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The Imperial Press Conference touring Canada arrived in the Province during the week and will likely stay for a few days, pending their future movements. The press of the Province cordially welcomes them to their midst and it is sincerely to be hoped they may see as much of the Province as their stay with us will admit of. This gathering of journalists in their tour of Canada is particularly important because it represents the seasoned commentators of the Empire and a large number of proprietors of the British press. In seeing things and conditions for themselves they are able to judge of the value of news occurring in distant portions of the Empire and appraising them at their proper value. In this they will be able to properly appraise news dispatches as they come before the various metropolitan presses and give the space which the event recorded deserves.

In Great Britain, Canada and British Columbia in particular, have suffered as much from boosting at the hands of ill-advised newspaper correspondents and inspired advice by special interest as by any form of derogatory statement which has been published in Britain. We want publicity in the centre of the Empire, having regard to the presentation of fact, as far removed from special interest and propaganda as it is possible to remove it. We are very glad to note that some members of this conference objected to a Canadian Minister's statement that the British press should engage in a propaganda for inter-Empire trade relations. We are indeed glad that this sentiment was expressed and that these gentlemen will hold themselves and their associates free to express truth and fact without any motive capable of being construed as propaganda.

It is the sincere regret that these gentlemen will not be able to spend a longer time among us. Impressions will be gained only from a visit along the lines of the Province traversed by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and a visit to the cities of Vancouver and Victoria, with perhaps some outlying drives to various fields of activities and scenic beauties. While scenic beauty and a tourists' paradise have a bearing upon business activities, it is the special desire of the business interests of the Province that these men may see something for themselves of the great natural resources which the Province possesses, and this cannot be shown in any haphazard visits to local territory and special plants. If these men could take a trip along the coast and inspect for themselves some of the lumber mills, paper plants and mining operations, they would begin to appreciate the size and the enormous resources which this province possesses. A trip into the great hinterland along the Pacific Great Eastern and a return along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific by way of Prince Rupert would give more of

The services of this journal are offered through an inquiry column, which is open to subscribers and the public generally without charge, for detailed information or opinion as to financial or industrial affairs or institutions throughout the Province of British Columbia. Wherever possible the replies to these inquiries will be made through this column. Where inquiries are not of general interest, they will be handled by letter. We think that we can assure our readers that the opinions expressed will be reliable and conservative, and that all statements will be as accurate as possible.

an idea of our provincial resources than they obtained by their trip through the southern Rockies. Impressions gained from even so cursory an examination we believe to be well worth making any endeavor in this direction and would leave a lasting impression on their minds so that they would be able to judge of news coming from this quarter of the world and the developments arising from future growth and enterprise.

It would be indeed valuable if these gentlemen would disclose the impressions which they felt and got, free from the general accepted idea of laudatory terms which seems the appropriate thing to say when visitors arrive among us. We need in this province constructive criticisms, and frequently because of our closeness to the situation we lose something of the point and force of perspective which is gained by a visitor coming among us commenting on what he sees and learns. But this is something we cannot expect and we will be able to apprehend their true impressions only as filtered through the news published in their various papers coming in the course of months and perhaps years.

In a general survey of business conditions one can discern the appreciable lightening of the credit strain which is of happy augury and betokens the fundamentally sound conditions under which business is being transacted.

The general movement of tightening credit which manifested itself in the United States in May, and swept to Canada in June, has resulted in the liquidation of a material percentage of stocks on hand and a more liquid condition of business accounts. Merchants are perhaps yet too extended in this community, and the situation is not so comfortable as it should be, yet the trend is in the direction for smaller stocks on hand and the doing of business on a more day to day basis than previously. Manufacturers, wholesalers and jobbers are complaining that retailers are not buying for future delivery in the volume that they have hitherto, and in consequence this has resulted in midsummer dullness among these classes of businesses, which has materially affected the situation at manufacturing centres. This has had its effect in turn on production and has relieved the labor situation to a material extent. It remains to be seen just how far retailers in particular will be able to meet public requirements and keep sufficient stocks on hand for desirable assortments. Yet the merchant in co-operation with his banker has been adopting the principle of more frequent buying and has gotten his accounts appreciably nearer the cash basis.

The credit situation, however, has been materially helped by business confidence in the immediate future through the making of the crops throughout Canada. The moving of crops will prove a severe task on the banks, but the placing of tremendous harvests into the process of consumption will relieve all doubt that anyone may have had of the sound stable basis on which business is being carried on. Although money will be tight, there has arisen in the course of the last six weeks high confidence that money loaned on individual business transactions will be returned