GOSSIP OF AFFAIRS IN THE OLD LAND

London to Be Beautified as Result of Recent Visit of L.C.C. to Paris.

YOUNG BARRISTER'S MAIDEN SPEECH

Work of Salvation Army's Emigration Department Is Fully Described.

London, March 17.—The recent visit of the London County Council to Paris may be expected to stimulate the movement in the direction of beautifying London. The gay capital of France can give us many hints in the way of brightening our too sombre metropolis, and it is no doubt to the desire to emulate Paris that we owe the decision of the L. C. C. to plant trees in the rear frontage of the Strand, and the new thoroughfares — Aldwych and Kingsway. About £1,000 is to be spent immediately in this way. Modern London has been sadly neglected in the important matter of tree planting. It is only in the ancient city nooks, in churchyards almost exclusively, that trees are seen in London streets, but happily these are so numerous that in the spring and summer the eye is delighted at every turn with glimpses of vivid green. Even Cheapside, with its seething tide of commerce, has its tree, whose branches overhanging a one-storey shop, whose elevation is prohibited for the sake of the sacred branches. There is the bower of green in Aldermanbury, hard by, in the midst of which stands the ancient parish church and the monument to Shakespeare, two fellow-workers at the Globe theatre, to whose devotion we owe it that the immortal plays which they found in M.S.S. in a lumber room of the theatre were rescued from oblivion and edited and published at their expense. Another green spot in the oasis of central London is the churchyard of St. Giles, Cripplegate, not far from the Bank. It is in this old church John Milton is buried, and outside stands the new handsome statue of the poet.

In the throng of Bishopsgate street there is a gateway leading to a vista of green, where the wanderer in London is amazed to come upon a medivael graveyard, and one of the oldest and most beautiful churches in England. And this church of Great St. Helen's has for its neighbor Crosby Hall, the town palace of Richard III., which is still palatial although it is now a city restaurant. On the other side of the street is a lovely nook—once a graveyard, now adorned with a splashing fountain under whose falling spray the city sparrows and pigeons disport themselves, to the constant delight of the crowd which is never too hurried to linger here. So it is in St. Paul's churchyard. The Temple, the General Postoffice and a hundred green corners of the grey city. In fact, where the stranger comes upon a glimpse of trees there he may be sure to find some old world shrine which modern commercial London religiously preserves, having no romance of its own.

Since the days of Lord Randolph Churchill the House of Commons has not listened to a maiden speech of such brilliance and epigrammatic wit and audacity as that of Mr. F. E. Smith, the young barrister who was returned by a division of Liverpool as a Chamberlainite. Mr. Smith is especially interested in colonial policy, which he has studied, and as a writer he is responsible for a book on "Newfoundland Herring," therefore he is welcomed to Westminster as an acquisition to the colonial group, which on the tariff side has only Sir Gilbert Parker and Mr. F. E. Smith. Mr. Smith in his very witty speech, made a hit in quoting from Lord Rosebery the opinion that a duty of 2s. on foreign wheat with a preference for colonial wheat, would develop the Canadian wheat production so enormously that it might soon be equal to supplying all England. The authority of the U. S. official report was also quoted, stating the opinion of the U. S. expert that the district of Winnipeg was capable of supplying wheat enough for the world. If English manufacturers would get an increase of Canada's trade, Mr. Smith, like all tariff reformers, argues that a readjustment of existing taxes on food and drink would enable England to give Canada a preference and so secure in return a further preference for English exports to Canadian markets, and all this without adding to the burden of taxation. Mr. F. E. Smith's brilliant speech, however, greatly its cleverness was admired, made no impression on the Free Trade House of Commons, whose answer is that readjustment to suit the colonies would mean a higher tax on bread and meat and dairy produce, the food of children and the very poor, while reduction of taxation to correspond would only relieve consumers of tea and tobacco and wines, which are not required to be cheaper. It is further argued it is not a 2s. duty on wheat that is needed to increase wheat production in Canada, since Canada has an unlimited market already, and wants only more settlers to extend the area of cultivation.

