

PACIFIC SECTION

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BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Effects of Money Situation Are Felt—Development of the Province.

Monetary Times' Office,
Vancouver, B.C., November 16th.

It may appear pessimistic to report anything which apparently is not optimistic in character, yet to attain success conditions must be looked squarely in the face and the effort must be made to overcome whatever obstacles may be in the way. "Know thyself" applies as much to a community as to an individual, and a man with a keen eye on the situation is not disheartened by any present backwardness. British Columbia, perhaps because of its location on the Western shore of the continent, and again because of it being a new country with an impetus of progress which has carried it along a little further than the rest of the country, has been longer in feeling a particular effect of the financial stringency which is bringing the whole of America to a strict personal accounting.

Now with the prosperous conditions of summer toning down with the usual slackening of winter, there is a noticeable falling off in bank clearings. This week in Vancouver, which might without invidious comparison, be stated as the commercial centre of this Province, they are only half a million above what they were a year ago, and considerably below the figures for several months past. The monetary movement is the pulse of the country, and this falling off is an indication of the checking up of business. Reduction in the prices of metals has been a main cause in making a difference in British Columbia, which is a mining country. Following the cutting off of lumber orders in the West comes the curtailment of operations in the copper camps of the interior, and an arrival from the boundary district yesterday stated that two thousand men were out of employment in that section. Coal mining towns are all that are holding their own.

On the coast there has been a flood of immigration. Vancouver to-day is thronged with people of all classes wanting work, and every place has many applicants. As previously pointed out, the labour wanted has come with a rush and it will be some time before an adjustment can be made. Civil employment bureaus are having all they can do, the Salvation Army is active, yet the number of unemployed is increasing.

The contention was argued before that British Columbia had a protection when the immigrant rate did not extend past Calgary. Then the flood was dammed back, as it were, and only the more aggressive or independent came through. Not to say that the lowering of the rate has been the cause of so many coming here this fall, but with the continuation of cheaper transportation the flow will be greater than before.

Speaking of the financial situation, Mr. Wilfred Shore says that he does not look for greatly improved conditions for some time to come. The situation is serious, and while stocks, which are most prominently before the public eye, have come down in value, he is of the opinion that the prices of all commodities must also come down to a more reasonable level before improvement will be noticeable. Mr. Shore is one of the young men of the East who visited the West and determined that British Columbia was a Province with a future. For several years he was engaged with large financial houses in New York, and being now in business for himself is representative on the Coast for Spencer Trask & Co., of New York.

The noise of the anti-Asiatic riots has died away, but the good work it started is still going on. To be explicit, damages were claimed, and while these were being investigated, the commissioner, Mr. Mackenzie King, saw something suspicious in Japanese immigration methods. Another commission was given him, and although the inquiry has been proceeding but a few days, sensations are cropping up. In the first place, Ishokawa, who as president of the Japanese Boarding House Keepers' Union, made admissions on the witness stand, and for doing so he has been deposed from his position. Further, so contradictory was the evidence of a Japanese witness on Thursday that Mr. King announced that he would report the man to the Attorney-General and leave it to that official to take action for perjury.

FOR SALE.

British Columbia Timber—Crown granted, License, Dominion Lease. Vancouver Island, Mainland, Interior. Mortgages netting 7 per cent. Investments. Business property netting 6 to 9 per cent. Farmlands. Correspondence invited. ALVO V. ALVENSLEBEN, Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.

It has come out in the evidence that a prominent business man is president of the Canada Nippon Supply Company, comparatively recently organized and that an employee in his office is secretary. There is an immigration branch attached. Mr. King has taken the course of visiting the offices of companies taking all books and papers that may throw light on the subject and is examining these at his hotel. He has found some peculiar things, which will come out in the course of the evidence.

The official claim to be allowed is \$9,036, being a reduction from \$13,576. It is learned that objection was raised by Hon. Mr. Nosse at Ottawa to the hearing of claims for damages, and that payment of what was demanded should be in a lump sum. It is understood that the Chinese claim will be for a lump sum also.

That British Columbia is repeating its successes in Great Britain is shown by the telegram received by Hon. R. G. Tatlow, minister of finance and agriculture, from Mr. R. M. Palmer, who is in charge of the Provincial display. A silver medal was won at the Crystal Palace, and the highest award at the Hereford show. This fruit was gathered from all parts of the Province, and is representative product.

C. J. Heven, formerly head gardener of the government experimental farm at Indian Head, has arrived at Grand Forks to plant fruit trees for Saskatchewan residents who have purchased land there. He states that twenty-five families will move to that point next spring from the vicinity of Indian Head.

While mining and lumbering is quieting in the interior, railway companies are active. At Cranbrook, the C.P.R. is laying considerable trackage, a divisional point at that place having been decided on. The Great Northern construction camp has moved up a peg, and is now at Keremeos, in the Similkameen. At Fernie, the same company has several hundred men at work, pushing construction of branch lines.

Chilliwack people have organized to exploit land in the Chilliwack Valley, which gives indications of oil. They have options on 1,760 acres, and these will be thoroughly prospected. A short time ago, an expert from Austria visited the Valley, and after an examination of the property pronounced it to be a likely place in which to find oil.

Development in the Chilcoten district is told of by Claude R. Wilson, a rancher, who is out from there. This district lies to the south-east of Cariboo, away from ordinary transportation lines, yet ranching is carried on rather extensively, one company having 5,000 head. Thousands of dollars have been spent on irrigation works by individual owners, who anticipate good results.

The utilization of the wireless stations on this Coast, and the fitting up of steamers with the apparatus will be of great assistance to shipping. As it is now, if a boat meets with an accident it is some time before word can be got to shore and both lives and property are lost as a consequence. With a system of direct reports, assistance may be sent. With the possibility of loss lessened, marine men will be more encouraged in the business, which as cheap transportation will assist greatly in the development of the Coast.

DIAMOND COAL COMPANY, LIMITED.

Editor Monetary Times:—

Allow us to correct an error in the Monetary Times of the 16th inst. regarding acreage owned by the Diamond Coal Company, Ltd.

The property owned by the company comprises 2,224 acres of surface and mining rights and 2,958 acres of mining rights, making a total of 5,182 acres, or a little over eight square miles, and that the seam of coal is from 12 to 20 feet in thickness. The mine is permanently timbered and tracked, and the main entrance is in over 7,000 feet. Yours, etc.,

John H. C. Durham,
General Manager.

The report of the October meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, and their trip to Cobalt, Sudbury, and Moose Mountain, prepared and compiled by the Canadian Mining Journal, is an excellent souvenir of the excursion, a unique compilation and a testimony to the merits of literary production in Canada. The book contains a full account of the Toronto meeting and the tour, together with historical sketches of the Cobalt and Sudbury district. It is profusely illustrated, and contains besides some excellent maps and diagrams.



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