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The Victoria Times.

TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION

36. VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1906. No. 10.

GREATER RECEIPTS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS

Give Conclusive Evidence of Victoria's Prosperity--Real Estate Transactions Active at Opening of Summer.

"There has been a marked fall in the temperature, with snow and rain and frost at nearly all stations." This melancholy state of affairs, extracted from last week's weather report, refers not to British Columbia, but to the country east of the Rockies. In Victoria, wild roses in full bloom—in the Northwest, frost and snow. Is it any wonder that those able to get away are flocking here in large numbers.

This state of affairs has an important share in making Victoria the most progressive city in the province. Prosperity is felt all along the line. While other places are establishing soup kitchens to help the distressed, in Victoria there is a dearth of labor. Civic improvements are being delayed and work on the Princess Victoria was almost stopped through this cause. And this though good wages are paid and the hours are not long. At the cement works also there is a scarcity of men. Although provincial statistics are not applicable alone to this city, the increased receipts in different departments of the public service here show that everything is on the up-grade. The receipts of the land registry office given last Saturday have since been officially revised and, as corrected, read: April, 1905, $2,802.06; April, 1906, $7,040.45. A startling showing is this increase of 160 per cent. Other branches of the public service show a like accession. The lands and works department in April, 1905, took in $31,588.65, in April, 1906, $65,030.08, or considerably more than double; the King's printer for the same months had receipts of $2,123.10 and $3,343.32 respectively.

The local real estate market has continued active. One of the most important transactions of the week was the purchase by William McCarter of a block and three lots in the Seaview estate. This comprised block 8, between Prior and Blanchard streets, containing twenty lots, and three lots in block 7, fronting on Hillside avenue. Negotiations were conducted through Helsterman & Co., but the consideration has not yet been made public. The last two and a quarter acres of the Fairfield estate were snapped up on Monday, and all that now remains on the market is about seven acres in that portion bounded by Wallace, Cook, Southgate and Sutty streets, which can be bought either as acreage or town lots.

Transactions at the land registry office so far this month give evidence that the phenomenal record of April will be beaten by that of May. Though the documents in no very extensive deal have been recorded, as affecting city property, a healthy distribution is shown in residential sites all over the city. Again, the reasonableness of price must be emphasized, the declared value in every instance being much below what would be considered a fair market price. The following are typical of the prices obtained and the widely divergent location of the properties:

One acre on Belmont avenue, north half of lot 2, block 7, map 757, A. W. Vorell to W. Piggott, $1,300. Lot 10, subdivision of section 62, Victoria district, $1,000. Three lots at Oak Harbor bought by F. M. Reade at $1,250. Part of the Douglas estate, lots 21 to 26 and 47 to 52, subdivision of lot 1,694, facing Beacon Hill park, $2,500. Lot 67 in section 23, Oak Bay, $400. Part of section 56, Victoria district, Victoria West, bought by Finley McLennan for $2,325. Lots 34 and 35 in subdivision of lot 2, Springfield estate, Victoria West, $600. One acre in the Tolmie estate, lot 30, subdivision of sections 7, 9 and 33, $315. Lots 19 and 27, block 21, Victoria West, $200. West half of lot 380 and east half of lot 381, Victoria city, $1,400. Lot 14 in McNeill estate $300.

A transaction of some importance is being put through by P. R. Brown. It is the sale of that part of the Finlayson estate lying east of Quadra street, containing about nine acres. The price has not yet been made public, but the property is very valuable for residential purposes.

In the district tributary to Victoria there was also an important sale, that of the Le Poer Trench farm at Saanich. This was purchased by a recent arrival from California named Montz, and the consideration is stated to have been $17,000. Though the large residence formerly on the place was recently burnt the consideration is well within the actual value.

Several important improvements are taking place in local business houses, showing the increasing commercial importance of Victoria. Prominent among these are the extensive alterations now being carried on by the B. C. Market Company. The most noticeable feature is the erection of a large refrigerating chamber in the centre of the store, 16 by 20 feet in dimension. In it will be stored the reserve supplies of meat and a system of rails will much facilitate handling. The present counters will soon be replaced by ones of glass, thus ensuring a display at an even temperature, as the meat chambers below will be fitted with a system of cooling pipes. The joints and steaks will not only be protected from promiscuous handling but the danger of contamination by flies and dust practically eliminated. From a hygenic point of view the improvements are most commendable. In the same line of business Lawrence Goodacre has also under consideration some extensive alterations to his premises at Government and Johnson streets. Not only this, but the erection of three stores on the property he recently acquired on Johnson street is also being considered. These will be built later on this summer, in all probability.