The Salvation Army Emigration Department has chartered the S. S. Kensington to take another party of emigrants, representing all classes, to Canada. The office in the city has sent out 2,700 since October, and another 1,000 has been booked. The Salvation Army is proving the best emigration agency on this side for it is trusted as no ordinary agency is. Its success in all its undertakings is a guarantee that those going out under its protection will have every chance of settling well—and this confidence in the bona fides and painstaking of the Salvation Army officials is the reason of so many emigrants of a superior class as well as the poorest and most helpless seeking their aid. The officer of this department is doing immense work just now, as many as 800 letters and 450 callers being dealt with in a single day. It is becoming more and more evident that the old country's help to Canada in these days will take the form of assisting her to get a host of capable and worthy settlers—the truest and the greatest source of national wealth that the new country can have. General Booth's enthusiasm for the peopling of Canada has done more good to commend the country to the best class of emigrants than anything else done by emigration agencies for many a day. What is wanted now is government assistance to make the movement still bigger.

It may be that a great Imperial emigration policy will be one of the results of the Colonial Conference in London, which is proposed for March, 1907. Of all things it is a matter which ought to command unanimous approval.

It is settled that when representatives of the colonies and the Home Government meet again in Whitehall there shall be no sort of restriction imposed upon delegates as to questions for discussion. There will be a mutual understanding, no doubt, on the tariff question, and as both Canada and England are alike concerned in colonization on a big scale, it is hoped a scheme can be assisted emigration or of settling on the instalment plan, will have government assistance.

Another matter which is likely to be left till the conference is that of appointing a British trade agent or agents in Canada. A good deal has been said in our trade papers here about the host of consuls in Canada appointed by foreign countries, while there is not one representing England. The best opinion seems to say that if the government make any more at all, it should appoint one experienced and responsible agent in Montreal or Toronto, whose reports would have high authority and be circulated in the British press, and assist British exporters with the information of Canadian markets, which they so much need. The wonder is that if a representative official is wanted, that some attempt to meet the demand has not been made by the British Chamber of Commerce, or by some big private firm of Colonial shippers. English traders have little faith in the efficiency of Government trade officials.

"The future of Canada" is thoughtfully discussed by Mr. J. A. Hobson (lately special commissioner of the Daily Chronicle in Canada), in the latest of the series of articles to which his paper is giving prominence. Viewing Canada as an outsider, he saw a few things which as an experienced student of politics he regarded with misgiving and fear. Coming from England where the common people in the bad old times were alienated from the land—it was disheartening to see in the country of the "triumphant democracy" that Canada, like the United States, had followed the bad example of old England "in lavishing her rich natural resources upon importunate companies and private adventurers." Mr. Hobson evidently despairs of democratic progress, and a society free from the faults of the old country. When he sees some 30,000,000 acres of land—the "cream" of the country, handed over to railway companies, and one-twentieth of the Northwest assigned to the Hudson Bay Company, while most of the rich mining lands have been given away for a mere song, and the rich coal and iron deposits of British Columbia and the Maritime provinces are under the control of a few big capitalists." It was such mistakes made by our ancestors here in England which have made the wealth of the old country so ill divided that one-third of its population are always in poverty. A still greater menace to the independence of the Canadian people in the future, observes Mr. Hobson, is the alienation of the valuable water powers by free charters to industrial companies. The water power in this electric age, may become the chief factor in Canada's industrial development, and Mr. Hobson fears its owners may control the destinies of the nation. He sees the same recklessness in parting with the enormous forest domains of 74,000,000 acres to great firms whose ownership may be in the Canada of the future what the territorial landlords have always been in England. Now, when the anxiety and hurry to develop the country's resources tempt Canada to seek the assistance of capitalists, it is natural that she should be heedless of the cost to the nation of the future. So long as the interests of great railways and the big capitalists lead them and induce immigration and they play the part of "beneficent despots," the danger is not apprehended, but Mr. Hobson asks has the people any real security that the interests of the profit-seeking railways and capitalists shall continue to be the interests of the great mass of the citizens? This is an aspect of Canada's future which has not so far been realized in this country. When it is remembered that it is the struggle to recover for the people of England the heritage which centuries ago was lightly given to landlords, which now agitates the country, it is curious that in the new country the haste to be rich and to develop nature's resources should be leading Canada with a light heart to repeat the ancient blunders for which England is so sorry.

