would make their homes here, and he had no hesitation in affirming that every indication pointed to this becoming the "residential seat of Canada."

The West the Magnet
The oft-repeated statement to the effect that "the trend of immigration was westward" was endorsed by Mr. Ker. People were coming into the Northwest in thousands. Up to within a year or so the largest number had come from the congested centers of the eastern and middle States. Now they were arriving from the Old Country in larger numbers than heretofore. In fact, they were flowing from all directions. But the country was so vast that they were comparatively speaking, lost sight of. The casual observer could form no accurate estimate of the extent of the immigration on that account. There was no doubt, however, that it was increasing by leaps and bounds. No homestead could be procured now in the immediate neighborhood of such cities as Edmonton and Calgary. To get land in such places the settlers had to purchase from the railway companies, most of which had grants. Many were adopting this policy. So many were coming into the country that quite a few were unable to obtain accommodation. They had to put up tents and live in the open despite the extreme low temperature experienced at this time of the year. It was somewhat odd, Mr. Ker remarked, to see the streets of this exceedingly busy town, dotted here and there with canvas houses. This demonstrated, more clearly than anything else, the rapidity of the growth of that section.

Agriculture in Alberta
Nature's increased number of settlers, the railway development constant in progress, etc., had effected the agricultural product of the country. In Alberta alone the crop of fall wheat had been augmented by 3,000,000 bushels in one year. He believed that the same increase would be experienced again. Although it meant, to him, little more than only been introduced comparatively recently it was now recognized as the most profitable method of tilling the soil. Although it meant, to him, little more than only been introduced comparatively recently it was now recognized as the most profitable method of tilling the soil.

While in Alberta, Mr. Ker was occupied in the inspection of the Brackman-Ker holdings in that province. In the supervision of the construction of a fine new mill at Calgary. He says that the company has no less than sixteen elevators in operation at the present time. The two latter are heading towards the Rocky mountains and it is not his opinion that the Seymour Narrows will be bridged immediately. A fast ferry service, he thinks, would be

sufficient for a short term, but ultimately the water lying between the island and the lower mainland would be spanned. That would have to come, and he thought, that such an outcome was inevitable was acknowledged by all conversant with the present situation and the possibilities of the Canadian West. The timber trade alone between here and the Northwest was destined to develop to such an extent as to warrant the introduction of improved transportation facilities. It was not realized by many what an immense in fact an inexhaustible market there was for that product throughout the prairie provinces. There, timber could not be procured at such an extent as to make it necessary to call upon the extensive resources which were known to be lying dormant on the island. This was only one instance of the direction in which the C. P. R. were supplying the demand now. But soon their supply would become depleted or, if not that, the market would expand to such an extent as to make it necessary to call upon the extensive resources which were known to be lying dormant on the island.

While he believed that Victoria would become a large city from a commercial standpoint, he thought its attractions as a residential and tourist centre were its greatest assets. He said that he had had reason to believe that the C. P. R. would have its hands full in handling the passenger traffic from eastern Canada and the United States all coming across the Rocky mountains towards Victoria. The tourist travel was growing by leaps and bounds and he did not think that this city had long to wait before it became acknowledged as the finest summer resort in the Canadian Northwest and the most beautiful home to be found anywhere in the Dominion.

ONE USE FOR A GRAVE.
William Gowdy, a nephew of John K. Gowdy, formerly consul-general to Paris, is a candidate for county assessor in Brantford, Ont. He has been questioned his eligibility, charging that he had not been a freholder for four years, as required by law. Young Gowdy, however, during the past year, the period named he had owned half a lot in the Rushville cemetery, and Attorney-General Miller has decided that the possession of this "six feet of earth" constitutes eligibility in the eye of the law.—Boston Transcript.

B. C. FRUIT ON SALE IN EDINBURGH
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Island is being repeated in other districts.

The office of the Registrar-General also gives evidence of the present activity. This morning the sum of \$6,541.70 was turned over to the treasury as the total receipts for the past month. For November, 1906, the amount was only \$3,843.25; the increase over the same month of last year is therefore nearly 100 per cent. Practically all the transfers of property recorded were in the vicinity of Victoria, and under this head alone a sum of \$600 more than the same month last year was sent to the treasury.

Both the officials mentioned state that the present month, from present indications, will more than equal last.

TWO THOUSAND MEN STRIKE.

Schneetady, N. Y., Dec. 10.—Two thousand members of the Industrial Workers of the World ceased production at the local plant of the General Electric company this morning, because the company refused to reinstate three members of the union, two of whom had been discharged for inefficiency and trouble with a foreman, and one who had resigned and wanted to be re-employed after his resignation had been accepted.

FIERCE STORM SWEEPS CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Walls Collapse, One Man Killed, Several Injured and the Streets Blocked

San Francisco, Dec. 10.—A 48-mile-an-hour gale today resulted in the death of a laborer and severe injury to several others who were caught by a falling wall.

Shipping was damaged.

The local car service is suspended.

The loss to four of San Francisco's largest firms is \$300,000.

The walls of the burned Poodle Dog restaurant collapsed, destroying the temporary hall of justice in course of construction.

It will take several days to restore the street car system.

OTTAWA NEWS.

Ottawa, December 10, Special.—At present session a bill will be introduced to incorporate a company under the name of "The Lake Superior and Hudson Bay Development & Canal Company" with power to locate and construct a canal, to build and create structure for water, divert streams and otherwise control the flow of water so as to improve natural waterways and to create a navigable waterway between the Superior and James Bay and Hudson Bay by way of Nepequin river; the Nepequin lake, the water stretches between Nepequin and James Bay, and the waterway between Albany river and Severn river, and by Severn river to Hudson Bay.

