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Some Victoria Industries.

Victoria, B. C., is not behind in industries, some of the manufacturing establishments being conducted on a large scale. In iron works there are three or four establishments, the most important of which is the Albion Iron Works. This is the largest industrial concern in British Columbia, and it is carried on on a scale of magnitude which would be a surprise to many. The works are complete in every department, and are capable of turning out almost anything in iron, heavy or light. Some of the manufactures are engines, boilers, stoves, etc. Railway, shipping, mining, saw mill and other classes of work keep the establishment busy. The works are capable of building an iron ship throughout, including the machinery, which means that machinery can also be supplied for wooden steamers. The repairs to the British war ship Amphion, were done by the Albion Iron Works, costing \$150,000. The works cover four acres, and give employment to 300 men. Work is often kept up night and day, the shops being lighted by electricity for night work. W. F. Bullen is the business manager of the establishment.

There is quite an industry in lumber, sash, doors, blinds and wood-working. The establishments in this line number five or six. They were recently referred to in an article on lumbering in this journal.

An important industry is the biscuit factory, carried on by M. R. Smith & Co. A large business is done in sea biscuits, pilot bread, etc., which is supplied to sealers and other ships. Bread, crackers, biscuits, etc., of all kinds are manufactured. A fine new factory was erected about a year ago in the James Bay section of the city. Mr. Smith, sr., is an old timer, and he has built up the business to its present importance. The factory has a capacity of fifty barrels of flour per day, and employs between fifteen and twenty hands. The industry has some disadvantages to contend with, such as

the duty on flour, high freight rates on shipments to interior points, and to the fact that some local dealers continue to purchase east, in preference to supporting a home industry which could do just as well by them. This, however, is a feature of trade the world over.

The Victoria rice mill is another important industry, conducted by Hall, Ross & Co. There are only two rice mills in Canada, and this is one of them. This mill supplies the trade with rice as far east as Winnipeg. The mill was established in 1885, and is now quite an extensive business, over 3,000 tons of rice being handled annually. The buildings are of stone. A fine large wharf and sheds extend down to the water front into deep water. The power for the machines is generated by a 160 horsepower Corliss engine, supplied with steam by two large boilers. Rice meal, rice flour, chit rice and granulated rice for malt, are prepared. The latter is used for malt in the manufacture of beer, and large quantities are exported to San Francisco for this purpose. The value of the plant is over \$75,000, and thirty-five men are employed. The company owns its own ship, named the Thermopela, a 1,000 tons vessel, and one of the fastest sailers on Pacific waters. This ship is engaged constantly in bringing rice from Japan and Siam principally, for the mill. The prohibiting of exporting rice from China prevents bringing rice from that country to any extent. A large brick warehouse 90x45 feet is being erected for storing the manufactures of the mill. A roller flour mill is also being established by the company, and this will be operated in connection with the rice mill. The flour mill is a solid stone building 45x120 feet, and the mill will have a capacity of 200 barrels of flour per day. It will be full roller process. The mill will be completed in September. The company imported a quantity of hard wheat from Manitoba last spring, and distributed this free among the farmers of Vancouver Island and the neighboring mainland,

with the object of inducing them to grow wheat. If the experiment proves successful, it will be a great advantage to the province. It is the idea to send the company's ship to Asia loaded with flour, when on her trips after rice. This would give her a cargo each way. T. B. Hall, manager of this important industry, is a pleasant and unassuming gentleman, with whom it is a pleasure to do business.

Brackman & Ker own and operate an oatmeal and grist mill at Saanich, a fine agricultural settlement a short distance north of Victoria. The mill has a capacity of four tons of oatmeal per day, also rolled oats, cracked wheat, split peas, etc., are manufactured. Flour is made principally for farmers of the district. The mill is 45x100 feet, three stories high. The firm carries on a general grain, flour, feed and produce business in Victoria, in addition to operating the mills at Saanich. A large business is done in the city, and in order to accommodate this a large brick building was erected last fall by this firm, at a cost of \$10,000. It has a frontage of thirty feet, by 100 deep, with three stories and basement. The city business is of a wholesale nature, and supplies are brought in from the east and from the United States, in addition to the manufactures of the local mill. A large quantity of potatoes were imported last spring by this firm, some coming from as far as Chicago and selling as high as \$50 per ton. This was due to the great scarcity of potatoes on the coast last winter, and is not a usual price. They have at times sold as low as \$5 to \$10 per ton, and usually job at \$15 to \$20 per ton.

In furniture there is quite an extensive local industry, there being three or four establishments in this line. John Weiler carries on an extensive manufacturing business in furniture, and his factory gives employment to about forty men. Furniture is turned out for local use and export. His trade extends all over the province and shipments are made to China, Japan and