TELLS OF WORK OF EXPERIMENTAL FARM

Dr. Saunders' Address at Banquet to Delegates of Irrigation Convention

At the banquet in Vernon to the delegates to the Western Canada Irrigation convention the other evening, the following addresses were delivered.

"Mr. Mayor and gentlemen," said Dr. Saunders, the director of the important agricultural and horticultural stations which are under the charge of the Dominion government, "I hope that although my name is formally associated with this toast to the sister provinces, it is not at all the intention to close my mouth in regard to the resources and capacities of the splendid province in which I now am, this most promising province of British Columbia. (Applause.)

"In the first place, I wish to say that I consider, and with the best of reasons, too, British Columbia to be one of the most important of all the provinces of the entire Dominion. (Cheers.) Yesterday, when I had the opportunity of touring through a portion of your neighborhood here, I was very much impressed indeed in observing brilliant evidences of the wonderful progress which has been made during the last few years in your midst. I think it is now eighteen years since I first came into this choice part of our great Dominion, when I was taken in hand by my esteemed friend Mr. Price Ellison, and shown the wonders which you possessed here. (Applause.) You had then the same charming climate which you now have, and the same healthful scenery; and I enjoyed the trip very much. But there was very little evidence at that time of the remarkable advancement which since that time has been achieved. (Applause.) I am now referring to the immense and prosperous orchards which are now being planted; and since then, moreover, I am glad to add, that you have already established a very high and most enviable reputation for both the quality and quantity of the fruit, which you have grown upon your lands. (Applause.)

"I remember, three or four years later, being on a steamer and hearing of Peachland, being further both pleased and surprised to see placed on board some twelve or twenty boxes of peaches when it called at that point, from whence, I believe, thousands of boxes are now shipped, evidencing in the plainest possible manner the remarkable transformation which during these few years has been accomplished. (Applause.) I have seen very fine specimens of peaches everywhere since I came down here yesterday, for you really have beautiful peaches. They are quite as good as I have ever tasted anywhere, being both handsome and luscious, and further indicating with unquestionable force what the future may fairly be expected to bring forth in this particular direction. (Applause.)

The Okanagan Valley

"We are all proud of our Dominion, and while I think we do not possess a single province in the chain in respect to which a long and interesting address could not profitably be made with regard to the advantages and the privileges that its people enjoy, still I am of the opinion that no one could possibly take up a discourse upon a more pleasant subject than this valley in which we now are. (Applause.) Its scenery, as I have already observed, is most delightful; and the wonderful progress which you are making in so many important directions, and especially in reference to the preparations which you are devising in order properly to irrigate your district, are sure to make it, and in a very short space of time, one of the most important fruit-producing centres in the entire Dominion of Canada. (Applause.)

"The province of Nova Scotia raises very fine fruit, indeed; but it is only in a very small part of that region that peaches can be grown; while here you can not only produce splendid peaches but also fine apricots and undoubtedly many other valuable fruits as well; in addition to the excellent prunes and cherries which are and can be placed upon the market in great abundance. (Applause.) I most heartily congratulate you, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, upon the progress which you have already made. (Applause.)

"I learn from your worthy mayor that your population has more than doubled within the last three years, which is certainly saying a great deal for this beautiful town of Vernon, the business and social centre of so desirable a section of the country. (Applause.) It has been my happy privilege during the last twenty or twenty-one years to see a good deal of this Dominion, for in the course of my work as the director of the experimental farms it is my particular duty to visit during every year as much of it as I can possibly manage to do, and it is my deliberate conviction that no part of all our possessions has made the same amount of solid and enduring progress as has been accomplished during the last few years in this great western country. (Applause.)

The Experimental Farms.

"I now desire, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, to say a few words, and I hope you will not think that in doing so I am talking shop, with regard to the work of the experimental farms, and the especial objects which have been had in view in establishing these important and useful stations in different portions of the Dominion. Mr. Robertson remarked this evening, and very correctly, that the people about Summerland and Peachland, I do not remember his mentioning this particular district, knew a great deal about fruit culture and while I am quite sure that this is the case and while they deserve much credit for what they have learned and turned to good account, still they must not run away with the idea that they know all about it just yet. (Hear, hear.) We all have, it must be confessed, a great deal yet to learn, and nothing has been so deeply impressed upon my mind as this point, that no one of us, no matter how much he may know on this subject, has learned everything, for the more we know the more we feel the absolute truth of what I am now about to say, that a good deal still remains respecting which we know nothing at all. (Hear, hear.)