In all parts of the city residences are in course of construction. Many of them are substantial in character, and all are being erected with a view to occupation by the owner or tenants already secured. None are in any way speculative buildings, and each means an appreciable addition to Victoria's population.

The city is not behind hand in doing its share towards the improvement of conditions as population increases. As noted in yesterday's issue of the Times a large extension of permanent sidewalks is contemplated for the summer and work has already been commenced in the James Bay district. Increased efficiency in the fire department is also assured, and what possible is being done towards the betterment of the system of street lighting. The inauguration of an electric sprinkling service will do much to remove an old cause of complaint and it is understood the Mayor is obtaining the most reliable information regarding oiled roads with a view to considering the feasibility of introducing this phase of municipal improvement in the city.

The opening of the tourist season also brings up the matter of tarnsportation facilities. In this connection the B. C. Electric Railway has the foremost position, and it is pleasing to note that the company realizes the responsibilities of its position. A special direct service on holidays and Sundays to the Gorge has been already instituted that brings the new park and other attractions into close connection with the city. The erection of the new swimming bath and the proposed removal of the one chiefly patronized by children to Curtis Point will certainly do somewhat to increase traffic over this branch of the line. In other directions an agitation is being conducted towards an extension of the company's branches. Already an important section of the public is moving to secure a line to Mount Tolmie and Gordon Head, while another is strong in advocating a branch past Ross, Foul and Shoal bays along the beach to the present Oak Bay terminus. This would form a belt line that for scenic advantages it would be hard to equal.

And with all this nature is doing her share for Victoria. The prairie is only just emerging from the icy grasp of winter, while here the golden tints of spring are giving way to the varied hues of summer. The season of broom and buttercup is passing and the wild roses already scent the air. While legislators at Ottawa are clutching at their overcoats for protection from the chilling winds, outside the parliament buildings here the gorgeous colors of the rhododendron shine as bright coruscations of brilliant jewels against the verdant lawn. The oarsmen are actively training on the beautiful waters of the Gorge. Ice in the east—a complaint of too much sun in Victoria. These are the things that make the city a Mecca for those in pursuit of sunshine and flowers. Residents may forget them, they are too common in this favored clime, but it is the duty of every inhabitant to talk, write and even shout about it all the time. It is to be hoped the necessary arrangements can be made to induce the teachers of the province to spend their vacations here. They will become a band of willing workers in the interests of the capital. The Tourist Association is doing its share in telling the world of Victoria's advantages, but every person should make the city at least partly the theme of personal correspondence. To declare Victoria the beauty spot of America is only telling the truth, anyway, and the knowledge will be of benefit to both the giver and recipient.

BARON CURRIE DEAD.

London, May 12.—Baron Currie (Philip Henry Wodehouse) formerly British ambassador at Constantinople and later ambassador of Great Britain at Rome, died to-day at his residence in Blackwater, Hampshire, after a long illness.

COL. SWAYNE HERE.

Noted Soldier Who Restored Quiet in Somaliland is Visiting City.

Col E. J. E. Swayne, recently appointed governor of the crown colony of British Honduras, is in Victoria. He is, while in the city, making his headquarters at the Driard.

Col. Swayne, with the local rank of brigadier-general, has become very prominent during the past few years by his able administration of affairs in Somaliland and his vigorous military policy in East Africa. He was appointed commissioner and consul-genral for the Somali coast protectorate in 1902. In that capacity he has made the British arms respected among the natives who at times gave trouble. A successful campaign against the Mad Mullah has had the effect of restoring quiet among the tribes.

Col. Swayne has given attention in his position to the cultivating of a more settled life among the inhabitants of the African dependency with good results.

Col. Swayne entered the army in 1883. He joined the Indian staff corps. During his career he has had a full share of active service, beginning with the Burnese war in 1886. Following that he did special duty in the Somaliland reconnaisance in 1890 to 1892. In 1898 the Uganda mutiny again gave Col. Swayne active service. In 1901 he commanded the Somaliland field force and since that time has seen service from time to time in that territory, being given the local rank of brigadier-general.

