

VICTORIA THE BEAUTIFUL

ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL

Splendid Edifice Reared by Roman Catholics of This City

(Communicated.)

It is not generally known that the Catholic church was represented, in what now constitutes the archdiocese of Victoria, by a church building and the presence of two or more priests as far back as the year 1789. According to all authentic records and the traditions of the natives, the Spaniards visited Nootka Sound as early as 1774, four years before Captain Cook entered that harbor in his famous ship, the Resolution. The Spaniards had on board their ship two friars, Father Crespi and Father Pena, who were thus, beyond a doubt, the first clergymen that visited our shores. On the 24th of June, 1789, the Spaniards again arrived at Nootka and took possession of the place in the name of the government which they represented. A fort was erected and a church was built for the accommodation of the white settlers and of the natives; and two friars ministered to their spiritual wants. Thus again, as in many other instances in the history of the world, the Catholic missionaries were first to enter into this new and uncivilized region to work for the conversion of the aborigines.

As for Victoria itself, the first priest to set foot on our shores was the Rev. Father Bolduc, who accompanied Mr. James Douglas when he came across the Sound on the steamer Beaver to select and locate for the Hudson's Bay company the site for its fort, Camosun. However, the first official record which we have in the archives of the diocese is that of a baptism on the 8th of June, 1848, by the Rev. Father Lemprits, O.M.I. Although the archdiocese of Victoria was created a diocese by apostolic briefs in 1847, and the Rt. Rev. Modeste Demers, a many years a missionary in the vast territory of Oregon, was consecrated first bishop of Vancouver Island on November 30, of the same year, it was not until the year 1852 that the right bishop arrived, and took possession of his episcopal see, at Victoria. When the newly appointed bishop was consecrated, he found himself at the head of a diocese immense in its dimensions, comprising the whole of the present extensive province of British Columbia and the vast territory of Alaska, then known as Russian America.

He found himself devoid of priests, of funds and of the essential requisites for the due celebration of divine service. From Oregon he undertook a journey to Europe, there to enlist the practical sympathy of his well-disposed co-religionists, and to install himself at the hearts of young levites a willingness to come and share with him the arduous duties of a missionary in a new and uncultivated field. Bishop Demers' efforts were not in vain. He succeeded in securing the services of some young priests, and sent them on to Victoria as soon as possible. He also received the assurance of the faith, in Paris, of annual financial assistance in the onerous work that had been laid upon his shoulders, and he was supplied with the necessary outfit for the proper celebration of holy mass, among the generous contributors being the Count of Chambord, the representative of the Bourbon dynasty in its monarchical claim to the throne of France.

Having thus successfully carried out the objects of his journey to Europe, Bishop Demers set out in one of the Hudson's Bay company's sailing vessels on a long and tedious voyage, by way of Cape Horn, to Victoria, where he landed in 1852, in company with Father Loutens, who afterwards became vicar apostolic of Idaho, and who, having resigned, returned to continue his health, resided for many years in Victoria, the scene of his first sacerdotal labors, and died here January 18th, 1898.

Upon his arrival in Victoria, Bishop Demers took up his residence, with his clergy, in a small frame cottage on Humboldt street. In this holy mass was celebrated for many years; the white congregation consisting chiefly of French-Canadians, who were in the employ of the Hudson's Bay company. His lordship did not tarry to provide education for the little ones under his care, and to him belongs the honor of having founded the first school that was established in Victoria; thus again exploding that oft-repeated calumny that the Catholic church keeps its members in ignorance and illiteracy. He secured the services of two brothers of the congregation of the Holy Viator, brothers Joseph Michand and Gedeon Thibaud, who were the first to conduct a regular school within the confines of British Columbia—a small school at first, but which developed into the present St. Mary's college on Pandora avenue. Brother Michand, besides being a successful teacher, was also a skilled architect and a very handy man with tools, and to his untiring efforts we owe the first cathedral of Victoria. It was situated on Humboldt street, and up to 1884 it sheltered within its walls the Catholic congregations that assembled there to worship their God.

The building was a gem of artizanship, the carvings being made by the deft hands of the designer himself. This relic of the early days has been carefully preserved, and now does service as chapel in St. Anne's academy. Within its hallowed precincts many historical events have been enacted, such as the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Louis D'Herbomez, first vicar apostolic of the Mainland, in 1862; of Bishop Seghers in 1873, and of Bishop Brondel in 1879, and the ordination to the priesthood of several priests, among whom may be mentioned Rev. Father Michand, C.S.V., the designer and builder of the cathedral, and Father McGuicken, O.M.I., a pioneer priest well and favorably known all over the Mainland. The cathedral was finished and consecrated to the service of God on November 20, 1858, under the patronage of the Apostle St. Andrew, whose feast is celebrated on that day. It was also the eleventh anniversary of the consecration of Bishop Demers.

