Fruit Pack Of the Province

The Modern Methods Have Now Made an Art of the Operation.

Western Styles of Packing the Result of Experiment and Selection.

Modern methods of fruit-packing have certainly made an art of the operation. Conscientious effort on the part of painstaking officials of the Dominion and Provincial Governments, and the Fruit-growers' Associations, has been tending to make an exact science of the art. To acquire any practical knowledge of it even superficially, let alone with scientific accuracy, say these experts, is utterly impossible by mere description. What is wanted is demonstration. That followed by practice, under the careful eye of the trained packer, is the course necessary to attain a degree of proficiency in this new and useful art.

Western methods of packing and Western styles of packages have been the result of experiment and gradual selection of the fittest. To California belongs the credit, undoubtedly, of initiating the modern fruit package. But there is no "California package" now. British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Idaho have for years been working towards uniformity of method and package, and to some extent have achieved more than California. For, in the latter State, it is yet true that every district has its own package, so far as exact dimensions are concerned.

To describe the packages in use may best be done by taking separately that for each variety of fruit. In general, it may be said that the aim has been to get in each instance the package best suited to the size, shape and character of the fruit. In this process of selection, many experiments have been tried, and many styles of packages have been discarded. With all, or nearly all, the cardinal condition must be kept in view, that sorting and selection of the fruit, wherein comes the art of expert packing, is absolutely necessary in using the package now generally adopted.

The Apple Box

Perhaps the longest history of development attaches to the apple box. The package which has now been made standard for the apple box throughout the Dominion has been adopted as that of the B. C. Fruit-Growers' Association for the past four or five years. In Washington, Oregon and Idaho almost the same standard size is recognized, but is not legalized. The apple box has been the subject of discussion in the joint association of fruit-growers from this province and the three States named for a number of years. The Northwest Fruit-growers' Association, as it is called at its annual convention held in Spokane, Wash., in February, 1899, adopted a standard apple box. Since that time the B. C. Fruit-Growers' Association, aided by the B.C. Government's Board of Horticulture, has striven to secure the general adoption in the Province of but one size, uniform throughout. That may now be said to have been accomplished, for the annual convention of the Provincial Association has, for the last four years, confirmed the selection of the size now made standard. More than that, the Fruit-Growers' Association of every fruit-growing province in the Dominion in 1903 passed resolutions adopting the B. C. box as standard for apple boxes. The Dominion Government has, by Act of Parliament, also made it standard for the Dominion. The dimensions of this standard apple box for the Dominion are: Inside measurements —Length, 20 in.; width, 11 in.; depth, 10 in. Thickness of material recommended—Ends, ¾ in.; sides, ⅝ in.; top and bottom, ¼ in.

It is to be particularly noted that the side pieces are to be ten inches wide exactly; that is, just flush with top and bottom of end pieces, not overlapping the bottom as in a packing case. Similarly, the top and bottom are exactly 11 inches wide, and do not overlap the sides. The timber to be used is, preferably, clear sprnce, or other similar wood. The dimensions as to thickness will not be suitable if knotty, cross-grained or inferior wood is used. Another point as to material, is that in all cases apple-box lumber should be sawn, not cut with a veneering machine, as experience has shown that the latter cannot be kept from warping.

The top and bottom are made of ¼ inch clear lumber, because it is desirable in packing to have them of lumber thin enough to be slightly sprung in the packing press when filled with fruit. The rows of apples are placed in the box so that the top rises slightly over the edge of the box before the cover is put on. As the box stands in the press, it is supported only by the ends. When the cover is put on the pressure is again only at the extreme ends, so that both top and bottom spring slightly in the middle, and, of course, about the same amount. As apples are bound to shrink somewhat, this method has been found to provide for that shrinkage, and the spring in the top and bottom keeps the apples held firmly in the box.

Cleats on the ends, top and bottom, are necessary, as they materially help in keeping tops and bottoms from splitting. The nails used should be the special box nails in common use in California and in this Province. A good variety is the cement-coated nail. It seems to hold in the wood every time. Another variety in common use is roughed along the sides its whole length. Whatever style is used, the nail is always to be very thin, so that the boards will not split in nafling.

