

FIELD AND FARM.

Fertile Lands of the Fraser to Be Protected by a Comprehensive Diking Scheme.

Creameries Increase in Number and Mixed Farming Makes Material Advancement.

Where agricultural conditions differ as they do in such a large and varied area as the province of British Columbia, it is somewhat difficult to make a general statement that will embrace all the districts. On the whole, however, the farmers of British Columbia have reason for congratulation on the results of the past year, and the prospects for 1897 are decidedly encouraging.

A flax mill is being erected at Westminster and samples of flax grown on the lower Fraser show well both in fibre and seed. The Flaxmasters' Association at Cowichan has done excellent work in importing good stock and improving the breed of sheep on the Island, and farmers in other parts of the province are doing likewise. It is a surprising fact, however, that very little has been done in hog raising in the province, though it is satisfactory to hope that there is talk of establishing a pork packing concern in Okanagan. Damages suffered every year from British Columbia produce more of the eggs that are consumed here than in the years before.

WEALTH OF THE FOREST.

Substantial Growth of the Lumbering Industry During the Year Now Dead.

"Finest Timber in the World"—Claims the Whole World as Its Market.

By a glance at the appended table it will be noticed that the lumbering industry will be noted that the lumbering industry has had a gain of 12 per cent. being shown in the number of ships carrying the wealth of British Columbia's forests to the markets of the world, and the tonnage employed in the trade having in the

Table with columns: FLAG, NAME, PORT, CARGO, FEET, VALUE. Lists various ships and their cargo details.

PROPERTY VALUES STEADY.

The Total Worth of Victoria Realty and Improvements is Now Twenty Millions of Dollars.

Victoria property values have for years maintained a reputation for steadiness second to that of no other city in the land. The twelvemonth just past adds to that reputation, for although times have been hard and money tight almost everywhere, there has been comparatively little fluctuation. A very conservative estimate of the worth of Victoria property, prepared by Assessor W. Northcott, gives a valuation for 1896 of \$20,888,880, as compared with \$23,069,420 the year previous. Bywards the figures for 1896 are as hereunder:

ON THE BOUNDARY.

A Huge Territory Combining the Riches of Trail Creek and Sloacan.

When the cities of the Pacific coast get the much desired direct rail connection with Roseland, there will have been opened up the route a new mining territory that before long will overshadow even the now famous Trail Creek and Sloacan. This territory is known as the Boundary country, and may roughly be described as being directly north and parallel to the international boundary line, on both sides of which the precious metals abound in quantities simply prodigious.

THE POST OFFICE.

Improvement in the Income of the Year Over That of 1896.

One reliable index to the city's prosperity is the post office, which more than most other public institutions is always in touch with local business conditions and displays through its workings the condition of the community. Victoria stands this year, in the light of her post office returns, in a better condition than twelve months ago. The improvement as regards income has been small, but a comparison of the figures in the appended table will show satisfactorily how steadily the growth has been since 1884.

RAILWAY BUILDING.

Mineral Districts of the Interior Opening Up With Increased Advantages of Communication.

The Direct Line to the Coast the Road of First and Paramount Importance.

Though the mileage of railways built in British Columbia during 1896 was not very extensive, yet the railway building has had a very important bearing on the development of the province, especially in the enormously rich mining country in Kootenay, by giving facilities for the transportation of ore, without which it would have been impossible to have shipped from many of the mines. Increased attention has been attracted to railways by this very mining development, and at a time, too, when the other countries of the continent are chary of taking hold of railway enterprises, owing to the depression that made railway investments decidedly unattractive.

The Columbia & Western railway, a source that will well repay the building of railways, and, indeed, require facilities of communication to utilize them, has during 1896 become more apparent than ever. It is only a couple of weeks since Hon. Mr. Blair, the Dominion Minister of Railways and Canals, while in Victoria, expressed himself as perfectly astonished at the marvellous richness of this province, and it is to be expected now that on his return to Ottawa he will point out to his colleagues in the cabinet the necessity of assisting this province to obtain improved railway communication. The Columbia & Western railway, a distance of 11 miles, was completed in June, and though a narrow gauge road, has been a most important factor in the development of the mines of Southwest Kootenay, having carried many thousands of tons of ore from the mines of that great mining centre to the smelter at Trail. Without some such road the output of Kootenay's mines would not have attained such a satisfactory prominence as they have.

FOR PUGET SOUND POINTS.

TAKE THE FINE STEAMER "CITY OF KINGSTON"

Speed 18 knots. Tonnage 1147.