"With regard to fruit growing, I was pleased to observe the example which has been set by a large rancher in your immediate neighborhood on a property which, I believe, forms a part of the Coldstream estate. In looking over his grounds today, I perceived that he had adopted the latest and the best means of preserving the fertility of the soil, which is a matter of very great importance indeed. (Hear, hear.) There are unquestionably gentlemen here with bank accounts, but I am sure I am well within the mark in presuming that in no single case can it be unlimited (some laughter), and it is quite clear that if the owner of the balance, however large it may be, continues drawing cheques upon it without cessation, and does not at the same time put back anything to his credit he must sooner or later come to the end of the chapter without regard to the amount which he had originally deposited with his banker. (Hear, hear.)

"The first cultivators of these soils have the advantage of large stores of fertility upon which they can draw, including a great deal of potash, some nitrogen, and a great deal of phosphoric acid, but these essential ingredients although they are certainly very abundant at this moment in your fertile valley are nevertheless not at all inexhaustible, and I think that it is a very wise precaution for every rancher to adopt the very prudent policy of keeping of his soil not only in good condition of tilth but also in good condition for the production of crops, for there are many ingredients in the soil which need very careful looking after indeed. And one of these is humus which is formed in the ground through the decay of vegetable matter.

"In the instance which came under my observation today clover is being used with the view of ploughing it under in order to provide that considerable quantity of humus which is absolutely required, having as its prime object the retention of moisture in the land and also supplying most important elements of fertility in the soluble condition necessary to enable plants to take up this fertility easily and feed upon it. (Hear, hear.)

"Now, it has been demonstrated again and again that by the use of cover crops we can, and very accurately, too, regulate the amount of moisture in our soils, and in such a manner that we can make our trees precisely when we wish them to make growth, that we can induce them to grow wood when we desire to have this kind of growth, and again that when we want the production of mature wood to be checked this growth can be checked by regulating the covering of the soil, in such a way that things will happen much as we wish them to happen. (Applause.)

Regulating Growth.

"In the early part of the year when trees are making a very brisk and vigorous growth, they are at the same time pumping out through the multitudinous channels of their leaves a very great deal of moisture from the soil, and when the trees have made their determinate growth, which is usually finished about the end of the month of July, then the usefulness of a depleting crop, such as I saw today, clover, comes in, in evaporating a great deal of the proportion of moisture which exists in the soil, for there are times when moisture is not at all seriously needed for the growth of the tree, which can then attend to the formation of the fruit buds, whose proper maturity, on the other hand, largely depends upon the growth that the trees has already made. (Hear, hear.)

"I mention these things, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, merely to show that we must all pay close attention to these very necessary preliminaries, in order to keep our soil in excellent and in proper condition. (Applause.)

In the maritime provinces recourse is had to artificial fertilizers, but these additions you do not seem to need here.

"Through the experimental farms we endeavor to give advice to farmers in reference to the manner in which they should handle their crops in order to produce the very best results. And before I pass from the subject of fruit-growing I wish to say a word in respect to variety in fruit, a matter of prime importance. (Hear, hear.) For in the course of my conversations with orchardists I find that in many instances they have not chosen those varieties of fruit, and I now refer only to the very choicest varieties, which should be selected for orchard purposes. (Hear, hear.) As the importance of growing the best kinds of fruit in order to be able, as a necessary consequence, to secure the very best prices, will, upon reflection, at all events, appear quite obvious, owing to the fact the quality of the article produced clearly often regulates the price which is obtained for it upon the market. (Applause.) I will not in this relation lay down any particular prescription, with this exception, that I would strongly advice the planting, not of many, but of few varieties, and those the very best that can be chosen for domestic and for market purposes. (Hear, hear.) While I would further, and equally strongly, recommend that these should be so selected that they will come to the maturity of their growth, not all at once, but in proper succession (hear, hear), and in this manner build up a well merited reputation for the very choicest kinds of fruit. (Applause.) For this result will most assuredly follow if you devote that necessary degree of energy to the selection of the most valuable species of fruit plants, which, as you must all realize, is a matter of the most extreme importance in your circumstances. (Applause.)