Whether the top shall be of one or two pieces is a point on which experts differ somewhat. All agree that two pieces can be used quite effectively. Some hold however that the one-piece cover is much superior, while there are others, equally reliable, who hold that the two piece cover has merits which recommend it above the one-piece top. Again, all come together agreeing that the two pieces, if used, shall be laid on close together.

Packing the fruit, as previously stated, must be done only after careful selection, sizing as well as grading the apples. According to size, the apples are packed in 3, 3½, 4, 4½ and 5 tiers. To get in a half tier, the tiers are laid with a space between the rows in the tier, and then the next tier nests nown between the first. Sometimes the half-tier is described as 4 tiers wide and 5 tiers deep (for the 4½ tier), and 3 tiers wide and 4 tiers deep (for the 3½ tier). But the limitations set in the first sentences of this article steps in to say again, and again, and emphatically, that the art of packing must be acquired through observation and experience.

In shipping, the apple boxes should be laid and carried on their sides, as the slight swell to top and bottom, sought in packing, is not suitable for setting the boxes top upright.

Pear Box

There is but little to add, or vary, in describing the package for shipping pears from the description attempted of the apple box. The dimensions are slightly different, being: Inside measurement, 18½x11⅝x8½ in.

This package is the same as the California package, the size for pears, being uniform in that State, differing from the apple package in that respect. The packing of pears is much the same as that of apples, with the exception that more delicate qualities, and, therefore, choicer packing is accompanied by the wrapping of the fruit in fruit paper; not tissue, such as is used for oranges, but a paper very similar to common newsprint of very light weight.

Strawberry Crates and Boxes

There is practical uniformity in the strawberry crate used in British Columbia, Oregon and Washington. The Hallock shipping crate is used exclusively. This crate holds 24 one-pound veneer baskets, and varies in dimensions, there being two styles of pound basket, the deep and the shallow; the former being, perhaps, more used for smaller sorts of berries, and the shallow; for the larger varieties. The crate is thus made deep or shallow, to conform to the shape of the basket used. Invariably, there is a middle partition of same thickness of lumber as the two end pieces of the crate. This centre partition and the two ends have a saw kerf taken off half the depth. This forms a ledge on which are laid two pieces of board, after the bottom layer of pound baskets has been laid in the crate. On these strips the top layer of baskets is laid, and the cover then nailed on. In the strawberry crate, cleats across the ends of the cover are preferable in nailing down.

The crate used in Calfornia very largely is the "chest," as it is called, holding 75 one-pound baskets. This is similar to the Wilson crate very commonly used in Ontario. For long distance shipment, California berries are often packed in a crate holding but ten of the one-pound baskets.

Plum Crates

Plums are packed in British Columbia exactly as they are in California. A crate holding four square veneer baskets slightly flaring at the top, is used. This crates holds a total of 20 to 25 lbs., according to the size of fruit. Again, the cleat is used in nailing on the cover. These plum crate tops are always in two pieces, and close together. Sometimes a cleat is put under the edge of the end piece, to keep the fruit from being squeezed. The fruit is packed with a long strip of paper laid between the layers. This paper is very thin, being similar to that used for wrapping pears. It is in a continuous strip for each basket, and is turned back and forth over the layers as they are placed in the basket.

Cherry Boxes

It is in boxes cherries are packed as a rule, not in crates. Of recent years these boxes have become very shallow, both California and other Coast States, as well as British Columbia, having been doing some experimenting to find the most suitable. From California have come some boxes in which but one layer of cherries was packed, so shallow were they.

The ordinary box, however, has three layers of fruit. The firmness of the Coast cherries makes it possible to pack them firmly, and very closely and evenly, like apples. A very solid appearance is given the well-packed box, making it extremely attractive. This shallow package holds about 8 or 10 lbs., and the dimensions are: End pieces and middle partition, ⅝ inch thick, 2¼ inches deep, and 9 inches wide; sides, 3-16 inch thick, 2¼ in. x 19½ in.; top and bottom, 3-16 in. thick; 9 in. x 16 in. dimensions.

The California and B. C. packing often has this crate, with eight square cartons of light pasteboard, holding one pound each. This is a very attractive package, the cartons being white, and made with a turned-over edge all around the top, about half an inch wide. This crate applies entirely to the sweet cherries, and it must be said that no uniform package has yet been evolved for the later varieties of preserving cherries.