On Tuesday next the London county council will probably decide to accept the new scheme for the development of the vacant building land in the Strand, known as Paris in London. Previous schemes for the same object have been rejected, for it was feared the owners might make a Paris in London that would shock British propriety. This new scheme provides for the building of shops as in the Rue de Rivoli and a theatre which will be Parisian—but quite proper—and as in Sunny Paris there will be an open-air restaurant with balconies overlooking the Strand and Aldwych and music stands. Altogether it promises to add considerable brightness to Central London, and as the London county council will forbid drinking bars there will be nothing for the most staid citizens to complain of. The Paris and London syndicate, which is seeking the lease, will pay an enormous ground rent, which, as the sites belong to the London county council, will be in relief of the ratepayers of London.

Another very big London improvement promised is the building of a London county council hall. The only municipal hall in London is the ancient Guildhall in the city, where the corporation of the city of London sits, and in whose great hall the famous civic banquets take place. The council of the metropolis presiding over the government of the twenty-nine buroughs has a miserable and shabby office in Spring Gardens, Charing Cross, which is to be abandoned when the council, under parliamentary powers just granted, builds its palace on the south side of the river, nearly facing the houses of parliament. A new embankment on the south side of the Thames is to be formed and a building to cost £1,750,000 is to be erected for the London county council. This parliament house for London will be a great improvement to a very neglected part of London.

The Garden City idea is making good progress. Yesterday a most influential conference was held in London, which was attended by two cabinet ministers. Mr. Bryce, chief secretary for Ireland, discussed a proposition which is of special interest in a new country where towns are rising. He contended that the aim of the nation should be to have cities with 30,000 to 60,000 of a population, so that congested areas would be avoided and the degradation to humanity caused by slum conditions. If we in England could return to the conditions of two hundred years ago as regards the growth of population in towns it would be a good thing. The Garden City is an effort in that direction. In Central London our workers are burdened with a rent at the rate of 3s. 3d. per room; in the suburbs it averages 2s. 4d. per room, while in Garden City they will be provided with dwellings at the rate of 1s. 2d. per room per week, while in Garden City there will be the saving of the time and railway or tram fare involved by the worker who in London is forced to wait an hour or two every day going to and from his work. In Garden City, thirty miles from the metropolis, the factory and workshop will be near the dwellings and the people of all classes, it is hoped, will here live together as they did in London in ancient times. To limit the extension of a town area and its population seems to be the root principle which rising communities must keep in view if they would avoid the evils of the overbuilt cities of the old country.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for views expressed by correspondents.]

AN APPEAL FROM EXPERIENCE.

Sir—You published a letter for me on Dr. Norton and his plan of killing off the hopelessly insane. I said I believed that two-thirds of the people at large today were insane on some one idea or subject. I still believe it, and if you will allow me, I will say a few words on the liquor question. I say that the man or woman that will go round soaked with whiskey seven days out of the week and kick because there is not eight days in it, is either insane or foolish—and I don't know which is the worst. I was crazy myself all my life, and never found it out till I got locked up.

Mr. Dix, the police court magistrate in Dublin, in giving his testimony before a select committee of the House of Lords, in reference to the liquor question, said that Dublin was saturated, flooded, with drink today. There are three asylums in that city. Richmond asylum, Drumcondra, the largest, contains three thousand three hundred inmates, an equal number of both sexes, principally inebriates.

Read Dr. Doherty's report to government for last year on our asylums, and see what he says about insanity and inebriety. I say, don't let Victoria become saturated, flooded, with drink; give her a fair show, and you may count on her doing the right thing. Don't drown her with whiskey in her youth; don't have a whiskey mill staring a man in the face at every few steps he takes through our city, and at every few miles along the country roads. Curtail the sale of it as much as possible, and the government of the province of British Columbia will not need to add a new wing every two or three years to their big house that stands on the banks of the Fraser—there are wings enough on it now to make it ugly, only they are not properly balanced. Neither will they need to establish a farm of one thousand acres on the Coquitlam for the weak-minded to work on, clearing it off. Whiskey drinkers, you are engaged in an unequal fight, and it will knock you higher than ever General Nogi's 11-inch shells knocked Port Arthur. I speak from experience, for I kept my end up when I was in the business, but it downed me in the end, and it will down you sooner or later. Did you ever know a man have a beautiful plant or flower and nurse it into a perfect state of health and bloom, and then throw vitrol or poison over it? That is what you are doing today with the bodies that your mothers nursed and that the good God gave you to live in for a few years.