In order to provide for the education of young girls, Bishop Demers secured some Sisters of St. Anne from their mother house at Lachine, Qué. They arrived in Victoria in 1858, and took up their abode in a small frame structure that is still standing on South Park street. The classes were given in a building that occupied a site in the rear of the old Masonic temple, and which has but lately been pulled

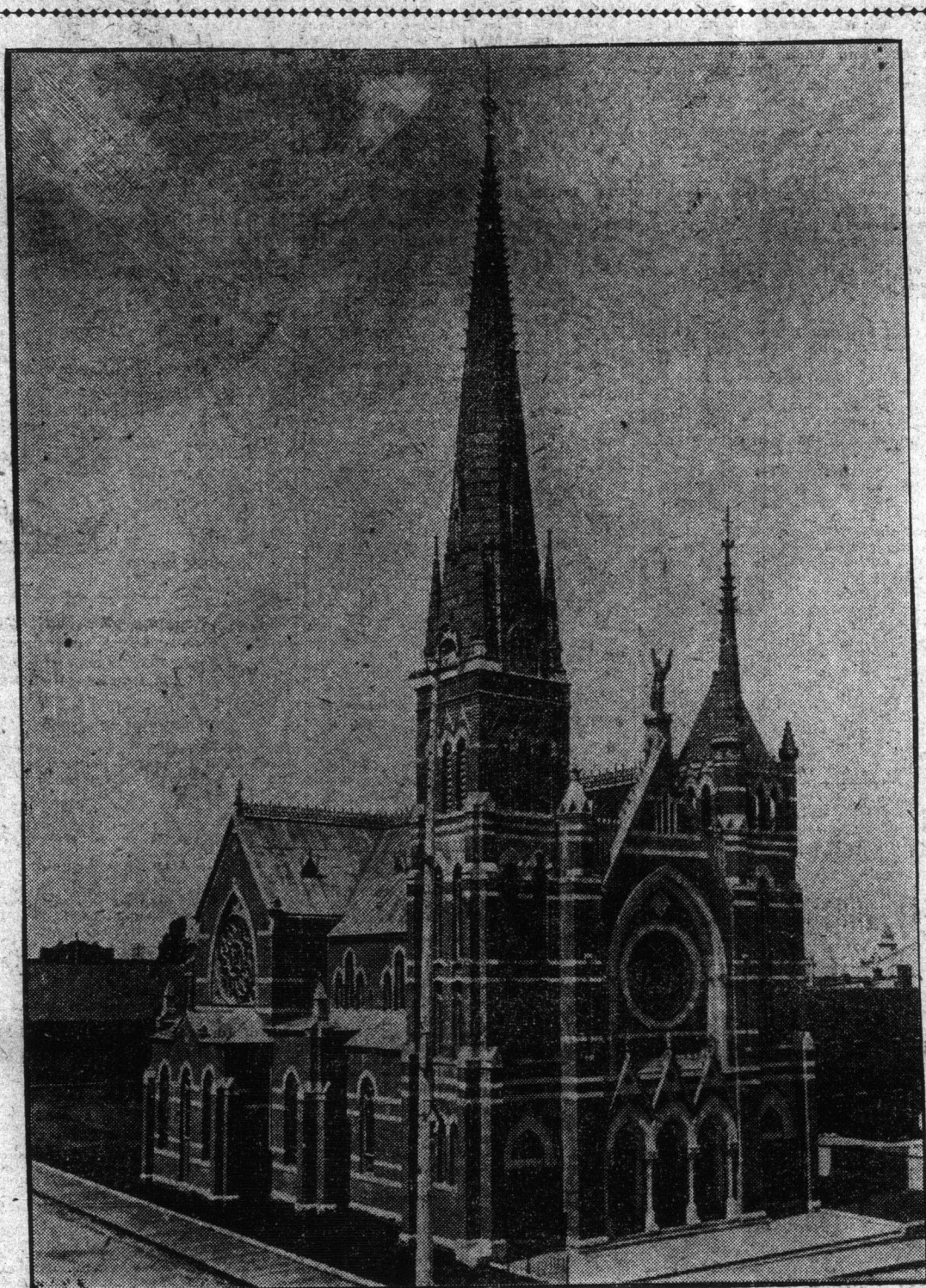
Pioneer Labors of Roman Catholic Clergy in Victoria and Vancouver Island—St. Andrew's Cathedral in This City a Magnificent Edifice

down to make room for D. Spencer's addition to his already vast store. Later a brick building for the sisters was erected on View street, and still later, the first part of the present academy was built on Humboldt street. As time advanced, and the able work of the devoted sisters was more and more appreciated, it became necessary to make further additions to the academy, until it grew to its present large proportions, which would be a credit to a city twice the size of Victoria.