CHANGES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

Nell F. Mackay Succeeds W. S. Gore as Deputy Commissioner of Lands and Works.

It is learned from authoritative sources that Mr. W. S. Gore, for 30 years deputy commissioner of lands and works, retires from the civil service today. His place will be filled by Mr. Nell F. Mackay, private secretary to the premier.

Mr. Lawrence Macrae, editor of the Nanaimo Free Press, and well known as a journalist, who has occupied positions on the Colonist and New Westminster Columbian, is spoken of as Mr. Mackay's successor.

NEW LIGHTHOUSES.

Tenders Called for Wooden Tower on Denman Island.

Tenders are being invited by the department of marine and fisheries for the construction of a wooden lighthouse tower on Denman Island, Baynes Sound. Plans and specifications for the new aid to navigation can be seen at the office of the local agent of the department, Captain James Gaudin.

The new lighthouse on Graeme Point, Malcolm Island, where Broughton Strait runs into Queen Charlotte Sound, is now in operation. The lighthouse stands on the extremity of the low gravel spit. It is a square wooden building with a square wooden lantern rising from the middle of the cottage roof. It is painted white, with the roofs red, and is 35 feet high from its base to the ventilator on the lantern. The light is a fixed white dioptric light of the seventh order. It is elevated 38 feet above high-water mark, and should be visible 11 miles from S. 75 deg. W. round through W. and E. to S. 55 deg. E., over an arc of 230 deg. Over the remainder of the circle the light is obscured by the high land of Malcolm Island. The light is intended to show the entrance to Broughton Strait from Queen Charlotte Sound.

ACADEMIC RECIPROCITY.

Kaiser and State Dignitaries Listen to Lecture by Harvard Professor.

Berlin, Oct. 30.—Emperor William, Baron Ritchoff, the foreign secretary, Dr. Studt, the Prussian minister of public instruction, and many other officials and about 50 professors and 600 students attended the first lecture of Prof. Francis Greenwood Peabody of Harvard in the hall of the university today on the subject of "Academic Reciprocity." The Emperor from time to time nodded approval of the professor's utterances and joined in the applause.

ROMANOFFS' RULE OF ABSOLUTISM ENDS

Complete Abdication of Autocratic Powers Contained in Czar's Manifesto Issued as "Autocrat of All the Russias" for the Last Time.

COUNT WITTE TO AMERICAN PEOPLE

First Premier of the Empire Sends Friendly Message to the Freedom Loving People of the United States ---"A New Order of Things."

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 30.—Tonight the authority of the Romanoffs and the old order of things ceased to exist in Russia. Emperor Nicholas has surrendered and Count Witte comes into power as minister-president, with an imperial mandate which will enable him to convert the farcical national assembly into a real legislative body elected by greater extended suffrage and to confer upon the people fundamental civil liberties, including free speech.

The welcome tidings reached St. Petersburg shortly before 6 o'clock this evening. Count Witte had spent the day with the Emperor at Peterhof, going over the final draft of the manifesto, to which he insisted that certain modifications be made; and before taking the train to St. Petersburg he telephoned to a friend that the Emperor had affixed his signature and that the imperial mandate comprising the conditions upon which he agreed to accept the office was in his pocket. These include freedom of speech, the right of assembly and the immunity of the person, including the right of habeas corpus.

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 30.—"I am sure the American people, who understand what freedom is, and the American press, which voices the wishes of the people, will rejoice with the friendly Russian nation at this moment, when the Russian people have received from his Imperial Majesty the promises and the guarantees of freedom, and will join in the hope that the Russian people will wisely aid in the realization of these liberties by co-operation with the government for their peaceful introduction. Only thus will it be possible to secure the full benefits of the freedom conferred upon the people."

Count Witte, Russia's first premier, tonight sent the above message to the American people through the Associated press. He had just arrived at his residence on Kammeniorov prospect from Peterhoff, where, in the Alexander palace, the Emperor two hours before had given his final approval to a manifesto and to a programme which will forever end the rule of absolutism exercised by him and his Romanoff ancestors for 300 years.

Witte Favored British Ideas

Count Witte insisted on a cabinet on the British model, with a selected premier responsible to the imperial douma or parliament, while the Emperor clung to the appointment of the members of the cabinet on the American plan by the emperor or chief of states.

