

PACIFIC SECTION

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STORY OF THE RIOTS.

Many Reports Inaccurate, Some Pure Fiction—Looking for Investment Propositions—Good Times in British Columbia.

Monetary Times' Office,
Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 14th.

The disturbances in Vancouver directed against the Orientals, not the Japanese alone, but Chinese also, has been the topic of the week, not only in Western America, but throughout the world. Reports have been published, some inaccurate, some pure fiction. The bare facts are—on Saturday night last the Asiatic Exclusion League, which completed organization on Thursday of this week, held a public meeting, preceded by a parade. Immediately after the parade, the breaking of windows in Chinatown and the quarter inhabited by the Japanese began.

Was Under Organized Leaders.

The chief of police believes that this was done under organized leaders, as both attacks were made at the same time, and also because the streets there are paved and the large stones with which damage was done had to be carried several blocks. The breaking of windows in houses and stores was complete, but no Oriental was injured. The Japs resented the intrusion and opposed the mob with boards and bottles, being the weapons most handy, and some white men were badly cut. On Sunday, the city was in a ferment, but no further damage was reported.

On the other hand, the Japanese Consul had to be told by the chief of police to call his countrymen off the streets. They were parading around with revolvers and knives, with the proverbial chip on their shoulders. On Monday, both the Chinese and Japanese bought arms until the sale was forbidden. On Monday night, the police had arranged to stop any disturbance that might have occurred. The crowd was largely composed of curious people who came down town in anticipation of something. Since then, the under current of sentiment against the Oriental has subsided to the normal, and to-day everything is quiet.

Think Men Deprecate Outbreak.

For three days in the first part of the week, hotels and restaurants and private houses employing Mongolian cooks were greatly inconvenienced, as the Chinese were afraid to venture forth, although protection was assured. By Wednesday, there was so little evidence of a relapse, that when the "Monteagle" debarked 1,000 Asiatics there was no kind of a demonstration against them. Still, no precaution was relaxed by the police, and on Thursday night a jiu jitsu exhibition, which had been changed to a wrestling match, between a white man and a Japanese was postponed for two weeks.

Every thinking man in the city deprecates the outbreak. The belief is general that it was fomented by American agitators, who were successful in originating the incident at Bellingham. Certainly that affair had a little to do with inciting the mob in this city. The mayor, the chief of police, Hon. Mr. Morikawa, the Japanese Consul, and the Chinese, all express the opinion that alien agitators took advantage of the occasion.

The Japanese have been passing through Vancouver en route to the United States, finding it easier to pass the officers here than at the American seaports. Seeing this, those favoring exclusion, have come here and in an effort to arouse public opinion against them started what has been termed the riot. Although every action was taken to stop the disturbance and prevent a recurrence, the incident serves to show what has been pointed out before, namely, that public opinion is very strong against the exclusion of the Oriental.

Not a Personal Feeling.

No matter what Eastern people may say, nor what consideration is given the virtues of the Orientals, the fact is indisputable that the feeling against the Japanese and Chinese, not personally, but as immigrants is exceedingly strong and general amongst all classes. Vancouver's Federal member, Mr. Macpherson, may have spoken too much, as if secession was probable, but it was probably used as a figure of speech to show how the people of British Columbia stood on the matter. The sentiment is general all along the Pacific coast.

Mr. R. H. Court, manager of "Canada," the Anglo-Canadian weekly published in London, England, was in Vancouver this week. He has been commissioned by a number of English houses, principally engineering and hardware, showing that British business men are eager to start a trade out here. He is also looking for suitable investments in all

lines, and will take back with him a number of propositions, which he says he will have difficulty in placing. On the Pacific coast he does not notice the stagnation which has followed the financial stringency in Winnipeg. In the prairie capital, he states, things are practically at a standstill, while here building is as active as ever, while real estate transactions are frequent, both on the mainland and in Victoria.

Gathering Data for Immigration Schemes.

Hon. F. J. Fulton, of the Provincial administration, who with Prof. Carpenter constitutes the Irrigation Commission, will leave Victoria to-day for Colorado to inspect some of the irrigation schemes in that State. Colorado is in the front in this matter, and careful attention will be paid to what has been done. When this work is completed, the report bearing on the question in British Columbia will then be made. It will be comprehensive, and as a revision of the laws on the subject is intended, things will be put on a substantial basis.

That movement is active both in Victoria and Vancouver is shown by the steady increase in the amount of bank clearings. This is about the best indication of business that can be had, and while in other places in Canada, figures are either at a standstill or showing a decrease, these two Western cities, the largest west of Winnipeg, are breaking records.

Hon. J. H. Turner, British Columbia's agent general in London, who is here on a visit, will make a tour of the entire province to get posted on all points which may be brought before the public in England. The statement has been in other quarters that not only British Columbia, but other provinces of the Dominion, outside of those on the prairie, are practically unknown in the Old Country, and it is not improbable that the Government here will enter upon a systematic course of advertising.

Room for British Capital.

With the opportunities that are available here, there is plenty of room for British capital, and as it is willing to engage in legitimate enterprises, there is no reason why considerable of it should not come here.

Locally, on the coast, conditions, while quieter than this time last year are not by any means discouraging. In Vancouver, a large amount of building is going on; in Victoria, Vancouver Island, real estate and timber, even mines, are active; in Nanaimo and Alberni, people are very optimistic, and in New Westminster, prospects were never brighter. In the interior, lumbering is quiet, the reasons having been pointed out last week, but other industries, such as mining and fruit-raising are progressing rapidly.

BUSINESS IN THE WEST INDIES.

The resources of the West Indies seem to be as varied as they are plentiful. One of the most attractive features of the Canadian National Exhibition, at Toronto, this year, was the exhibit from the West Indies which occupied a prominent position in the Transportation Building. Messrs. Pickford & Black, of Halifax, were responsible for this practical object lesson in the commercial offerings of the West Indies.

Cocoa, sugar, cotton, rum, spices, and scores of other articles from St. Lucia, St. Vincent, St. Kitts, Grenada, Barbadoes, Dominica, Trinidad, Demerara, Antigua, and Montserrat were attractively arrayed on shelves and tables. The enumeration of the different products from the various islands would occupy columns of space.

If Canadian merchants generally recognized the importance of these island markets, there should be a substantial increase in business between the two countries. The Cashew nut, as an instance, is a modest little product which grows in Dominica and other of the islands. Like the peanut, it is roasted before consumption. It has a far more pleasant taste than the peanut. But it is not imported to Canada in great quantities, apparently for the sole reason that its existence is practically unknown. And so with a dozen other articles.

We are weary of reading the names of respectable merchants, lawyers, manufacturers, politicians, ministers of the Gospel and even (and this is the ultimate of indiscretion!) otherwise reputable mining engineers on promoters' literature. In any or all of these classes the willingness to become guinea pigs is indicative of gross ignorance, or of unjustified cupidity. And, conversely, it is surely time that the public realized that pre-eminent respectability of a board of directors does not constitute a mine.—Canadian Mining Journal.

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