"In Ottawa at the experimental station I may say we have experimented with cross-fertilization, expressly in order to produce a number of new sorts, which will be both sufficiently hardy, for our purposes, as well as superior to any of the kinds that we now possess. (Applause.) We desire to secure new varieties of fruits for shipment to markets, both at home and abroad, possessed of such qualities that while they will not be too large will nevertheless be of good size, and be endowed with high flavor. (Applause.) For such fruits will undoubtedly be in strong demand, not only by the people who live on the plains and in the purely mining districts, but also by those who live across the water. (Applause.)

Concerning Grains.

"I also wish to say a word or two in regard to what we are trying to accomplish in connection with the important natural products which are produced upon the great plains of the Northwest. I now refer particularly to wheat, and all who have given any thought to the subject will realize how exceedingly important to those vast regions as well as elsewhere earliness in point of ripening is. Capacity for maturing in a comparatively short time is obviously a quality greatly to be desired, and we have to search the world over in order to achieve our purpose, and in this way we have found varieties both in Russia, near the Arctic circle, as well as in India, of very high reputation, indeed, locally. For the varieties which are grown near the Himalayan mountains have had, in the course of hundreds and perhaps of thousands of years, most valuable qualities impressed upon them, as only those which have come to maturity in time to suit their shortening seasons, as higher and higher elevations have been reached, have survived. In this way the lapse of years has brought into existence at these points varieties which have materially assisted us in our work, and by taking the early varieties which have thus been produced and which are in addition generally speaking less productive than our own sorts, and by crossing them with our very best kinds of wheats, in point both of yield and quality, and then by further selecting from among the seedlings all those which display points of real merit, we are able in the course of many years to make very good progress in our quest, and in consequence of these very desirable researches and this very necessary work, we possess today certain most useful and valuable varieties, which ripen about two weeks earlier in the season than the ordinary kinds—this shortening of the season of maturity and of ripening enabling us to advance the profitable zone of wheat raising much farther north. (Applause.)

"Last year, I may further say, we began work on Peace river, about 700 miles directly north of the place, in which we are tonight, and we find as a matter of fact that we are able in that far northern country to ripen an excellent quality of wheat to great advantage. (Applause). We have growing there today a number of different sorts, as we find that the increase in the hours of light owing to their longer day in the season of growth enables us to mature wheat in about the same number of days, or at all events in a very few more days than are required at Ottawa (applause), showing what an enormous area we have in northern Alberta, for the successful growth of our most valuable cereals. (Applause). And while we know very little as yet of what can be done in that extensive and fertile region, we do know this, that we have a country large enough and productive enough to produce a wheat crop so immense that it will be in course of time almost if not quite sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the entire world. (Applause).

Should Work In Concord.

"What the future of Canada will be in this respect we cannot at the present time precisely state, but we have the best of reasons for the assurance that it will be great, and more, that it will indeed be magnificent. (Applause) And in the face of all these happy and felicitous circumstances I feel that it is not at all out of place upon this occasion to urge that we should all labor heartily and harmoniously together for the advancement of the best interests of our common country, that we should all try to do our duty and in the very best manner. (Applause). For in no other part of the whole world can be found a people who although they number but six or seven millions enjoy all the advantages which we undoubtedly possess, and if we exhibit the right spirit of progress and of perseverence in every single branch of work which we undertake to perform, whether that be in fruit-growing here, in this splendid and most highly favored province of British Columbia (applause), or whether it be in the immense and highly productive grain-growing regions of the fertile west (applause), or whether still again it be in the important fruit-producing districts of the Maritime provinces (applause), let us do all that we attempt to achieve, as well and as thoroughly as possible, taking advantage to the full of every single circumstance that comes within our reach, in order to make our great home-land much greater and much more prosperous than it even is at the present time, auspicious and pleasant as it is, and I feel assured that we shall then all enjoy the intense and vivid pleasure of feeling that we have performed our delightful and our most important as well as patriotic task thoroughly and well. (Cheers.)

"I thank you, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, for listening with such careful attention to these somewhat rambling observations."

Mr. Robinson in Reply

Mr. J. M. Robinson, of Summerland, remarked in the course of his reply to this toast that the greatness of Canada was at the present moment very much in the future.