To-day Col. Swayne is the guest at lunch of Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere at Government House. He will make a very short stay in Victoria. He will, upon leaving Canada, return to England before entering upon his duties in British Honduras.

INTERESTING TEST OF SALMON MACHINE

One of Four Being Built at Victoria Machinery Depot Worked on Saturday.

In the presence of a gathering of business men and mechanics an interesting test of a new fish cleaning machine was made at the Victoria Machinery Depot on Saturday afternoon. The invention has been designed specially for the salmon canning business, and it is claimed that there is no other that at all compare with the machine. It is simple, thorough in its work, that is it removes head, tail, finch, entrails and blood along the back bone, and it has the third highly important advantage of being exceedingly speedy.

The Smith Fish Cleaning Machine, by which this new device is known, is not entirely new to the market, for nine of the machines were in use on the Sound last year, and they cleaned in the manner described 5,000,000 salmon during the season. They are now being introduced into British Columbia and two are being made at the Victoria Machinery Depot for use on the Skeena and Fraser rivers, while two are to be constructed to the order of the Malcolm Canning Company. The one tested on Saturday appeared to the spectators perfect in its mechanism. The operator takes a salmon, cuts off tail and head by means of revolving knives and then places the salmon into a vice shape part of the machine. The fish is then ready for the machine, and is placed in the feeding trough. It passes through the trough tail first, and the back fins of the fish come into contact with a self-sharpening knife which trims off the large and small fins. An automatic feed in the trough works consistently with the clamps on the wheel, six in number, and the fish is caught in the clamp by the tail, carried up through a centering device which holds it firmly when the back clamps close on it. Self-sharpening, self-adjusting knives at the top of the machine remove all the remaining fins in a uniform manner and the fish passes on down to the splitting saw, shown in the illustration, one-fourth of the way down from the top. The saw splits the fish in the exact centre, and it passes on, coming in contact with a rotary grappling device which removes the entrails and stirs up the blood on the backbone, leaving it ready to be washed out with the aid of a stream of water and a rotary brush. The fish then travels on to within three inches of where it entered the wheel, and released, slides onto a conveyor which carries it to the gang knives, from whence it passes through the long line of canning machinery.

The machine cleans about 30,000 fish in a run of ten hours, and when running at full capacity does the work for which 51 expert Chinese cannery laborers were required. It requires but two horespower to operate it. Only two operators are required to prepare a fish for the cleaning machine as it is now operated.

E. A. Smith, the inventor of the machine, lives in Seattle. He is a brother of Mr. Smith, a furniture dealer in this city.

Mrs. Violet Tewksbury, who was extradited from Paris, March 30th, charged with passing fraudulent cheques at the instigation of her husband, was acquitted in the sessions court, London, on Friday after three days' trial.

PROGRAMME FOR THE SCHOOL MEET

YOUNG ATHLETES ARE TRAINING FOR RACES

Annual Competitions For Swinerton Trophy Will Take Place Next Friday at Oak Bay.

The second annual athletic meet under the auspices of the public schools of Victoria will be held on the afternoon of Frdiay, the 18th inst., at the Oak Bay grounds. The directors of the latter are assisting in the arrangement of the programme, and, in order to insure the success of the meet, the board of school trustees, at their last meeting, decided to allow a half holiday on that occasion.

This event, it will be remembered, was inaugurated principally through the efforts of R. H. Swinerton when secretary of the B. C. Agricultural Association. It was brought off in connection with the fal. fair. Mr. Swinerton offered a cup for the school whose representatives obtained the largest number of points, the latter being awarded to those securing the first, second and third places in the competitions. Of course the highest number were given the boys winning premier places. This proved a splendid success, a keen, friendly rivalry being aroused, and since then it has become an annual affair.

For weeks the picked athletes of the different schools have been training faithfully. They will take the track in the best possible condition and some exciting contests are assured. It, perhaps, is unnecessary to state that the securing of points in the effort to win for their schools the Swinerton trophy is not the only stimulus offered. Separate prizes are offered for every contest and are well worth winning.