Get up some morning, hold up your head, and look out on the world that you live in, and make no promises or take no pledge—for you won't keep them—but make your mind up that you will never taste it again, and nature will immediately become your guarantee for a new lease of life and happiness. If you cannot manage to do without it, you can count yourself as being of weak mind, and you had better have Dr. Norton kill you and put you out of your misery. The mind or spirit or soul of man will never die, can never die. What state does a man think his mind or spirit or soul will be in when it leaves this body after being tortured and tormented and poisoned in the house it lived in here? It will not be rest, for the spirit will grieve over years of wasted life.

To dealers in whiskey I would say, if any of you could have spent eight years in an asylum, as I have done—which I hope none of you ever will—hard indeed would be the heart and dead the conscience of him that would continue in such a death-dealing business, after witnessing the sights that may be seen in the mad houses throughout our land, the result of whiskey drinking.

I would like to say, in conclusion, that I can never have anything but words of praise for the asylum and its management that sheltered me, and where I learned a hard lesson.

If I thought that these words could ever have the effect of closing down even one saloon, or be the means of keeping one poor wretch out of the mad house, I would consider this letter not wasted.

HERBERT PHIPPS.

Seventh street.

LIFEBOAT AND LIFE-SAVING ASSOCIATION.

Sir—Permit me through your columns to aquaint the public with the fact that through the generous co-operation of the provincial government this association has been granted a charter of incorporation, and in terms of the act granting said charter a meeting will be called at an early date to frame a constitution and place the association on its permanent basis. The act states that "the society shall consist of all persons who shall contribute to the funds thereof according to the terms and conditions of such rules and regulations as the society may adopt as and for the constitution of the said society, and for the purposes of holding the first meeting, and all other preliminary meetings prior to the adoption of the constitution, of the persons named in the second section hereof, and all other persons who shall have subscribed and paid a sum of not less than one dollar to the said funds." I may mention that so far it has been understood that any person subscribing $2.50 or upwards shall be eligible to hold office, and shall, together with all persons contributing any smaller sum, not being less than $1, have power to vote at all general meetings. Communications should be addressed and subscriptions paid to the undersigned at 38 Douglas street, Victoria.

JOS. PEIRSON,
Secretary.

Scientific Miscellany

More than sixty years ago Moser noticed that certain bright metals emit rays capable of affecting photographic plates and of passing through thin screens of paper, etc. Continuing the investigation, Prof. H. Pitchikoff, of the university of Charkow, has now found that some metals give off rays that decompose the silver bromide of the photographic film and others that restore the decomposed bromide. He names these radiations "positive" and "negative." Most metals, including cadmium and zinc, are positive; osmium and tantalum are negative; copper and brass have a neutral radiation, with no action, and gold and mercury give off no radiation at all. The radiation is deflected by air currents, but is not affected by electric or magnetic fields. One suggestion is that it may be a kind of heavy metallic ions penetrating thin metal and human skin.

Arctic science should be greatly advanced by the permanent station for its study to be established this year on the south coast of Disco island. This novel station, to be established by a gift from Mr. A. Holck of Copenhagen and to be aided by an annual grant of $3,000 from the Danish government, will have a well-equipped biological laboratory, with working places for visitors, and will provide a library of Arctic literature. The only charge to visiting naturalists will be a small fee for board.

The discoverer of "radiobes," Mr. J. Butler Burke, has published a book describing his researches and his reasons for believing that he has produced living organisms from materials hitherto regarded as lifeless. In his experiments, first shown late in 1904, a little chloride or bromide of radium was added to carefully sterilized bouillon, with the usual gelatin thickening, when in a few hours the growth appeared on the surface and spread out like a colony of bacteria. The microscope showed that the individuals of the colony were unlike any known bacteria, another being like any known bacteria, and they seem although Sir William Ramsay has expressed the opinion that they were bubbles containing radium emanation changing into helium. Mr. Burke finds that radiobes posses all essentials of life. They have a definite structure, with a nucleus and boundary or cell wall, they continue to grow rapidly for a time, and then, when growth ceases, they segregate and multiply, the reproduction being in first stage a common test of life. Yet the investigator agrees with the view that life can spring only from life. His theory seems to be that radium is the seed that grows in the bouillon soil and may be taken as the "vital flux" or "vital force" of the philosophers of the Middle Ages. While the explanation may not satisfy, able men appear to think that he has made some progress in these remarkable experiments.