Everything, however, throughout the Dominion was harmonious, as most happily no signs of contention between its different sections were visible, for there was no appearance of strife, nor was there any likelihood of it appearing in the future, either of the east against the west or of the west against the centre. And while they were all proud of British Columbia, of its climate, of its wonderful natural resources, of its magnificent and numerous kinds of valuable fruits, and of its various immensely important industries, including particularly its lumber and its rich fisheries, they were also of the immense wheat fields, which almost illimitably stretched out to the east and right on the other side of us, in the very heart the granary of the empire, as well as of the great manufacturing and commercial provinces of not only Ontario and Quebec, but the maritime provinces as well. (Cheers.)

Mr. C. W. Rowley, manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce at Calgary, in discussing the same subject said he was delighted to learn from so high an authority as Dr. Saunders that Northern Alberta could probably produce enough grain to meet the pressing needs of the whole world; and it gave him much pleasure to add that the sister provinces on the prairies needed all the fruit of every possible description which the people of British Columbia could grow, and was in a position to send to their doors in fair marketable condition. (Applause.) Up to date they had easily been able to eat more fruit than the people of this province could produce, and they hoped to keep well ahead of the fruit raisers here in this respect. (Applause.) In the northwestern territories a good and very profitable market was to be readily had, while on their part they found British Columbian fruit to be very good fruit indeed. (Applause.) And further, in exchange for the valuable lumber and fish, and the other products of this section, which they needed in large quantities and for which they were willing to pay very liberal prices, they wished to send into this province much Alberta red and Manitoba No. 1 hard, as well as many cattle. (Applause.)

He could not refrain from saying something in acknowledgment of the generous hospitality which had been showered upon the delegates.

Attendance upon the sessions of the convention had been of exceeding interest, as well as very instructive; and they had been almost amazed in discovering the magnificent fruit farms which existed in so many parts of the rich Okanagan valley.

In none of the older provinces had the people better homes. In Nova Scotia, from whence he had come out into the expansive west with its tremendous future already well in sight, the owners of fruit farms were not as comfortably situated as they already were established here, and the same criticism proved true of Ontario for, as a matter of fact, the orchardists of the Okanagan valled lived in Oriental splendor. (Applause.) And when the convention assembled next year at Lethbridge, as had been the case at Calgary, but assisted moreover, and appreciably by the valuable lessons which had been learned on this most delightful excursion, they would at least endeavor to surround and overwhelm their visitors with the same remarkable hospitality which had been displayed by the residents of Vernon and of the Okanagan valley in connection with the proceedings at this very important convention. (Applause.)

Mr. Burrell's Remarks

Mr. Martin Burrell, of Grand Forks, said that while the question of irrigation had in a certain sense a local aspect, he wished to allude to one or two other matters which were equally important.

During the process of growth a constant struggle proceeded between the plant and the soil and much moisture was needed. For instance, a single grain of barley required during growth a gallon of water, while growing grain when in blossom, comprised no less than 75 per cent of water; young grass held from 80 to 85 per cent, and ordinary roots and vegetables 90 per cent.

The leaves of trees contain sixty per cent and the evaporation was enormous. The evaporation moreover from an open reservoir in some cases was almost equal to the total rainfall in some countries where crops were grown with the aid of rain, while from bare soil it was far greater than most people realized.

In growing crops this was doubled rising not only from the soil but from the leaf processes of either plants or of trees, while every single crop of either grass or of wheat or of barley raised by this means into the air, from every single acre 700 long tons of 2,240 pounds each, or nearly 800 tons of water in the season which was equivalent to a rainfall of 7 inches per annum. They would now begin to realize the vast quantity of water which in the aggregate passed out of the soil into the air, and also the immense importance of efficient irrigation. (Applause.)

The evaporation of moisture from leaves was very large, and both in Germany and in France experiments had been carefully undertaken in this respect. In Germany it had been proved that the evaporation from a large oak tree, with 700,000 leaves and a very large spread, in the growing season amounted to 264,000 pounds of water, or 8 1-3 times more water than fell on the surface of ground which occupied the diameter of the top of this tree. (Hear, hear.)