Bishop Demers did not confine his work to Victoria; he established missions among the Indians in Esquimalt and at Fort Rupert, in charge of the Oblate Fathers, and in Cowichan, where the Rev. Father Rondeau was stationed. To Bishop Demers also belongs the credit of having published, in 1856, the first newspaper that ever saw the light of day in Victoria. Its existence, however, was short-lived. It is worthy of remark here, that when two years later, Mr. De Cosmos gave birth to the British Colonist, he printed the first and many succeeding numbers of his paper on the type and the galleyed hand-press that Bishop Demers had brought from France. On July 28, 1871, good Bishop Demers, "a courtly and godly man, of gentle demeanor and blameless life," as D. W. Higgins says in his "Mystic Springs," died, and he was succeeded by Father Charles John Seghers, who had arrived into the diocese in 1863.

Bishop Seghers, with that indomitable energy for which he was so well known, set to work at once and began the building of St. Joseph's hospital. He was generally assisted in his undertaking by pecuniary assistance, on the part of the people of Victoria, non-Catholics as well as Catholics. Upon his completion the sisters of St. Ann were placed in charge as nurses. That the choice was a wise one is evidenced from the extensions that were required to be made from time to time in order to accommodate the ever increasing demand for admission. At present an addition is under construction which will make of St. Joseph's hospital one of the finest institutions of its kind on the whole Pacific coast, second to none in its equipment for the treatment and comfort of its inmates. Although St. Joseph's hospital is in charge of a Catholic community, it is not in a strict sense denominational, for persons of all denominations or of no denomination at all are admitted without interference with their religious convictions; and clergymen of all churches have free access to the patients whom they choose to visit.

Bishop Seghers, during his administration, established missions at Saanich in Nicomino and at Hesquelt, and Oblat on the west coast of Vancouver Island; also at Fort Wrangel, in Alaska, which was then yet under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Vancouver Island. In 1877-1878 he made an extended trip to Alaska, visiting the various tribes around and on the Yukon river, returning from St. Michaels via San Francisco, where he learned of his appointment as coadjutor to the aged Archbishop Blanchet of Oregon. He was loath to leave his poor diocese,



St. Andrew's (R. C.) Cathedral.



View of Interior of St. Andrew's (R. C.) Cathedral.

which he loved so well; but was compelled to submit to the will of the Holy Father. In the month of June, 1879, he left for Portland, and was succeeded by Father John Baptist Brondel, of Steilacoom, Wash., who was consecrated Bishop of Vancouver Island on the 14th of December, 1879.

Bishop Brondel, during his short administration of the diocese established one more mission on the west coast of Vancouver Island. He made a visit to Rome and shortly after his return was appointed to Helena in Montana, whither he went early in 1883. Up to this time the growth of Catholicity in Victoria, at least as far as the white population was concerned, was but slow, yet kept pace with the growth of the town itself, which, not taking account of the temporary large influx of population at the time of the gold excitement on Fraser river, was only a very small community until it received an impetus as the building of the C. P. R. was nearing our western terminus. The rapid increase then began to take rapid strides, and it was soon realized that the cathedral on Humboldt street was inadequate to accommodate the steadily increasing number of Catholics who came to worship there. It was necessary to provide at once a larger and more centrally located building, and, pending the arrival of Archbishop Seghers, who, upon his insistent appeal, had been re-appointed by the sovereign Pontiff to former see of Vancouver Island, a temporary pro-cathedral was built on the church property on View street, large enough to provide seating accommodation for some 1,000 people. This building, which is now the institute hall, was occupied as a pro-cathedral from the summer of 1884 until October, 1892, when St. Andrew's congregation moved into the present stately cathedral.

Archbishop Seghers returned to us in the 1st of April, 1885, and was received by his former parishioners with the warmest demonstrations of joy and affection. The first work which he undertook, shortly after his arrival, was the building of a commodious residence for his clergy. The old house was dilapidated and unhealthy, and with the funds on hand, which he had mostly collected in Europe, he erected the magnificent structure that graces Yates street. He visited all the missions of the diocese, and appointed a resident priest in Juneau and another one in Sitka. In the summer of 1886, accompanied by two priests, he started on that fateful journey into Alaska, where he was murdered by a man named Fuller. Great was the grief and consternation in Victoria when the sad news was brought to the city, for Archbishop Seghers was beloved by Protestants and Catholics alike.

