

A Rich Country.

THE LARDEAU, ARGENTA AND DUNCAN'S IN THE KOOTENAY—AN ENCOURAGING OUTLOOK.

The attention of those desiring safe and remunerative investments in the direct line of the assured growth of the country, has been directed very strongly of late, to the Kootenay country. Those who have ever visited this promising section of British Columbia are unanimous in the verdict that it is one of the most wonderful of those rich fields, which seem to be only waiting that magic wand, the miner's pick, to pour forth their treasures into the lap of commerce.

Of this section General-Superintendent H. Abbott, of the C. P. R., said, a short time ago, that his company would, all probability, be very active in that region during the coming year.

Speaking of the resources of the section, Mr. Abbott stated that some remarkably rich mining ground has been discovered during the past season, and notably in the Slovan and Lardeau country.

The Great Northern and Haskins group of mines are located in the latter section only a short distance from Lardeau City, at the head of the arm of the Upper Arrow Lake, and several other good prospects are located in the same vicinity.

The Great Northern is probably one of the largest bodies of galena ore which has as yet been discovered in Kootenay. The ledge, some 30 feet in width, has been located for a long distance. In two places it has been cross cut by natural depressions, which demonstrates the remarkable width of the ledge. This property has been purchased by the Rockefellers and will be developed for all it is worth in the spring. The mines of this rich section will naturally send their ores for shipment, north to the east arm of the Upper Arrow Lake, which is the outlet for the Fish Creek and Lardeau mines. Here at the head of navigation is located the town of Lardeau. The natural advantages of the situation of this town together with the fact that it is the centre of a country of undoubted richness makes it safe to predict for it a wonderful growth during the coming season. The general value of property has increased from 100 to 500 per cent. in the Slovan country in the year past, and the same will be true of the section in and around Lardeau. Investors are becoming aware of the fact, and rapidly securing the choice locations. Ample railroad connections are already in sight, and there is every reason to say that this rich region will soon put forth some astonishing developments.

Argenta, on the north end of the Kootenay, and Duncans, on the Upper Kootenay, are also promising towns, located where they are sure to catch the trade of rapidly developing mining sections, and both of them offer very strong inducements to those who wish to get in on the ground floor and so take advantage of the rush which will presently be made to that region. Some excellent placer claims have been discovered near Duncans and the future of the town looks very bright.

Mr. Henry Croft, M. P. P., of Victoria, is handling properties in all the above mentioned places and is prepared to furnish anyone who wishes it, with complete information regarding any or all of them.

A large number of Victorians are interested in Port Angeles, and the public generally will be interested to know that it is proposed to run a railroad from that place to Grey's Harbor and thence by ferry to connect with Victoria. This will give an added impetus to Port Angeles real estate and enable those who have property in that town to realize on the investment.

Another opportunity for those who desire a convenient suburban residence is given in Saanichton, which is located on the Sidney & Saanich railroad, a station of which road is on the property.

A hotel, store and other buildings have gone up lately and lots are being freely purchased. The trains will bring residents to town in such a way as to make residing in Saanichton even more convenient than it would be three or four miles out of Victoria.

The number of inquiries received by Mr. Croft regarding these and other properties which he is handling, show plainly that British Columbia generally is becoming a strong favorite with those who have money to invest in real estate and kindred lines. The coming year will no doubt be an active one in these properties.—*Victoria Colonist*.

The Canadian Coat of Arms.

In his book on the "History and Traditions of the Canadian Beaver," Mr. Horace T. Martin makes an interesting suggestion in regard to the place of the beaver in Canada's armorial bearings. It is rather disconcerting to learn that in the opinion of the Herald's College neither beaver, crown, nor wreath really pertain to the arms of the Dominion of Canada, and Mr. Douglas Brynmor, the Dominion archivist, confirms this statement by declaring that he can find no authentic reference to the beaver in connection with the arms of Canada, nor is it mentioned in the descriptions of the Great Seal. The first to make use of the beaver as a crest was Sir William Alexander, who was raised to the peerage by the title of Viscount Stirling in 1639. The original intention was to grant him the right to the arms of New Scotland (Nova Scotia), quartered with his own, whilst the new blazon indicated his new title of Lord of Canada, as acquired in June, 1633. But though the beaver would not appear to properly pertain to the arms of the Dominion, it was adopted in earlier times to the designs for Canadian currency and postage stamps, and an unauthenticated shield gives a very curious heraldic beaver, and is supposed by some to have been at one time the arms of Canada. The beaver, moreover, is so closely interwoven with the early history of Canada, that Mr. Martin ventures a suggestion. Canada's present arms, he says, with all their complications, are very expressive and much admired. Suggestions should, therefore, be in the form of additions, not reductions. The design he proposes is the addition of a crest to the existing arms of an Imperial crown, a sym-

bol of membership of the Empire; motto, *Le Canada d'abord*, "a sentiment worthy of our magnificent future"; supporters, the Canadian beaver resting on maple boughs, "embodying a recognition of our traditions and early history." The suggestion is a good one.—*Canadian Gazette*.

Wild Pigeons.

There is every probability that in a year or two wild pigeons will appear in Manitoba and the Northwest, in numbers as great as existed thirty or forty years ago in Ontario, when the passing flocks were like clouds in the air, and when the trees in the woods were loaded and the branches bent by a multitude of fluttering birds. The great flocks of wild pigeons, numbering millions, are now in California, and are moving northwards. They will likely appear in British Columbia and west of the Rocky Mountains next season, then scatter over Alberta and the Peace River country, and afterwards arrive in Manitoba. About twenty-five years ago wild pigeons were in this country in great numbers. The food of these birds is chiefly insects and berries, which are, during the summer, exceedingly plentiful in Manitoba. Last season there were many wild pigeons in the wooded districts along the Pembina River, and a few small flocks visited the stooks on grain fields near Pilot Mound. Wild pigeons have a habit of building their nests together and sometimes millions of pigeons will breed in one grove. There is no account of the birds breeding in great numbers in Manitoba, although there is no reason why they should avoid this province.—*Pilot Mound Sentinel*.

Winnipeg Industrial.

The first meeting of the new board of directors of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association, was held on Jan 21. D. Sprague was elected president, and W. B. Scarth, vice. The following permanent committees were struck: Finance Committee—Scarth, Mitchell, Carruthers, Bawlf, Taylor, Strang. Grounds and buildings committee—Drewry, Risk, Westbrook, Hamilton, Carruthers, Brydon, Smith, Wolf, Harris, All Wyatt Printing committee—Bull, Wehrlok, Wolf, Wyatt, Barrows. Prize list committee—Strang, Bull, Mitchell, Hamilton, Boyd, Brydon, Smith, Risk. Attractions—Drewry, Strang, Westbrook, Mitchell, Bawlf, Boyd, Smith, Wolf, Harris, Bull Transportation—Drewry, Barrows, Taylor, All Dawson, Scarth. J. H. Ashlow tendered his resignation as director, which was accepted. Mr. Barrows brought up the question of holding the Dominion exhibition here this year or next, and with this end in view, moved that the following—Sprague, Boyd, Scarth, Drewry, and the mover—be appointed a special committee for the purpose of securing a grant from the Dominion Government, so as to give to this exhibition for the current year, the character of a Dominion exhibition.

The Dominion Minister of the Interior has decided to increase the commission payments to those steamship agents who encourage bookings to Winnipeg and the Canadian Northwest instead of Australia.