While in France a similar experiment, which was very thoroughly carried out, showed that on a single and the same day 4,400 pounds of water, or practically two long tons, had been transpired from an oak tree which was 64 feet in height. (Hear, hear.)

And from these very striking figures they could at all events in some measure understand what a tremendous amount of water was required even in a young orchard which was irrigated and cultivated, although as yet there was only a comparatively small leaf surface when it was combined with the ordinary evaporation from the soil, and the amount of water that was stored up in the tree in the sap in the leaves and in the fruit. (Hear, hear.)

Other Subjects

Other things might be debated at these conventions, such as other ways, by means of which irrigation could be secured, as by pumping, and Prof. Carpenter was convinced that there was much land in British Columbia which was capable of irrigation through canals or through pumping.

Mr. Blyth, C.E., who had recently come out from India, had informed them that something like thirteen millions of acres of land were well and very cheaply irrigated in that great country and largely by means of pumps and consequently they could easily perceive how extremely important this problem was when they realized to what a serious extent the continuation of human life was dependent upon the solution of this excessively important problem. (Applause.)

During the last great famine in India the famine commission had submitted evidence showing clearly and to what vast extent the saving of life by means of pumping in all the irrigating sections had been promoted, affecting and ameliorating the conditions in a measure in the whole country.

In view of these facts the extreme importance of irrigation and particularly by the method of pumping, became self evident, and although in his own valley they had only made a mere beginning in the way of raising water in any systematic fashion, through the use of electric power. A remedy or such remedies as each case demanded should be as promptly as possible applied in order to do away with injustices arising out of the use or of the non-use of water, and further with the object of avoiding painful litigation between neighbor and neighbor. And in this manner and for this end matters had been simplified and to such an extent that in this very year nearly every one of the arid states to the south of us had established new codes, while in Oregon, also, the state engineer had reported and in a most favorable manner the results of government interference, or rather the results of accession to requests for government help in these important matters, which private interests could not have undertaken, and they could hardly calculate the value which had come from this governmental interference and assistance to the people who were living in the states, and whose interests lay to the south of the line. (Applause.)

Forests the Reservoirs.

The forests were the reservoirs of our great water supplies, and consequently in the United States the warmest supporters of forest preservation were to be found amongst those who were interested in irrigation issues, for every one of these persons proved to be an enthusiastic advocate of a vigorous forest reservation policy.

A vast amount of good could be accomplished by means of pumping, and in the single state of California today something like 200,000 acres had in this manner been reclaimed to profitable use, while in certain cases large quantities of water were elevated to the height of from 200 to 250 feet. (Applause.) These figures concerned very important stations in the United States, while in a very minor case, and in a very dry section, with the aid of a two horse-power engine one acre of land, which could not have been used without it, had been brought into profitable subjection. (Applause.) It had been checked off and proved that produce to the value of $1,200 had been carried through an entire season at a cost of $100—leaving a profit of $1,100, by means of a two horse-power gasoline engine, and all these facts were in their circumstances, both extremely encouraging and satisfactory. (Applause.)

Price Ellison, M. P. P.—To what height was this water raised?

Mr. Burrell—I cannot at this moment state, but I think that I can get the exact figures.

The Duty of Water.

Other matters, moreover, very intimately connected with irrigation which was very largely a mechanical question were well worthy of careful consideration. I now refer to the duty of water, the amount of it which is absorbed by some plants as compared with others, whether irrigation is better done by night than by day, and the chemical processes which are in progress during the time of growth; all these things are very interesting, indeed, and should be taken up; and we ought to be able to secure an extra day in order to discuss carefully matters of this kind, for many of these questions are of vital importance and interest to many persons among us. (Applause.) I believe Prof. Carpenter and Mr. Dennis stated that more money was actually spent in litigation than in irrigation, while Prof. Carpenter further said that irrigation would not interfere with navigation, but I have observed instances where over irrigation has caused a great deal of difficulty with navigation.

"I am further of the opinion that the establishment of experimental farms in various and desirable parts of this province would accomplish a large amount of good, and I cannot imagine a more important or a more useful policy than the placing of experimental farms in the dry belt of British Columbia." (Applause.)