At the unanimous request of the clergy of the diocese, the Holy Father appointed to the see of Vancouver Island the Rev. John Nicholas Lemmens, who was consecrated August 6th, 1888. Bishop Lemmens, having been for many years a zealous missionary on the Island, was fully aware of the needs of the diocese, and as he obtained a reinforcement of priests, he

stationed one at Wellington and one at Comox. As the congregation and the pro-cathedral continued steadily to increase it was found necessary to erect a permanent cathedral. Bishop Lemmens took a trip to the province of Quebec, there to study the designs of the best church edifices. On his return he brought with him the plans of the present structure that stands on the corner of View and Blanchard streets, a structure of which Victoria is justly proud, and which is a lasting monument to the energetic efforts of Bishop Lemmens. After the death of Bishop Lemmens, which occurred on the 10th of August, 1897, the Rev. Father Christie was appointed as his successor. His stay with us was but of short duration, for, having arrived in Victoria in August, 1898, he was appointed to the arch-episcopal see of Oregon in 1899; yet, during the brief period of Bishop Christie's residence in Victoria he endeavored himself greatly to the cathedral congregation, and succeeded in establishing an industrial school for Indian children on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

It was in 1900, when Archbishop Orti commenced the administration of the archdiocese of Victoria. The Catholic church has since then continued to keep pace with the development of its environs. With the recent increase in population on the Island, it became necessary for the church to reinforce its ranks with missionaries. There are now 22 missionaries in the archdiocese attending to the spiritual wants of Catholics within its jurisdiction. Besides these, there are 56 sisters employed as auxiliaries in church work, 50 of them are members of the St. Ann's Sisterhood, under the superintendence of Mother Mary Angel Guardian, and 6 of them are members of the Sisterhood of St. Benedict, whose mother house is at Mount Angel, Oregon. These sisters are at present conducting one academy, two orphanages and five primary and industrial schools. In addition to these church institutions there are six parochial schools managed and taught by the local priests, assisted by lay teachers. Fourteen churches have a resident priest, and about thirty stations are regularly visited by district missionaries. It is fondly anticipated by the church authorities that in the future the Catholics living in the most isolated localities will enjoy at least an occasional visit from a priest.

FRUIT POSSIBILITIES.

All Kinds Grown With Great Success in Victoria and Vicinity.

Undoubtedly the finest product of the fruit gardens of Victoria and Vancouver Island is the strawberry. In size, firmness, flavor and prolific yield nothing better could be desired. The market is an increasing one, the prairie provinces being already large purchasers of Island berries, and the population grows the demand will be greater. It is interesting to note that from year to year a greater number of strawberry gardens yield a second crop. As yet it is not as large, but it is assuming some commercial value.

Second crop berries, that is, those ripening in the early part of October from fields that have already yielded one crop, are now coming in in the market. They have ceased to be a subject of remark, and there seems to be foundation for the opinion that a variety is being developed which may be counted on to yield two crops yearly as a regular thing. Other berries cultivated are the raspberry and the blackberry. A new variety, known as the logan berry, produced by crossing the raspberry and the blackberry, is becoming common. Wild blackberries are exceedingly prolific, and are among the best of small fruits. Of the larger fruits, the apple is naturally the king. The quality, when suitable varieties are selected for the orchard, is excellent, the flesh being firm and the flavor good, although as a rule they are not very high-colored. Excellent as are the majority of the apples now grown, it is evident that better results may be expected, as orchardists succeed in developing varieties best adapted to the soil and climate. The same is also true of pears, which are wonderfully prolific. Peaches do well in certain localities, but can hardly be looked upon as a commercial importance as a fruit crop. Prunes and plums give the best possible results both as to quality and quantity. Of recent years considerable attention has been paid to grape growing, with results that promise very well for the future.

There is, perhaps, no line of cultivation which is more attractive and gives better results than fruit growing on Vancouver Island. A large amount of acreage is not required to yield a good living. For a successful grower, the owner can not only raise a bountiful crop of berries and fruit, but he can keep a cow or two and a horse, and grow sufficient vegetables for the use of his family. During the fruit season he will be kept pretty busy, at least he ought to be, if he wants to realize the best results, but the labor is not hard and is of an interesting kind. During a good part of the year he will have little to do except look after his few animals and keep his place in order. For everything he raises he will find a good market, and if he chooses to keep fowls, he will be able to dispose of his eggs and chickens at remunerative prices.