(The bill for Nepequin river, each day, and on one occasion was taken into the open air. Three guards were employed as "dead watches," each being on duty for eight hours. For a time there were two only, who served twelve hours each. One man is constantly with him, waiting for the next moment.

Some days ago one of the guards fell asleep, and when his successor relieved him he was still asleep on a chair, with his head resting on his arms, and he had been lying there for some time.

"Now suppose he'd fallen from his chair and hurt his neck; I'd have been blamed for it," said Featherstone, as he changed his watch.

Rev. Mr. Grundy is the spiritual advisor of the convicted murderer; but other clergymen have called to see him on occasions. In his reading, Featherstone has been studying the Bible.

He believes in Spiritualism and can quote from many sections of the Bible, his attention being turned mostly to the chapters dealing with the spiritualistic beliefs. He has been very ready to discourse with visitors regarding his convictions to this end, and has strange notions of his future.

Believes in Spirits

To his mind the world which he is so soon to quit is merely a stepping stone to a spiritual world where the future will depend on the actions of this life. He is a firm believer in the gradation of spirits, and he believes he will rise from the ranks in the new world into the higher spheres.

"I don't suppose I'll be able to make much progress in the first year I'm in spiritland," he said, when asked where he would be a visitor. "Anyhow, I'll be busy, for I've got several accounts to straighten out in this world. I've got to straighten out things at Nanaimo, South Wellington and Vancouver."

In the meantime he reads, laughs, and plays light music on the violin—and the clock ticks out the short space that is left to him to live.

Arrangements for Execution

Sheriff Richards has completed all arrangements to carry out the duty the law has imposed upon him. Radcliffe was met by him when the steamer Chamber arrived on Sunday night from Vancouver, and driven at once to the provincial jail, where the executioner is waiting.

The scaffold is on the roof of the provincial jail, and will be put together without much effort. It is expected to be in place by tonight. As the gallows is to be erected on the roof, it is to be hoisted by a crane.

Mr. Wells was known to the public as a man of letters, and his death without a tremor is the general belief of all who have been in contact with him since he has been held at the provincial jail.

Mr. Wells Wires Ottawa

W. C. Wells, M. P., ex-commissioner of lands and works, on Sunday sent a long despatch to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, setting out the details of the case against Featherstone's sanity.

For three years the condemned man was under the supervision of the Minister of the Interior, and Mr. Wells said that he was strengthened by the extension of the curriculum, he believed, be met from the fees proposed.

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Upon the suggestion of Trustee Jay he amended his motion to one requesting the committee mentioned to report at a special meeting of the board, which carried.

Trustee Jay, on behalf of the special committee appointed to review the provincial government regarding the provision of an institution for educating children with defective intellects, reported having seen the minister of education who promised to give the matter his careful consideration. He also said an effort would be made to find and approximately the number of children who would be fit inmates for such an institution.

Trustee Hall said he was in favor of the establishment of such a school as from 5 to 6 per cent of the scholars in the public schools should not be trained with the other pupils.

In the meantime the decision at the last meeting of the board to delay certain painting, Secretary Eaton suggested that the work at Spring Ridge school should be done as soon as possible. This was concurred in and Joseph Sears, being the lowest tenderer was given the work before the end of the year.

Secretary Eaton brought up the matter of accommodation at the High school that had taken a new lease of life with the new building. He reported that the building was erected. There were now 300 scholars and this number would be increased to 350 next year. The affair with McGill in 1902 was a step forward and he thought the time had now arrived for second year affiliation as well as the first year in arts and the first year in applied science. All that was needed was the removal of the barrier until the opening of the college year in May, it was time, he thought, to take up the matter now as it would be necessary to consider it when framing the estimates next month.

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"THEY'VE DOWNED ME BUT I'M INNOCENT"

So Says Featherstone Who Is to
Be Hanged Tomorrow
Morning

W. C. WELLS TRIES TO SAVE HIM

Believes Condemned Man is Insane,
But the Minister of Justice
Declines to Interfere

The scaffold is almost complete, the public executioner is on hand, and in the provincial jail yard, tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock, Robert Styles Featherstone, convicted of the murder of Mary Jane Dalton, at South Wellington, on July 20, will pay the extreme penalty of the law.

The condemned man calmly awaits the fatal hour, still asserting that he is innocent. To a recent visitor he said: "They've downed me, but I tell you they're hanging an innocent man." Until a few days ago he spent considerable of his time writing a lengthy statement referring to evidence given at his trial, but Sunday he completed a statement, which was sealed and handed to his spiritual advisor, Rev. Mr. Grundy, to be opened after the execution is completed. What this statement contains is not known.

It is believed the condemned man will make a short statement on the scaffold and that he will not speak long.

Although in the shadow of the gallows, he maintains an outward calm, filling page after page of foolscap with writing, he has given much time to playing a violin. The instrument, belonging to a guard, was left in his cell, situated on the upper of the three tiers in the left wing of the jail, and Featherstone has beguiled himself with it, playing ragtime and dance music, mostly jig tunes. Occasionally he has put the violin down and broken into a jig himself, talking betimes to the death watch with seemingly little concern.

As is the custom with men condemned to the law's worst punishment, he was given the privilege of ordering what he could eat, and what he ordered he required, other than intoxicants; but he did not avail himself of it. He told the jailers that he could eat any good food, and that he would like to have a good dinner, but he would not eat anything but what he could get for himself.

Some Hallucinations

Some time ago he informed the guards that he had received a call