Mr. Price Ellison had raised the very important and most intensely interesting question as to how far the government could go in taking up and carrying to completion great works for the purposes of irrigation, and whether they agreed or whether they disagreed with that gentleman, this matter really deserved the utmost sympathy and consideration at the hands of every delegate to the convention. (Applause.) On the other side of the line, it was in 1897 when the congress of the United States was first asked to make any special appropriation for this purpose, and the sum of $10,000 was voted toward the investigation and settlement of these problems, as far as their legal and the agricultural features were concerned.

"I believe that the government will take up this matter when it realizes the enormous importance of it in certain districts in the dry belt, and of all the work which is now in question I do not really think that any of it is quite so vitally important as the best methods by means of which water should be applied; how much should be applied in each case, and how it can most profitably be distributed. (Applause.) For we often lose both time and money simply because we do not know exactly how we should go about this work. (Applause.) Attendance at this convention has been not only a pleasure to me but also a source of very great profit. (Applause.) And I particularly rejoice in the fact that Mr. Hayward has come up here, merely in order properly to equip himself for the more intelligent discussion of these issues when they are brought before the local house. (Applause.)

"We have now, however, come to a somewhat dangerous stage of the game, the real estate stage, (hear, hear), and I am well aware that throughout this province real estate agents are at times so carried away by their enthusiasm, that what they have bought for $5 they become determined to sell for $100, (applause and laughter), and further they are sometimes so carried away by these ebullitions of sentiment that they forget to do full justice to those sides of the subject which are so important to the new-comer. (Applause.)

"The best criterion nevertheless to the true condition of affairs lies in the solid development work which is now in progress by Mr. Ricardo, of Coldstream, Mr. Robinson of Kelowna, and Mr. Shatford of Penticton, as well as by many others. (Applause.) One leading fruit producer in the Dominion not long ago said: 'I will willingly buy every box of Wealthy apples that can be grown in British Columbia because I can so easily sell them.' (Applause.) And these things we well know, that we possess the right kind of soil, the right kind of apples, and the right kind of climate.

"And I would like now to know what in thunder else we do want! (Cheers.)

Mr. Hayward, M.P.P.

Mr. W. H. Hayward, M.P.P., said in part: "I have had a good deal to do with the amending of the water clauses act although not with the portions which deal with irrigation issues. But the explanations which in particular have been made to the Convention by Mr. Dennis have not only impressed me with the exceeding value, but with the absolute necessity of irrigation. (Applause.) He has also showed in what manner the present law is not suitable to your purposes, and if in the future I may be able to do anything to improve the water clauses act, I will be glad too happy to do my very best in this important direction, as I now most distinctly perceive the imperative need that exists for steps being taken to this end, and at the very earliest possible moment." (Applause.)

Rev. Mr. McDonald, the Presbyterian minister at Vernon, aroused some mirth through his observation that if the members of his profession took irrigation lessons to heart their sermons might often not be so dry.

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TURNOVER COLLARS, white embroidered. Rummage Sale Price ..... 15¢ and 10¢
WASH COLLARS AND BOWS; regular 35c and 50c lines. Rummage Sale Price ..... 15¢
WASH COLLARS, finest 75c and 90c collars. Rummage Sale Price ..... 35¢
WHITE VESTS, ladies' sizes; regular 25c. Rummage Sale Price ..... 15¢
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STAKING TOWN LOTS IN PRINCE RUPERT

Work Commenced By Government and Railway Forces of Surveyors

Vancouver, Aug. 19.—"The staking of town lots at Prince Rupert was started yesterday morning, the provincial government and Grand Trunk Pacific surveying forces acting jointly in carrying on this work, which will be prosecuted steadily until next spring."

This statement was fade by C. D. Rand, government agent for the sale of Prince Rupert townsite, who returned from the northern city on the steamer Princess Beatrice.

"No, I am not in a position to say when the first sale of town lots in Prince Rupert will take place," continued Mr. Rand, "but in my opinion it would be better for all concerned if the sale was not opened till next spring. However, so far as I know, nothing has been decided about that matter, and the question is still in abeyance.

"The townsite proper consists of 2,000 acres. To a man unaccustomed to new townsites that of Prince Rupert would undoubtedly look rather rough, but it is a far better looking townsite today than Seattle was twenty years ago; for that matter, while the trees were being cleared off the townsite of Vancouver looked rough also.