The state department has instructed Charge d'Affaires Eddy in case of an emergency to give American citizens protection at the embassy and if necessary to charter a steamer.

Foreign Minister Lamsdorff is reassuring the ambassadors by formally guaranteeing the safety of foreign residents. He announces that the government is prepared to afford them military protection in St. Petersburg and elsewhere.

The employees on the section of the Finnish railroad between St. Petersburg and the Finnish frontier, fifteen miles north of this city, have struck. This portion of the road is operated by Russians.

General Trepoff forbade a meeting of the town council called for Tuesday to consider the demands of the strikers made yesterday, including a constitution and political liberty, that the city furnish food to the workmen, that they refuse further supplies to the troops and police, and that the troops be removed from the waterworks, otherwise the strikers would cut the water supply. A private meeting of the members of the town council has been arranged for tonight, at which a response will be given.

Emperor's Great Manifesto

The following is the text of the imperial manifesto: "We, Nicholas II, by the grace of God, Emperor and autocrat of all the Russias, Grand Duke of Finland, etc., declare to all our faithful subjects that the troubles and agitation in our capitals and in numerous other places fill our heart with excessive pain and sorrow.

"The happiness of the Russian sovereign is indissolubly bound up with the happiness of our people, and the sorrow of our people is the sorrow of the sovereign.

"From the present disorders may arise great national disruption. They menace the integrity and unity of our empire.

"The shpreme duty imposed upon us by our sovereign office requires us to efface ourselves and to use all the force and means at our command to hasten in securing the unity and co-ordination of the power of the central government and to assure the success of measures for the pacification in all circles of public life which are essential to the well-being of our people.

"We therefore direct our government to carry out our inflexible will in the following manner:

"First—To extend to the population the immutable foundations of civic liberty based on the real inviolability of person, freedom of conscience, speech union and association.

"Second—Without suspending the already ordered elections to the state douma, to invite to participate in the douma, so far as the limited time before convocation of the douma will permit, those classes of the population now completely deprived of electoral rights, leaving the ultimate development of the principle of the electoral right in general to the newly established legislative order of things.

"Third—To establish an unchangeable rule that no law shall be enforcible without the approval of the state douma and that it shall be possible for the elected of the people to exercise real participation in the supervision of the legality of the authorities appointed by us.

"We appeal to all faithful persons of Russia to remember their duty toward the fatherland, to aid in terminating these unprecedented troubles and to apply all their forces, in co-operation with us, for the restoration of calm and peace upon our native soil.

"Given at Peterhof, October 30th, in the eleventh year of our reign."

There appears to be no foundation for the rumors of mutiny on the vessels of the Black Sea fleet, which are in circulation in Odessa and which have been propagated by the strikers here for several days. The following despatch from the Associated Press correspondent at Odessa just received does not even mention the alleged mutiny: "After yesterday's exciting occurrences, when the gun shops were plundered, barricades were built and the troops, in dispersing the crowds, were forced to fire several volleys. Quiet prevailed today.

All Quiet at Odessa

"This is a holiday, the anniversary of the escape of Alexander III from a train wreck at Borki. All the banks and stores are closed.

"The number of killed or wounded in yesterday's disturbances has not yet been determined, but it is not large."

The municipal council at its sitting tonight, after reading the imperial manifesto, decided to send the following telegram to the Emperor: "The council welcomes with delight the long desired tidings of freedom, firmly relying on a bright future for our dear fatherland. Hurrah for the Emperor of a free people."

A perusal of the manifesto shows how complete is the Emperor's abdication of his autocratic power. The preamble of the document is clear and direct and devoid of the verbose, vague and bombastic phraseology which heretofore has characterized His Majesty's manifestos.

It not only concedes the real authorship but shows that the Emperor at last had irrevocably bowed to the inevitable. He does not even conceal the fact that the discontent and agitation of his subjects had driven him to take the steps and practically yields everything—civil liberty, the inviolability of person, and liberty of conscience, speech and assembly. He not only converts the farcical imperial douma, with only consultative powers, into a true legislative assembly, without the assent of which no measure shall become law, and before which all governmental authorities must answer, but promises eventually universal suffrage.

"Autocrat of All the Russias"

The title "Autocrat of all the Russias," with which the manifesta begins, now takes its place with the title of "King of Jerusalem" borne by the King of Spain and the Emperor of Austria, and with other obsolete titles of European sovereigns.