The little lizard called the gecko has been supposed to cling to the ceiling like the house fly by means of suctorial discs at the ends of the toes. This proves to be incorrect and Dr. Schmidt has found that the upper side of the scales have clusters of hair-like, erectile bodies by which the animal seems to cling. It is now believed that the holding power is due to electricity.

The earth, whose interior still remains one of the greatest of mysteries, is believed by Mr. Beresford Ingram, an English physicist, to embrace three concentric spheres. The solid nucleus he supposes to be between 3,000 and 7,000 miles in diameter, and this is surrounded by a liquid substratum, outside of which is the crust, variously estimated at 70 to 2,000 miles in thickness. More than two centuries ago a similar theory, including the slow rotation of the inner solid sphere on a different axis from that of the entire globe, was held by Dr. Edmund Halley to account for the changes in the earth's magnetism. The axis of the nucleus was thought to have been originally that of the entire globe, and to the change, of course, was attributed the deluge. The earth's eternal heat, it is now pointed out, may be accounted for by the friction of the differently rotating bodies. As the entire globe is about 5 1-2 times as heavy as water while the rocks at the surface average only about 2 1-2 it is assumed that such heavy substances as gold and platinum should be at the centre, while the mercury or molten lava may constitute the substratum.

The slow distillation of readily fusible metals in a vacuum has given results making it desirable to apply the same method to less fusible metals. Herr Krafft finds that fairly thick quartz vessels containing a perfect vacuum may be heated to 2552 o. F. without fear of crushing by air pressure, and at this temperature he has rapidly distilled zinc, cadmium, silicium, tellurium, antimony, lead, bismuth and gold. These experiments on a small scale encourage the idea that the industrial purification of metals may be carried on in this way.

For preventing dust, an English village last season distributed a thin layer of hot liquid tar over the road surface, and on this scattered a mixture of sand and lime. The result has been highly favorable, the road being still drier and cleaner than others in the vicinity.

Nervous Diseases No Longer a Fad

"The breakdown of the nervous system is no mere society craze from which it is fashionable to suffer, but is becoming a national calamity which bids fair to rob our descendants of many of those qualities which have done so much to make this empire what it is," writes Dr. Guthrie Rankin, an eminent London physician.

The keen competition of life is now felt in all grades of society, and as the result prostration, paralysis and insanity are becoming more and more common as the natural outcome of exhausted nerves.

Sleeplessness, irritability, indigestion, headache and general lack of energy and ambition are among the early symptoms of nervous troubles, and with women the result is not infrequently derangements of the feminine organism.

If a committee of experts were to prescribe for you they would give you just such a formula as that of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, for this medicine is composed of the most powerful nerve restoratives known to medical science; 50 cents a box, six boxes for $2.50 at all dealers or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

The Celebrated English Cocoa.

EPPS'S

An admirable food, with all its natural qualities intact. This excellent Cocoa maintains the system in robust health, and enables it to resist winter's extreme cold.

COCOA

The Most Nutritious and Economical.

ARRESTS TO BE MADE

In the Case of the Chinese Expulsion Which Occurred at Penticton.

A Penticton correspondent writes as follows:

It is expected that a number of arrests will be made of the persons who assisted in the forcible expulsion of the Chinese here last week.

At the meeting held before the expulsion of the Chinese Mr. George E. Winkler, a real estate agent of Penticton, was elected to the chair, while Mr. D. A. Carmichael, bookkeeper in a general store here, was elected secretary.

A resolution was passed to the effect that a deputation wait on Mr. W. T. Shatford, the managing director of the Southern Okanagan Land company, and request him to discharge the Chinese engaged in outdoor labor. A volunteer was found to undertake the matter, who returned to the meeting after a short absence and reported Mr. Shatford's answer, which was tantamount to a refusal to let the Chinese go.