"The harbor of Prince Rupert is one of the best on the coast, in my estimation. I expected, from all reports, to find a good harbor, but what I saw exceeded all my expectations. People are continually comparing Prince Rupert harbor with that of Port Simpson, but really the harbor of Prince Rupert is so much the superior that there is no comparison between them.

"One hears a lot about the weather at Prince Rupert that is not flattering, but I must say that I found it everything that could be desired. I arrived there on Sunday, August 9, and remained till the following Sunday, and during that time there were only two hours during which rain fell, and there were six days of bright sunshine.

"In general appearance the town reminds me very much of Vancouver in its early days, only Prince Rupert has the advantage of already possessing a number of comfortable homes as well as two first-class hotels. I found the prices of household staples to be just as cheap as in Vancouver.

"I was particularly struck with the energy and hospitality of the Rupertonians, and the results of their hustling qualities and intelligent application to the development of the place are everywhere apparent. Certainly the future of Prince Rupert is safe in the hands of such a class of people as are at the head of affairs there."

New Westminster, Aug. 19.—Charles Hoy left this week for Columbia valley in northern British Columbia, where he will spend the winter with his brother, David Hoy, engaged in trapping and hunting.

FERTILE NECHACO

District Has Strong Attractions for People Coming From Prairie Country

Vancouver, Aug. 19.—W. E. Piper, a prosperous farmer of Saskatchewan, arrived in the city on Monday on his way to the Nechaco Valley. He has bought a tract of land in that district and is making arrangements to settle it with well-to-do Canadians and Americans.

Mr. Piper says the Province of British Columbia has always appealed to him as a field for investment, and, being a farmer, he naturally turned his attention to the locality where there was an abundance of good land. He believed that in the Nechaco Valley the province had just what was needed. He had purchased a large tract and it is his purpose to colonize it with practical farmers from the middle west. Arrangements have been made to take in about fifty families this summer and fall and next spring much larger numbers will go in. The splendid soil and mild climate of the Nechaco district appeals to the people of the prairie provinces and with the advent of the railway it cannot be long before a prosperous settlement will develop.

Mr. Piper left on Monday evening for Victoria. He will return to Vancouver in a few days and then leave for the Nechaco Valley.

BLAST WORKS HAVOC

Big Charge of Explosives Sends Tons of Rock on Warehouse and Wharf at Prince Rupert

Prince Rupert, Aug. 19.—Another big shot on the construction work of the Grand Trunk Pacific was fired last Thursday, when four holes drilled to a depth of thirty-three feet in solid rock of the bluff, fifteen feet apart, were loaded with one hundred and fifty kegs of powder and fifty boxes of dynamite.

It was a grand sight for the onlookers on the hill above the town as the whole mass rose one hundred and fifty feet or more into the air, then crashed down on the eastern end of Foley, Welch & Stewart's big shed, which is used by the Pacific Coast Steamship company as a warehouse, tearing off the new plank protection roof and knocking down the south side of the building. Huge rocks flew in every direction, and the big building looks as though it had undergone a siege. A big tree was planted in one of the gaping holes in the roof, while rocks weighing half a ton were hurled clean through the building, tearing up the wharf on the opposite side.

The Alaska Pacific Express company's office, also in the building, was badly wrecked and considerable damage done to the fixtures.

Several bearing piles of the new G. T. P. wharf were wrenched out of position, while rocks weighing almost a ton made kindling wood of the capping, and put some crimps in the big stringers beneath. The damage will amount to several hundreds of dollars, which will be borne by Ross & Carlson, the sub-contractors, who are doing the work.

Eagles' Relief Contribution.

New Westminster, Aug. 19.—F. J. Lynch, of this city, has been appointed by the grand lodge of the Fraternal Order of Eagles to distribute the grant of $1,000 made by the order to the Fernie relief fund. Others besides members will be assisted.

Prince Rupert, Aug. 19.—A fatal accident occurred at Antonelli's construction camp on the G. T. P. on Wednesday, ten miles above Aberdeen. An Italian had sprung a hole, but did not wait long enough for it to cool before he began loading it again, and the powder exploded, blowing his arm off. He was hurried to the hospital in Port Essington in a rowboat, where everything was done to save his life, but owing to the delay in reaching medical assistance and the great loss of blood, he expired six hours after reaching the hospital.