The southern end of the Island, that is the part lying south and south-east of a line connecting Sooke and Saanich Inlets, contains approximately 100,000 acres, very much the larger part of which can be advantageously employed for fruit culture. It is in this part of the Island that Victoria and Esquimalt are situated, and where by far the greater part of the population is centred. Of the area above mentioned the greater part is yet unimproved and can be purchased at reasonable prices. The district is remarkably well provided with highways and roads. In the neighborhood of Nanaimo, Ladysmith and Cumberland, coal mining towns, are extensive areas of the same class, possessing the advantages of a convenient market, regular and efficient transportation facilities and good schools. Duncan and Comox, the Courtenay and Alberni valleys, and other places that could be named have their special advantages and attractions, and in all of them a settler can readily locate himself on excellent land at a moderate outlay.

THE DIFFICULTY OF HOUSE

Domestic Servant Sh... sidered by the M... Council of Wo...

New Westminster. In members of the Nations Women who visited New yesterday afternoon were... by the Mayor and... all and the members of the... of Women.

Over a hundred and... gived on the special car... ver, and were escorted... steamer Beaver, and tak... up the river to the Fras... mills, and down to the S... nery, both plants bein... ation now. On returni... the visitors were take... park, and later to the h... Hill, president of the... where afternoon tea w... the lawn. The party retu... cover about seven in the... each one expressed gr... the visit to the Royal C...

The domestic servan... naturally engaged the th... of the ablest minds con... Nations Council of Wome... good work in this reg... done by affiliated societi... Canada. The subject ca... morning session of the... Nations Council yesterd... near of Kingston, Ont., a... gibson of Toronto taki... discussion, and explai... stances in the househo... count of the scarcity of... ter lady has had much... the matter, and is the p... of the Toronto and... ception of immigrant wo... dren of the domestic a... While the resolution th... passed is of a tentative... suggests the subject be... in a definite way, and... bear fruit. An amendm... the consideration of the... committee on domestic... lost.

The text of the bef... resolution is as follows... work of the St. John's... and was moved by Mrs... seconded by Mrs. S. G. S... "In view of the prese... surrounding domestic i... the impossibility of pro... to help in housekeepi... uation that threatens... of Women appoint a... consider the duties and... of women with regard to... and, in view of the fact... women desire to have a... session, to further consi... can be taken to place... the foremost rank amon... for women.

"And... after the... shall have had the bene... of the National... after the committee ap... by (if such committee... shall have consulted... of women, the local cou... to appoint standing co... carry out such parts of... the National Council... wise, in a manner suite... spectve localities."

Invitation from North... That the Sunrise City... Streams, to wit, North... not behind other places... when the corresponding... Willoughby Cummings... tation from J. G. Scott... the North Vancouver R... company, utilizing the... use of the St. George... visit to that municipa... the ladies will go eithe... or Monday.

Luncheon was served... Aid of the Wesley Me... Rev. E. Milliken, past... saying grace.

Resolution of Co... In sympathetic words... an echo throughout the... Fitzgibbon moved a re... dolence with Dr. Orr of... sad occasion of his... death, an event which... over yesterday's pro... resolution was seconded... In the afternoon the... to New Westminster, w... entertained with a trip... far as Millside, and at... the St. Mungo cannery... Beaver had been char... for this trip. After re... city an "at home" wa... residence of Mrs. A. J... at 9 o'clock in the... members of the council... Christ church to take... moral service for Ed...

ACTIVITY AT ED

Vancouver, July 19.—... Jones, president of the... dies, Ltd., Edmonton, on... on a brief visit. Seven... Jones was a well-know... Vancouver. He it was... who first mooted getti... library for Vancouver... spent some time in... leaving Vancouver, an... Edmonton about four y... is struck by the me... made by Vancouver sin... on his way from Daws... ton. He says that Ed... growing. The building... the first six months o... totalled \$2,000,000. Th... total for the whole of... Mr. Jones says that... great deal of work is... the sewerage system... of the streets and lay... street car tracks in E... paving they are tryi... treated blocks from V... asphalt. He mentione... that a large body of... covered recently on P... city owns its own st... as it does its own wa... plants. The population... is now 13,000 and the... year was 10 1-2 mills o... \$17,500,000. Dwelling... taxed at all and man... 25 per cent. Occupan... buildings pay a tax a... floor space occupied... plenty of coal near at... in which he is increa... teen-foot seam from... thirty feet below the... sells in Edmonton at... ton, and he says ther... trouble in supplying... reasonable freight rate... cured.