J. Pierpont Morgan, Jr. and Geo. W. Perkins were with Finance Minister Kokovsoff when the latter received the news. It was a dramatic moment. The minister was called to the telephone, and when he returned he was greatly agitated and said: "Gentlemen, the old order of things has changed. Russia has a constitution."

The news spread like wildfire throughout the city. The revolutionists and the agitators generally declared loudly that the government's promises would no longer suffice and that the strike must be continued. In fact, an hour after the news became known the revolutionists took occasion to throw the first bomb in St. Petersburg used since the strike began. The incident occurred near the polytechnic school, but there was no fatality. Practically all classes except the socialists and extreme radicals, however, read the document with delight and amazement, declaring that it could not fail to rally the moderates to support Count Witte.

But with the irony of fate, while the strikers are clamoring for a constitution, it seems impossible to dissuade the striking printers to resume work, and therefore not a single newspaper except the Official Messenger will print the momentous document for distribution tomorrow. Arrangements, however, have been made to placard the manifesto on every dead wall in the city, and the text will be telegraphed tomorrow to every city, town and hamlet with which there is telegraphic communication. It also has been ordered read in all the churches of the empire.

The foreign embassies were notified and lights are burning later than usual in the chancelleries, where the news is being put into cipher.

Official notifications will also be sent to the Russian ambassadors abroad.

Effect on the People

The effect throughout Russia is expected to be instantaneous. While the extremists threaten an attempt to keep up the present struggle the best opinion is that the backbone of the strike is broken, but in the final analysis the effect will depend upon how far Count Witte will be able to execute the heavy task which he has assumed.

Some persons believe it will be still necessary to use ball cartridges to suppress the present movement, but Count Witte appears confident. He has become the bridge whereby the people are to cross to constitutionalism.

The count has already tentatively selected the members of his cabinet. He will himself hold no portfolio. The present ministers, except those of war, navy and foreign affairs, will be retired. Prince Alexis Obolensky, one of the count's former assistants in the ministry of finance, will become minister of the interior. M. Romanoff, another former assistant of the minister, will take the finance portfolio. M. Koni, a present senator and Russia's ablest jurist, will be minister of justice. M. Krozofsky, president of the St. Petersburg municipal council, may take the ministry of education, and M. Zeigler von Schaffhausen, chief of the railroad department and department of the minister of finance, will become minister of ways and communications.

Crowds Celebrate Victory

Late tonight, after the news got abroad, crowds began marching up and down the Nevsky prospect, singing the national anthem and hurrahing for liberty. It is significant that the great searchlight which has been lighting up the Nevsky prospect from the admiralty tower for three nights was turned off tonight.

At all the fashionable restaurants champagne was drunk in toasts to liberty and the constitution.

Grozny, Russia, Oct. 30.—A reign of terror prevails in Northern Caucasus. It is charged that the authorities are pursuing the policy of turning one class of the population against another and are abetting the brigands, who last night mobbed and sacked a train, killing 12 persons and wounding 10. When the train arrived the crowds dragged out and killed three brigands and then shot the commander of the Cossacks out of town.

Kiel, Germany, Oct. 30.—The Russian steamer Kurgan arrived at Holenau, Schleswig-Holstein, from Kronstadt, with the British ambassador, Sir Charles Hardinge, and Chns. R. Flint of New York on board. The Kurgan left Kronstadt Thursday. St. Petersburg was then quiet. At Revai, where the steamer touched Friday, wild disturbances were going on. The city was burning in three places, all work and business had stopped and the troops were tempting to drive the people from the streets.

German Ships Sail

Berlin, Oct. 30.—The sailing of the German cruiser Luebeck and ten torpedo boats from Kiel today for destination unknown has given rise to a rumor that they are bound for St. Petersburg to bring the Russian Empress and her children to be the guests of Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia. No official confirmation of the report is obtainable.

Warsaw, Oct. 30.—The streets are darkened, deserted and are patrolled by infantry. Nevertheless the news that Emperor Nicholas had signed a constitution spread like wildfire and created a tremendous sensation, causing a feeling of joy, mingled with the fear that the news might be premature.