Appended is a complete programme of the sports:

Sixteen years and over—880 yards, 220 yards, 100 yards, high jump

Under sixteen—880 yards relay run, 440 yards, 220 yards, 100 yards, broad and high jump.

Under fourteen—220 yards, 100 yards, broad and high jump.

Under twelve—220 yards, 100 yards.

Under ten—150 yards, 75 yards.

Under eight—75 yards.

THE TRAIN ROBBERY.

The New Westminster Columbian, referring to the hold-up of the C. P. R. train east of Kamloops, says:

"Owing to the cool judgment of the mail clerk, Mr. Alex. McQuarrie, of this city, the desperadoes got away with a very insignificant amount, totalling probably $100, while a mail bag containing many thousands of dollars was overlooked.

"None of the officials of the company had anything to say about the robbery, other than that, as the Imperial Limited, which arived at Vancouver Wednesday morning, was steaming along near Furrer, a station eight miles east of Kamloops, last night, it was held up.

"Mr. McQuarrie, a mail clerk, was interviewed by a local party over the long distance 'phone, and the main features of the hold-up were related. Mr. McQuarrie stated that after the train slowed down a arp came to the mail car door. His assistant was asleep at the time, so he stepped to the door, and on opening it was immediately confronted by three revolvers and three masked faces. Without any prelimiary remarks the men told him to shell out the valuables. The clerk complied with seemingly ready alacrity, but taking advantage of a rare opportunity, he pitched a well loaded bag, which was said to contain many thousands of dollars, into a secret place, where it was fortunately overlooked. Another bag, which contained a few registered letters, was given to the robbers, who grabbed it and hurried away. Before they departed they expressed the wish that the little affair would not interfere with the clerk's job, and after a few other polite remarks, they decamped with a "good-bye.'

"A keg of dynamite was found under the side of the car after the men departed, thus showing that they were not to be trifled with. It might be well to point out that while express messengers are provided with firearms by their company, the government does not do the same for the mail clerks, and they are thus unprepared for an emergency of this kind. In view of this, the diplomatic move of Mr. McQuarrie is still more creditable.

"He stated that one of the men accidently dropped his mask while in the car, and he had a good view of him. The man was about 50 years of age. A grave errow was made by the robbers, which turned out fortunately for the company. They had intended to rob the express car, but forced the crew to cut off the mail car by mistake. The robbers then boarded the engine and ran down the track about three-quarters of a mile from where they carried out their work. The passengers in the train were not molested."

Jas. Fowler, Lloyd's surveyor, of Seattle, is at the King Edward.

INVESTING IN 'FRISCO.

San Francisco, May 12.—Within the past few days, it is said, new accounts have been opened at several of the commercial banks of San Francisco by men from the East, who have deposited sums ranging from $10,000 upwards. Some of them are known by representation to banking men to be possessed of large wealth. Others are supposed to represent wealthy clients in eastern money circles. The evident purpose of these men the bankers say is to make investment of their funds in San Francisco.

THE CONQUERING CANUCK.

In regard to the supply of forage for the mounted police in the Yukon a very satisfactory feature of the present contract, alluded to in a dispatch to the Times on Friday, is that only Canadian grown produce is supplied.

For many years it was customary to purchase hay and oats in the state of Washington for the police horses. Then Canadian oats finally asserted their supremacy and displaced the imported article. But "east of the mountain'" Washington hay, a very fine product no doubt, still retained its hold on the authorities. Last year H. A. Munn undertook to find a product in British Columbia that would give satisfaction, and his efforts have resulted in convincing the department that Canadian hay will do. This means that many thousands of dollars that formerly were sent out of the country are spent among the British Columbia farmers, and it is expected that this will be but the beginning of a new and lucrative trade in supplying to the north.

It may not be generally known that Canadian butter and eggs were at one time tabooed in the Yukon. To-day they are used almost exclusively.

ROUGH VOYAGE OF THE CARNARVON BAY

Sailor who Fell From Aloft Was Killed—Prompt Rescue of Man Overboard.

Captain Griffiths, of the British ship Carnarvon Bay, who was last here four years ago and has since been pretty much over all the world, is again in Victoria. The Carnarvon Bay arrived in the Royal Roads on Friday with general cargo for Victoria and Vancouver consigned to R. P. Rithet & Company of this city.