8:30 pm Mill Pt. Victoria, Ar. 11:45 pm 11:45 pm 88... Fort Townsend... 12:15 pm 3:00 am 53... Seattle... 2:10 pm 4:45 am 110... Tacoma... 3:45 pm

FOR PUGET SOUND POINTS.

SS. Rosalie

Leaves Victoria daily (except Sundays) at 10 a.m. returning leaves Seattle daily (except Sundays) at 7:30 a.m. Fare: TO SEATTLE... \$1.50 TO TACOMA... \$1.00

Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Co.

Until further notice the steamer "City of Nanaimo"

will sail as follows: Leave Victoria for Nanaimo, Tuesday, at 7 a.m. Leave Nanaimo for Victoria, Wednesday, at 7 a.m. Leave Victoria for Nanaimo, Friday, at 7 a.m. Leave Nanaimo for Victoria, Saturday, at 7 a.m.

Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Co.

Until further notice the morning train for Nanaimo will not leave Victoria until 10:45 o'clock, and the Saturday afternoon trains are cancelled.

OCEANIC S.S. CO.

6 DAYS ONLY, to HONOLULU, by AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, S.S. AUSTRALIA for Honolulu only, 4 days, Dec. 29, at 10 a.m. S.S. ZEALANDIA sails via Honolulu and Auckland for Sydney, Thursday, Jan. 7, 1897, at 2 p.m. S.S. COOK sails via Australia and Cape Horn for San Francisco, Saturday, Jan. 10, 1897, at 2 p.m. R. P. RITCHEY & Co., Agents, Victoria, B.C.

Oregon-Asiatic Steamship Line.

For Honolulu... China & Japan. SS. MOONSHINE—4,000 tons dead weight. Due here 22nd December, 1896. SS. CHITRA—2,000 tons dead weight. Due here 23rd January, 1897.

Pugot Sound & Central America S.S. Co.

SS. TRANSIT—sailing monthly for Central America ports. For freight and particulars apply to F. C. DAVIDGE & CO., Agents.

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Commission Merchants and Shipping Agents. Importers of JAPANESE RICE, SILK AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE. Agents for North China Insurance Co., Ltd. (Marine) BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING, VICTORIA, B.C.

Paper Bags

Made from our well-known long-fibred Manila paper. Strong of texture. Finished in appearance. Send for samples. The E. B. EDDY CO. (LIMITED) HULL, Canada. JAMES MITCHELL, Agent, Victoria and Vancouver.

GHAS. HAYWARD,

Funeral Director and Embalmer 52 Government Street, Victoria. The largest and best appointed Undertaking Establishment in the Province.

VICTORIA'S SEWERS.

They increased Last Year to a Total of Twelve and a Half Miles.

The sewer system of Victoria is gradually increasing, for during 1896, from 59,196 feet to 66,861, feet, or to a total of over twelve miles and a half. Of the 7,165 feet of sewers added during 1896 the following table shows the sizes of the sewers and the streets on which they were laid:

Table with columns: Street Name, Size (Feet x Inches), Total Length (Feet). Lists various streets and sewer sizes.

NEW BY-LAWS PASSED

- By the Corporation of the City of Victoria During the Year Now Ended. 255—Assessment Roll by-law. 256—Annual Loan by-law. 257—Rose Bay Cemetery Amendment by-law. 258—Market by-law further amendment by-law. 259—Municipal Elections by-law. 260—Real Property Tax Sale by-law. 261—Tax by-law. 262—Bicycle Regulations by-law. 263—Expenditure by-law. 264—Market by-law. 265—Street Railway Regulations by-law. 266—Point Ellice Bridge Traffic Regulations.

TO BE TAPPED BY THE ROAD TO ROSSLAND—Recent Development at Kamloops.

When the cities of the Pacific coast get the much desired direct rail connection with Roseland, there will have been opened up the route a new mining territory that before long will overshadow even the now famous Trail Creek and Sloacan. This territory is known as the Boundary country, and may roughly be described as being directly north and parallel to the international boundary line, on both sides of which the precious metals abound in quantities simply prodigious.

CHILDREN FREE.

By sending your name and address (write plainly) to Adams & Sons Co., 11 and 13 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Ont., you will receive one of their beautiful paper bags, with movable heads and bodies, for the children free. Subscribe for The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

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THIRD JOURNAL

Labor Struggle Alive in the West. Old Age Pension. Naval Expenditure.

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LONDON, Jan. 4. The Imperial Government of India from their respective papers have taken the present position of them for severe administration of the ca. Wages has been interesting struggle. The progress of the question is said to be in the hands of the press. The fund for the dis. A special dividend there by the prominent stock. Helen, who did interred the rumors were not met with the of a catalogue of property. The body was. The body was. The body was.

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