Helsingfors, Oct. 30.—The Russian railroad strike will be extended to Finland tomorrow. A great meeting of Finnish workmen held today expressed sympathy with the Russian struggle for freedom and appointed a committee to elaborate a programme for Finnish people.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 31.—(3:15 a. m.)—Celebration of the issuance of the imperial manifesto still continues at 3 o'clock this morning in many of the city streets, where crowds are singing the national hymn, cheering for the Emperor and shouting themselves hoarse. The restaurants and cafes were closed at 2 o'clock, disgorging their crowds, which have been drinking and making merry for hours around the tables, to augment the demonstration in the thoroughfares. The Cossack patrols were utterly discomfited and confounded, and were wholly at a loss to understand the meaning of the demonstration or why the crowds were singing "God Save the Emperor," Russia's magnificent national anthem, instead of the "Marseillaise."

The people displayed the utmost good humor toward the Cossacks. They surrounded their horses and patted their perplexed riders on the boots, shouting, "You can go home now; we no longer need you; we have liberty." Then they bade the Cossacks toss their caps in honor of the constitution. After 2 o'clock all patrols were withdrawn from the streets, which were left in charge of the ordinary night force of policemen.

Soon after midnight a crowd of several hundred persons gathered in the great square before the winter palace and sang a chant from the church liturgy, addressed to the Emperor, and the national anthem, and finished with rousing cheers for His Majesty and the imperial family. In the Nevsky prospect there was some rough play, but the bolsterous ones formed an inconsiderable portion of the crowds.

Count Witte's report to the Emperor, who inscribed thereon "to be taken for guide," is as follows: "Your Majesty has deigned to indicate to me directions for government in consideration of the actual state of Russia.

"The agitation of human society is not the outcome of partial imperfections in the social and governmental regime or of actions organized by the extreme elements. Its roots are much deeper. It took birth in the violation of the balance between the moral asporations and the exterior forms of Russian society.

"Believing that Russia aspired to laws based on civil liberty, the chief problem of the government consists in making effective, even before approval by the state douma, all elements of civil liberty in the elaboration of normal legislative measures giving equality before the laws to all Russians, without distinction of race or religion.

"The problem ensuing consists in the establishment of legislative forms seeming to guarantee the benefits of civil, political and economic liberty. These benefits should be extended to the masses of the people under the reserves safeguarding the laws in all civilized countries. It must be realized, then, that these objects cannot be attained immediately, as no government could suddenly prepare 135,000,000 with a vast administration for new liberties.

"It is therefore necessary to have the powers of a homogeneous government united in its aims, taking care to put in practice the stimulating principles of liberty and to display sincerity and uprightness in its intentions.

"The government should abstain from any interference with any elections to the douma and keep in view a sincere desire for the promises of the last imperial ukase. It must maintain the prestige of the douma and have confidence in its labors and in no way resist its decisions so long as they are not inconsistent with Russia's historic greatness.

"It is necessary to respect the wishes of the great majority of society and not the echoes of noisy groups and factions, too often unstable. It is especially important to secure the reform of the council of the empire on an electoral principle.

"I believe that in the exercise of the powers the following principles should be embodied:

"First—Straightforwardness and sincerity in the confirmation of civil liberty and in providing guarantees for its maintenance.

"Second—A tendency in the direction of the abolition of exclusive laws.

"Third—The co-ordination of the activity of all organs of government.

"Fourth—Avoidance of repressive measures in respect of proceedings which do not openly menace society or state, such resistance being based upon law and moral unity.

"Confidence must be placed in the political tact of Russian society. It is impossible that society should desire a condition of anarchy, which would ensue, then, in addition to all the horrors of civil strife, the dismemberment of the empire."

MR. TURNER AT THE SPHINX CLUB

Speech by the Agent-General as to Advertising in the Colonies.

The Colonist has received a copy of a very elaborate menu card used at the dinner of the Sphinx Club at the Hotel Cecil, London, on October 4 last, at which Hon. J. H. Turner, the agent general for this province, delivered an interesting speech. The full text of the agent general's remarks on the occasion is as follows:

"I feel a little at a loss tonight about my position, and why I am called on to speak, for I do not clearly understand the objects of the Sphinx Club, and, candidly speaking, the name is a puzzle to me. Why Sphinx? The Sphinx is an enigma. My knowledge of it is almost solely from photos of the Sphinx in Egypt, or the presentments in bronze on the Thames Embankment. I have not been able to go to Egypt to elucidate this, since I received my invitation, but I have been several times on the Thames Embankment and looked at the bronzes, but failed, however, to get any information from them. I have a hazy notion that the Sphinx was a very composite animal, but had nothing to do with compositors—that it, or the or she (I don't know which) was in the habit—a very bad one—of asking enigmas of the Thebans, and failing a correct reply, devoured those who should have given the one. This was rather terrifying to me, especially before and during dinner; but I feel quite safe now, after what I then saw, for I am quite convinced that no one present can want more to eat tonight.