A majority of those present then favored a forcible expulsion of the Chinese from the town, and a large crowd was quickly got together that lost no time in reaching the sleeping quarters of the Chinese, near the old Ellis ranch house, about three-quarters of a mile from the wharf.

An entry was effected through two doors, one at each end of the building, and the Chinamen were roused from sleep and told to pack their blankets and take the road to the wharf. No violence was used, and some of the mob even helped to carry luggage belonging to the Chinamen.

The Constable Appeared

While the Chinese were packing their belongings the local constable came into the building, took the names of many of those present and informed the men they were violating the law. This was without effect, and the preparations for departure proceeded.

It was a strange-looking procession that started for the boat. Each Chinaman was guarded by three or four men, while a motley crowd brought up the rear.

When the boat was reached the constable again put in an appearance and repeated his warnings—again without effect. The managing director of the Southern Okanagan Land company also appeared on the wharf and engaged in an argument with a number of the mob. His statements received little consideration, and it was plain that nothing would deter the crowd from its purpose.

At this juncture the captain of the C. P. R. steamer Aberdeen demanded the fares of the ten Chinamen before he would allow them on board the boat. This was quickly raised by the determined men, and ten tickets to Kelowna, forty miles up the lake, were purchased.

A guard of ten men remained on the boat all night to see that no attempt was made to get the Chinamen ashore again before the steamer left at 6 a. m. Thursday.

The whole affair was conducted in a quiet, orderly manner. There was no roughness, no drinking, and but little noise.

PROTESTANT ORPHANS HOME AFFAIRS

Hearing of Case in Court Yesterday Adjourned Until April 17th

The further hearing of the troubles of the Protestant Orphans' Home, which has been taken to the courts, was adjourned yesterday in Chief Justice Hunter's court until April 17. Meanwhile, at the suggestion of His Lordship, the parties to the suit may possibly arrive at some amicable settlement of the cause of dispute, which, as the court pointed out, would be by far the better method of solving the difficulty in the interests of this well known charitable institution.

When the court opened yesterday morning there was a considerable gathering of spectators, who took a lively interest in the proceedings. A. E. McPhillips, K. C., assisted by H. D. Helmcken, K. C., appeared for the plaintiffs; R. T. Elliott was counsel for the president, Dr. Milne, and the several clergy defendants appeared in person.

The Chief Justice on the resumption of the case decided the preliminary objection raised by Mr. Elliott as to the manner in which the writ was issued in favor of the plaintiff corporation, stating that Mr. McPhillips had conformed with the practice in the courts of England, and as the rules of procedure in this province were similar, the writ was properly issued.

After some discussion as to the cause of action, in which Mr. McPhillips pointed out that the whole cause of dispute was the interpretation of the by-laws as to who was or was not a bona fide subscriber to the institution, His Lordship thought a question might be referred to the court on this point.

After Rev. G. K. B. Adams and Rev. Le Roy Daykin, two of the defendants, had addressed the court, Chief Justice Hunter said the only sensible course to follow was to settle the matter out of court, otherwise it would alienate supporters from the institution.

Mr. Elliott suggested standing the case over for 21 days, which was objected to by Mr. McPhillips.

His Lordship thought that a week would give sufficient time, but if then developed that the full court would sit in Vancouver next week, and so an adjournment was taken to April 17.

VICTORIA IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR HIM

F. Oliver Inspects California Points and Returns to Capital City.

BACK TO CITY OF HIS FIRST LOVE

An Interesting and Instructive Trip Described by a Keen Observer.

"Instead of buying an orange grove I made up my mind I would not take one for a gift," was the way in which Frederick Oliver, ex-local agent of the Dominion Express company, expressed himself last night at his residence, after spending three months in Southern California. It was my second visit to the southern state, and it so happened that for the greater part of the time the weather conditions were anything but pleasant, and I made up my mind that after all Victoria was a good enough residence city for me, and I purpose making my permanent home in the capital," he declared to a Colonist newsgatherer. "Take it all the year round, I say without fear of contradiction, that while certain parts of Southern California have ideal winter climates, we have here a climate that more favorably comnares for each twelve months."

