

accurate. The Board congratulates itself upon its own marked prosperity during the year, the increasing interest manifested by its membership and the progress made with the new Board of Trade building scheme. We are well pleased that the Board whose official membership is principally composed of supporters of the Canadian Government, should have spoken so plainly against the sins of omission and commission of the powers that be, and we should, indeed, be glad to believe that its protests would be effectual, but we all know—no matter its party complexion—what slight attention it is their custom to pay to the outlying and less numerously represented provinces. British Columbia Members of Parliament, it would seem, can do no good at all unless, to use the historical remark of the late Hon. Chief Justice Wood of Manitoba, they belong to "the raise hell party."

EASTERN CAPITAL.

Mr. R. Macaulay, the able president and general manager of the well known Sun Insurance Company of Montreal, is at present in this province. His object has been two-fold. In the first place, he started out on a pleasure trip to the Pacific coast, and, in the second, he is availing himself of the opportunity thus afforded to satisfy himself as to the B. C. field for the further investment of the surplus funds of his company. We say "further investment" for the Sun has already considerable amounts out at interest in this province, and contemplates, should the inducements prove to be sufficient, to send here additional sums.

The Sun Company, which is a purely Canadian association, believes in big buildings as is evidenced by the handsome offices which it has erected in Montreal and elsewhere, and also believes in big dividends which it earns as well by the profits on its well administered business as by the large and judicious investments and loans which it makes among its customers. Not so long since, it completed and took possession of a solid and beautiful building in Montreal. It is confidently expected that within a very few years the entire building will be required by the company as a home for the transaction exclusively of its own business, and in that light is a good investment. In the meantime, such portions as are not so required are yielding, it is said, a very satisfactory rental. Under Mr. Macaulay's management, the Sun Company which started out in the first place with a good name has sought and found business the world over, while its management has been such as to commend it to the most experienced, enterprising as well as conservative business men.

Mr. Macaulay spent several days in Victoria, with which he is most favorably impressed, and is now on the mainland en route for home. He is reported to have said in an interview that his "company has been doing an extensive business in British Columbia for some years, but it has been chiefly on the mainland, though we have had investments in Victoria for some time." He says he has no doubt that a large amount of comparatively cheap money will very shortly be brought to the

coast. To use his own words: "I may say I have had a talk since coming here with gentlemen who, like myself, represent a company desirous of making large investments in places where they can feel assured of a future business prosperity sufficient to warrant it. He, like myself, has been very favorably impressed with the advantages offered by Victoria, and will so advise his company."

SMALLPOX SCARE.

"Monsbackism" in Victoria well nigh had a disastrous triumph in connection with the outbreak of smallpox. That element endeavored to cover up and hide everything relating to its existence in this community. The Mayor is reported to have pleaded that he had no funds at his disposal with which to deal with the crisis, and so he folded his hands and with heroic fortitude murmured—"It is fate!" The city Health Officer, with neither official nor financial backing, was powerless; and but for the action of the Premier it is possible that our people would have found themselves hopelessly and helplessly at the mercy of what would most certainly have proved to be a most serious epidemic. Rumor and outside report have for some time been saying that there was a serious outbreak of the malady, but those who should have heard were deaf, and it remained for the Premier and the medical men with whom he consulted to take action that had been far too long delayed. The mortality has, it is true, so far been very light; but it is only just now that the persons affected are arriving at the period of crisis, and what with some is not only the contagious but the fatal stage.

As was said in these columns some weeks ago, we must rely on vaccination, isolation and careful nursing, and the sooner people wake up to this the better. The number of cases is yet small, but what it may be it is impossible to imagine. If each citizen will do what in his or her lies to carry out sanitary and those other precautions that common sense suggests, there need not be over-alarm, which in itself, in times of epidemic, is a predisposing cause to contagion. The temporary hospital which has been placed at the disposal of the authorities by the foresight and public spirit of Mr. Joshua Davies and his colleagues on the Board of Management is certain to prove to be of the greatest utility, and they, with the Premier and those who have so heartily co-operated with him, are deserving of the general thanks.

CHINESE RESTRICTION.

During the last days of the Parliamentary session, the Bill to regulate Chinese immigration and emigration under the certificate system has undergone more or less modification, and, to all appearances, improvement, though the new Bill which was proposed, with numerous suggested additions, has been reserved for the present. The amendments to the present act will, it is expected, be the means of more effectively restricting the arrival among us of a class that, to say the least of it, is not at all desirable.

CROWN SOLICITOR APPOINTED.

Under the Act of last session, the Provincial Government have made the appointment of a Crown Solicitor in the person of Mr. Gordon Hunter, a graduate of the University of Toronto and a member of the Bars of both Ontario and British Columbia. For some time Mr. Hunter has had charge of the Law Library of Victoria, and had also in preparation a legal digest as affecting British Columbia cases. He is possessed of an eminently legal mind, is well up in jurisprudence, is a sound consulting lawyer, and as an advocate is possessed of considerable forensic force, unburdened with that so-called "eloquent gas" that is so wearying to the Bench and to jurors alike. Not only is he, as has been before said, a lawyer, but he has a keen sense of what is known as equity, and, though he is certain to do his utmost to convict the guilty, his zeal is by no means likely to lead him to endeavor to secure the conviction of the innocent for the mere sake of making a record. We regard the appointment as an admirable one, upon which the Premier and Attorney-General is to be congratulated. There may be some who will say, wait and see what Mr. Hunter does. We are content to wait for the general endorsement of these remarks by practical experience.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

Mills & Reosbeck have opened a hotel at Nelson.

Bowen & Jones are opening a soap factory at Nanaimo.

Carter & Tolmie, brewers, Victoria, contemplate dissolution.

J. H. Simpson, merchant tailor, Victoria, has sold out to J. C. Leask.

H. P. Johnson & Co., teas and Indian goods, Victoria, have assigned.

Rosenthal & Co., confectioners and cafe, Victoria, have gone out of business.

The East Wellington Hotel is offered for sale by the trustees of the Peck estate.

Fitzpatrick & Mackie, plumbers, Victoria, have dissolved; J. Fitzpatrick continues.

The stock and book debts of A. D. & E. F. Campbell, Sardis, are offered for sale by tender.

Hill & Northgate, general store, Northfield—business offered for sale by mortgagees.

A. Hasenfratz & Co., Lansdowne brewery, Nanaimo, have dissolved, Leo Bernard withdrawing.

Hamlin, Bouchier & Co., brokers, Victoria, have dissolved. Francis Bouchier will continue alone.

James Kirkwood, formerly a commission merchant in Winnipeg, contemplates opening a grocery business in Victoria.

F. J. Hall has purchased Thos. Percy's interest in the business of Percy & Renouf, grocers, Victoria, under the name of Hall & Renouf.

John Karsman and Alex. M. Leitch, trading under the firm name of John Karsman & Co., Victoria, commission merchants, have dissolved partnership; A. M. Leitch retires.