"I am informed, however, that the club has something to do with advertising, and is considering whether extended advertising in the colonies would be of advantage to British business men. On the face of it, I should say emphatically that it would be so if done well. Speaking for my own province, British Columbia, I may say that it is now steadily increasing in population and wealth, and being so delightful a country to live in, possessing much unlimited resources in its coal, gold, silver, zinc, copper and other minerals; its vast forests of timber, its great fisheries, its splendid fruit lands, and its advantageous position on the Pacific, it must become a most important part of Canada, and the requirements of its people must greatly increase. Therefore it appears to me that wise advertising there would result in increased business with the Motherland; and, as all are tariff reformers there and strongly believe in preference towards Great Britain, there can be little doubt of the result.

"The method of advertising should be up-to-date and emphatic. Advertisers in Canada are very direct in their way. To illustrate this, take the retail shops. Now I picked up a Victoria paper today and there saw the following:

"'It is easy to sweep clean if you use one of Brown's brooms.'

"And another which appeared as grouse came in season:

"'Even if you don't go shooting, you may have a bird to roast; the best way to do it is in one of our self-basting roasters.'

"In the early days advertisements were rather broader, though very direct. I remember one of nearly forty years ago; it appeared in the autumn just as miners were coming from the mountains to pass the winter in town after hard work and harder fare. It read thus:

"'Come, you hungry gold-hunters; you can get a square meal at Smith's for 50 cents—that will take the wrinkles out of a fellow's belly.'

"Please understand, Mr. Chairman, I don't suggest this form of words for British Columbia; but I use it to emphasize the importance of clearness, directness and brevity, which should also be adopted in after-dinner speaking." (Applause.)

NAIL FACTORY BURNT.

Vancouver Establishment Destroyed With Loss of About $50,000.

Vancouver, Oct. 30.—(Special)—The Vancouver nail factory was destroyed by fire at 8 o'clock this evening. The loss is estimated at $50,000. The building and plant were partly insured. The building had been erected against the Vancouver Engineering Works, and the exertions of the firemen were concentrated on one spot for the purpose of saving this big plant, which they ultimately did.

Fair Treatment In Freight Rate

Wholesalers of the Coast Cities Aroused and Petition Forwarded to C.P.R.

Victoria Merchants Join Hands With Vancouver Men in the Movement.

In pursuance of the action taken by the Board of Trade to obtain equal rates from Vancouver to Calgary, Edmonton and Macleod, to those from Winnipeg, the large Special Committee which was appointed, met Mr. B. W. Greer, Freight Traffic Manager of the C. P. R. in his office yesterday morning, and discussed the whole matter, says Friday's Vancouver's News-Advertiser. The Committee was given to understand that the question would be submitted to the freight authorities of the Company, and that an answer would be given next Friday.

Nearly all the members of the Committee, which was a very large one, were present, and the memorial, which was presented by the Chairman, Mr. R. P. McLennan, Vice-President of the Board, was signed by all the wholesale houses in the city, with the exception of one. In putting the matter forward Mr. McLennan stated that the shippers approached the C. P. R. in a friendly spirit, and with the establishment in the city of a large number of business houses and factories, expansion of trade had to be looked for to the East. The Middle West was rapidly being settled up, and renewed activity was apparent in the Kootenay, but owing to the present rates Vancouver's business men were kept out of both places. Winnipeg merchants, owing to a more advantageous rate, were able to ship into the Kootenay over the line of the Crow's Nest Pass railway, which was built mainly by provincial grants. There was no reason, he pointed out, why Vancouver should not have as good rates east as Montreal, on the other seaboard, has to the west.

Mr. W. J. McMillan, of W. J. McMillan & Company, briefly stated that the merchants of the city stood together on the matter, and he was glad to see them doing so.