The vessel had an interesting voyage from Glasgow, but not devoid of some regrettable features. Among those was a fatal accident. A man fell from aloft to the deck of the vessel, sustaining injuries which caused almost instant death. The unfortunate fellow was a seaman named Campbell. His remains were buried at sea with impressive services conducted by Capt. Griffiths.

Another incident of the voyage happened about the 15th of January, when a seaman fell overboard. At the time the vessel was bowling along in a stiff breeze, making probably nine knots an hour. Under the circumstances it would seem next to impossible to accomplish a rescue. But a rescue was effected, and that in a remarkably short time. The moment the call "a man overboard" was given every member of the crew was in his place in a moment. The occurrence took place about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Immediately a lifebuoy was thrown out, which the man caught, and in three minutes a boat was in the water heading for the unlucky seaman. In twenty-five minutes from the time the man fell overboard he was aboard again.

Capt. Griffiths reports that from about 6 south to 14 north he experienced unusually heavy thunder storms. These followed in rapid succession, and while he did not feel any of the earthquake shock which wrought such terrible destruction ashore, yet he thinks now, after hearing the reports of 'Frisco's desolation, that the disturbance of the sea in connection with the storm may have been traceable to the shaking of the earth. He says that he was twenty days passing Madiera and sixty-five days in rounding the Horn. One heavy storm was encountered off the River Plate. A great deal of very stormy weather was met with on the trip, and in consequence a number of sails were carried away.

WILL BE APPOINTED.

A dispatch to the Times from Ottawa announces that Captain James Troup, superintendent of the C. P. R. coasting fleet, will be appointed Pacific coast representative on the new lighthouse board, which is being created by the Dominion government to act in advisory capacity. There is no salary attached to the appointment, the position being honorary. A like representative will be appointed for the Atlantic coast, and both will act in conjunction with the deputy minister of marine and fisheries. Captain Troup will be looked to for advice in respect to all aids to navigation on the British Columbia coast, and inasmuch as his interests will extend to all parts and not to any particular section, it is believed that his appointment will be generally acknowledged to be one of the most representative that could be made.

MR. DUNSMUIR APPOINTED LIEUT.-GOVERNOR

A Brief Sketch of his Career—Retirement of Sir Henri Joly.

JAMES DUNSMUIR.

As mentioned in a special dispatch from Ottawa in Friday's Times, James Dunsmuir, of this city, has been named as Lieut.-Governor of the province.

The exact date upon which he will assume the duties of his office is not yet known. It is presumed that provision will be made for having the new Lieut.-Governor take the oath of office within a short time after the arrival of the formal notice of appointment from Ottawa.

Mr. Dunsmuir is fifty-four years of age. He is known to every one in this city, and has had considerable political experience, having been premier of the province for several years.

No other resident of the province has individual interests in British Columbia to equal those of Mr. Dunsmuir.

Born at Fort Vancouver, Washington state, he has spent all his life on the Pacific coast. He has resided practically the whole of that time in British Columbia. Brought up to the coal mining business Mr. Dunsmuir has devoted nearly all his attention to the mines on Vancouver Island and to his railway and land interests up to the time of the sale of the E. & N. and land grant to the C. P. R.

His appointment is generally acceptable to the people of the province, and it is expected that he will fill the position with credit to himself and in the public interest.

Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere has occupied the honorable position of Lieut.-Governor for over six years. Coming to Victoria as a comparative stranger to the city and the province he has by his courtly manner and the deep interest he has manifested in everything pertaining to British Columbia become very popular. It will be with regret that a farewell will be taken of Sir Henri.

SIR HENRI JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

PARTY IS COMPLETE.

Dr. G. P. Howe, a graduate of the medical college of Harvard University, arrived in the city last evening. He is the last of Capt. Mikkelsen's scientific party to arrive here preparatory to the departure of the schooner Duchess of Bedford for the Arctic regions. Dr. Howe will look after the health of the party and the crew, and in addition to this will also assist in some departments of research which the expedition is fitted out to accomplish.

Dr. V. Stefanssau, the ethnologist of the party, is a personal friend of Dr. Howe. He will not come to Victoria, but will go overland to the mouth of the Mackenzie river making a study of the tribes met with in the country covered and joining the Duchess of Bedford at the mouth of the Mackenzie, will accompany them to study the Esquimaux tribes, which will be found on the northern islands.