Asked regarding his trip, Mr. Oliver continued: "My visit ostensibly was to try and obtain a location and buy an orange grove. I went as far south as Ontario, where I spent three weeks. During that time it

Froze Hard Every Night

and the groves of oranges looked so melancholy and the new growth of trees so forlorn that I decided I would not purchase. There's nothing in it to work a plantation all the year to raise a crop, buy water, cultivate the ground after each rainfall, or where artificial orrigation is used to prevent the soil baking, and then, after the harvest arrives, pick, box and ship to the packing houses and get only 90 cents a box. This is what I learned; and one finds that every grove is for sale, for the fruit growers are not satisfied with results. So I went back to Los Angeles, where the weather was also very bad. I experienced only one fine day in that city. While out walking in the park I met Mrs. Hussey, of this city. The next day it poured again and everything looked miserable and dreary.

"Los Angeles is certainly a wonderful city. While I was there it was the height of the harvest season, and people were flocking in at the rate of from eight to ten thousand a day. That is

What Keeps the City

Why? Ask a native and he will reply, 'Well, we're only got one crop—the tourists.'

"From Los Angeles I took the train to Santa Barbara, where I stayed six weeks. This is one passes through a lovely country, including the towns of Ventura and Oxnard, and, by the way, Oxnard is the centre for the only large industrial concern operating in that section of the south, namely, the manufacture of beet sugar. Santa Barbara is certainly a lovely city—the best I have ever been in on my several travels. As at Los Angeles, the place thrives on the tourist trade, and real estate brokers are legion. The climate is unsurpassable, and the European traveler tells one it beats the Mediterranean. Its many beautiful homes and magnificent hotels are the wonder of all visitors. Take the Potter house, situated alongside of four acres of white lilies, and with driveways and walks bordered with

Giant Geraniums

that give a picture of scarlet coloring simply indescribable in magnificence.

"While there I took occasion to visit the old mansion built by the Spanish monks and priests in 1785. It is a wonderfully interesting spot, in an excellent state of preservation, and one is guided around the many historic places, including the cemetery, by affable fathers.

"I was so charmed with Santa Barbara that I looked around for a place to settle, but found everything very expensive to the man of only average means. For instance, a residence that could be bought in Victoria for $2,000 would cost fully $3,000 in that city, from the fact that lumber is twice as high. Besides, I found that outside of real estate there were no busines openings that a man could profitably engage in. After six weeks I concluded to return and came north by boat to San Francisco, where I again met my old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Rattray, formerly well known in this city. The voyage from the

Golden Gate to Victoria

on the steamer Umatilla was all that could be desired. The officers informed me it was made in the finest weather conditions experienced in a year."

Mr. Oliver is still in the employ of the Dominion Express company, under leave of absence until July 1st, when he will probably resign on superannuation after spending forty-eight years in the service of express companies in Canada. Exactly half of this record-breaking period of active business life was spent in the employ of the Dominion Express company, and for many years as agent in this city.

Regarding the possibility of increasing the tourist travel from California to Victoria, Mr. Oliver said that the best method to get business was to have a special traveling representative continually on the road at the end of the Southern California season, to visit such places as Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego, Long Beach, etc., and by personal effort and through the distribution of literature try and persuade tourists to return home east by taking the Canadian Pacific railway, and so permit them to spend some time in this city.

WAR IN CAUCASUS.

Revolutionary Activity Renewed Between Tartars and Armenians.

Elizabethpol, Caucasus, March 31.—A renewal of the Tartar-Armenian war, accompanied by revolutionary activity, has compelled the intervention of the troops. Several skirmishes have occurred, during which a score of Armenians and Tartars were killed. The local authorities have seized a number of machine guns and over 500 rifles.

PROSPEROUS SAANICH FARMERS

Increasing Prosperity of Province Causes Scarcity of labor—General Increase in Dairying Industry.

Written For the Sunday Colonist by H. F. Pullen.

THE wail of the Saanich farmer is that labor is too expensive and that even at high prices good men cannot be obtained. For this reason many are going into sheep raising, and are using labor-saving machinery in order to protect themselves. Some advocate the repeal of the Chinese head tax, while others favor some plan of importing men from the Old Country. One farmer, who pays thirty dollars a month and board, with a family, finds it impossible to get a good steady man even at that price. While the naval squadron was stationed at Esquimalt the runaway sailors kept up a pretty steady supply, but now even that is cut off.