Mr. W. H. Malkin, of the W. H. Malkin Company, referred to the up-hill haul at Field, which was always spoken of when rates were mentioned, and said that when delays occurred to trains it was never in the mountains. Also on the prairies there was alkali water the year round to contend against, as well as snow and very low temperature in the winter. He said he had spoken on the subject on previous occasions, and reiterated his opinion that he could not see why the merchants at Winnipeg should receive far better treatment than the ones located at Vancouver.

Mr. William Braid, of W. H. Braid & Company, upheld the previous speakers in their presentation of the case.

The memorial presented to Mr. Greer read as follows:

"The discrimination in freight rates already obtaining to Calgary, Edmonton and Macleod in favor of Winnipeg as against Vancouver having been so much augmented by the recently established reduction in rates to Edmonton from Eastern Canadian points;

We, the undersigned merchants and manufacturers of the City of Vancouver are compelled to respectfully request that Pacific Coast shippers be at least placed on the same basis as Winnipeg shippers to the above named districts, and further, that in the event of any future reductions being made to Winnipeg shippers the same shall immediately be granted to Pacific Coast shippers.

In urging this concession we consider that Vancouver, as an important Pacific seaport and as an importing and distributing centre, is altogether too restricted in its territory and that she should have equal consideration in this regard with Montreal or other ports on the Atlantic seaboard. We would also point out that the territory contributary to Winnipeg practically covers three provinces and portions of two others, while Vancouver is by existing conditions restricted to British Columbia alone, and even in that limited market is subject to keen competition from Eastern points."

Merchants and members of the Board of Trade of Victoria are heartily in accord with the action taken in Vancouver. A copy of the memorial had been sent to the Capital City, and yesterday morning Mr. William Skene, Secretary of the Board here, received the following telegram:

"Victoria, Oct. 27th, 11.08 a. m.—A large, representative meeting of the Victoria manufacturers and shippers endorses the petition of Vancouver merchants and manufacturers to the C. P. R. relative to equalizing freights with Winnipeg. Victoria petition follows by mail. Signed T. Elworthy, Secretary of Meeting."

The names of those who signed the petition here follow:

McLennan, McFeely & Co., Ltd., per R. P. McLennan, Vice-President; Pilkington Bros., Ltd., per A. G. Thynne, Manager; Martin & Robertson, Ltd., per R. Martin; Hudson's Bay Co., per H. T. Lockyer, Manager; Kelly Douglas & Co.; The W. H. Malkin Co., per W. H. Malkin, Manager; Naismith & Co.; Mackay Smith, Blair & Co., per G. Blair; Crawford & Stewart, per John S. Tait; The McClary Manufacturing Co., per W. E. Drake; C. N. Hibben; G. H. Cottrell; The Baker, Leeson Co., per E. W. Leeson; J. Y. Griffin & Co., Ltd., per Robt. Robertson, Manager Vancouver branch; Woodward Department Stores, Ltd., per W. C. Woodward; William Braid & Co., per James Beveridge; The Hinton Electric Co., Ltd., per Geo. C. Hinton, Managing Director; Henry Darling; Boyd, Burns & Co., Ltd., per C. M. Merritt, Director; Evans, Coleman & Evans; W. J. McMillan & Co.; Albion Iron Works Co., Ltd., per J. G. Crawford; Lewis & Sills; G. H. Hutchings; Stanley White & Co; The Robertson-Godson Co., Ltd., per C. A. Godson; Wood, Vallance & Leggat, Secretary-Treasurer; Henderson Brothers Ltd., per W. Henderson, Secretary-Treasurer; Frederick Buscombe & Co., Ltd. per Frederick Buscombe, President; The Standard Furniture Co., Ltd., per A. G. McCandless, Manager; Drysdale-Stevenson Ltd., per Gordon Drysdale, Director; British Columbia Sugar Refining Co., per B. T. Rogers, President; Leason & Burpee, Ltd., per D. A. McIntosh, Secretary; The Canadian Fairbanks Co., Ltd., per M. E. Botterell, Manager; Vancouver Hardware Co., Ltd., per R. F. Andersou, Manager; Wm. O'Neil & Co., Ramsay Bros. Co.; C. E. Tisdall; Bennett, Peart Co.

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