

BUSINESS PROSPECTS AT THE COAST

**Industrial Outlook is Fair, Though Shipbuilding is Dull—
Insurance Interests Well Looked After**

(Special to *The Monetary Times*.)

Vancouver, November 9, 1919.

THE outlook in Vancouver this fall is considerably better than it was a year ago. The Victory Loan campaign went with a swing and Vancouver was one of the first large cities in Canada to reach its quota and gain the Prince of Wales flag, which was presented to the local committee by Sir Henry Drayton, on the occasion of his recent visit to the coast. Prospects for the coming year are quite good. Lumbering and mining are sure to come into their own in a more marked way than for several years. Lumbering especially is likely to have a very brisk year, as almost every city and town in western Canada will be practically compelled to go in for a progressive program of building. Shipbuilding will in all probability be curtailed, although government orders for new ships have been placed this week. The salmon industry on the Fraser has had a setback from which it may not recover. The Skeena River, however, has come into prominence in this connection. Wholesale houses in Vancouver are doing a greatly increased business and collections are said to be good. Loan companies are resuming loaning in this field; some of them have not lent money in Vancouver for several years. New improvements in connection with dockage and shipping facilities are planned for the coming year, and are being strongly backed up by the Vancouver Board of Trade. Fire boats are urgently needed for this port to give adequate protection to the water front. Another indication of progress is the way office buildings have filled up in Vancouver this year; rents have advanced very materially in the last few months, and are now getting back to what they were before the war. It is almost impossible to get a house or a suite in Vancouver.

Insurance Federation of British Columbia

This association was organized in 1916 for the purpose of uniting all branches of insurance and to assist in promoting the general welfare and education of the insurance fraternity. It is the only institution of its kind in Canada, although there are some fifty-four federations in the United States, under a supreme body known as the National Council. The British Columbia Association is affiliated with this National Council and is kept in touch with the insurance legislation and activities of the insurance fraternity over the line through a bulletin published by the National Council.

The British Columbia Federation has been actively engaged recently in educating the insuring public and their members by a series of lectures. The most recent of these lectures was delivered by John B. Laidlaw, manager for Canada, Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, the subject being under two heads, "State Insurance" and "The Growth of the Fire Insurance Business in Canada." Owing to the importance of this lecture, delivered as it was by a man of such high authority on insurance matters, it has been widely distributed in pamphlet form throughout the Pacific coast. The president of the federation is Wm. Thompson, manager of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co. at Vancouver, B.C., who is largely responsible for the success the association has attained thus far.

British Columbia Automobile Underwriters

An Association of Automobile Underwriters in British Columbia was formed in 1916 and established a stamping bureau in Vancouver, B.C., on April 1st of this year. Its success is already very marked in correcting old errors in the operation of the agencies and in laying plans to avoid new errors. It has resulted already in a much more friendly feeling among the agents. Some fifty companies doing business in British Columbia are all members of the British Columbia Automobile Underwriters' Association. The man at the helm for the fiscal year ending July 1st is Donald Cramer, provincial agent for the Imperial Guarantee and

Accident Co. The establishment of the stamping bureau was under the supervision of Mr. Cramer, and it is believed that a very good start has been made, in materially improving conditions in British Columbia, tending to a cleaner business for the companies and a better service for those who are taking out insurance for automobiles.

The Vancouver Fire Agents' Association was formed in August of this year, and has upon its membership roll 103 persons, which represents every first and second agent doing the fire insurance business in Vancouver. Among the objects of the association is to maintain a code of ethics among the agents, and to exact fair dealing in the conduct of their business, under pain of moral reprisals. The president of the newly organized association is A. McC. Creery, representing H. Bell-Irving and Co.

MONTREAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Montreal Insurance Association and the "Blue Goose" Association was held on November 5th in Montreal, with Lieut.-Col. Morris presiding. Reports were read of the association's activities during the past year, which, while showing a healthy growth in all departments, reflect especially the development along the lines of educational work. Publication of the first issue of the "Journal" showed a profit, and a start has been made to form a reference library.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, G. E. Moberly, manager, Northern Assurance Co.; vice-presidents, W. S. Jopling, manager Commercial Union Assurance Co., and Lewis Laing, assistant manager Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co.; secretary, R. R. Martin, Atlas Assurance Co.; treasurer, C. S. Scott, Phoenix Assurance Co. of London. The series of weekly lectures will be resumed at an early date, and already papers have been promised by some eminent gentlemen on subjects of interest to fire insurance men.

Banking Developments during 1919

Reviewed by a leading Canadian
authority on banking.

**Expansion into the Foreign Field
Large Increase in Number of Branches
New Capital in Canadian Banks**

These and many other statistical
articles will be included in the
Banking Section of

1920 Monetary Times Annual