Mr. William Thomson is one of the largest farmers and one of the oldest settlers of the Saanich district. He is an enthusiastic lover of the land and says he would not change his occupation for any other in the world. He came in long before there were any roads and built his first cabin on his present farm in the year '55. He now owns seven hundred and forty acres of splendid park-like rolling land just this side of Mount Newton. Two hundred is under cultivation and another hundred is used as pasture. His plan is to feed everything that he grows except some hay, but never to buy anything. Because of the scarcity of labor he allows many of the calves to run with the cows; splendid cattle mostly of the Shorthorn Durham and Ayreshire breeds.

Mr. Thomson keeps about one hundred stock ewes from which he averages considerably more than one lamb each, every year. The lambs are usually sold at about $4.50 each, so that they are big revenue producers at little expense. They require very little feeding and the labor involved is almost nothing.

While he does not now raise grain for the market, Mr. Thomson has done so in the past. Several years ago from a twenty-acre field of wheat he threshed a thousand bushels. Oats average about sixty bushels to the acre, but he uses them all for feed. From ten acres he obtained sixty tons of carrots besides all the mangolds and turnips needed for the winter's rations. Last year he cut two hundred tons of hay, some of which he sold, the price being $16 a ton, on the cars.

Another prolific source of income is the orchard. From 700 prune tees there were picked last year 2,000 crates, which were all shipped to Winnipeg through T. R. Stewart & Co., and brought him on the ground $1,000. From this of course must be deducted the cost of picking and crates. Twenty-five Chinamen were employed to do the work at $1.25 a day. Besides the prune trees there are some 1500 apple, pear, plum and cherry trees, all of which are carefully pruned and cleaned every year.

Pigs, Mr. Thomson finds to be profitable. He raises about 60 every season to use up the skim milk and refuse. They have to be finished up with grain feed but during the growing period almost keep themselves.

Although he has four sons not one is with him on the farm. They are all in South Africa building railways. They like that work but intend to return to the farm later. During the Boer war they took their horses to Natal and came home, bringing with them from England two Suffolk Punch stallions and a brood mare. They already have two fillies from these that they are keping for breeding purposes. One of the stallions has been sold but they still have the other.

All the work of the farm is arranged to economize labor as much as possible. Chinese have been found to be unsatisfactory; in fact, Mr. Thomson says, they are no good at all on a ranch. He pays white men $30 a month and board.

Fred Turgoose of Saanichton, is selling off a large part of his herd of cows, intending to devote his energies more to raising feed crops and sheep. He thinks labor and feed are too expensive. With improved machinery good crops can be raised without employing much labor, and as feed is so high it is better to sell the feed than to keep cattle. Instead of keeping thirty-five cows he will reduce the herd to fifteen, and these will be the very best obtainable.

It must not be thought from the abobe that there is any general falling off in the amount of dairying carried on in the Saanich district. On the contrary, enquiry at the creamery shows that there is a steady increase in the output. During the month of February the output was 3,500 lbs. more than for the corresponding month of last year. Already this year 9,000 pounds more has been made than for the same period of last year. Besides the increase in output the price has been better. For ten weeks the wholesale price was 35c. a pound. These facts show most clearly that the farmers either find dairying profitable or they are lacking in good judgment in increasing their herds when the business is not paying. As many of the Saanich farmers are personal friends of the writer, he knows well they are not fools; ergo, they are making money.

Farmers, like school teachers and others, are apt to grumble some times just as a matter of principle, especially when there is little to grumble about. In Manitoba they grumble at everything except the weather. They are very touchy on the latter subject, always insisting that theirs is the best climate in the world. They would not live in British Columbia on any account, where they have rain instead of snow in the winter. The crops are never good enough, the price is always too low, but the weather is perfect. Even during a blizzard they tell the same story.

Undoubtedly the labor problem is a difficult one just now, but people are looking to the old land rather than to the East for the solution of that problem. With thousands of starving unemployed in England and with the present day rapid transportation, it should not prove a difficult matter to put would-be employees in touch with would-be employers. The governments of both England and Canada profess to be friends of labor. Here is their opportunity.