VANCOUVER SECTION

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BRITISH COLUMBIA AND MEXICO.

Everything Points to the Upbuilding of a Big Business —Hints to Fruit Growers—Industrial Notes.

Monetary Times' Office,
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The steamer "Georgia" left early on Thursday, her initial trip to Mexico, inaugurating the service between Western Canada and the south. She had on a large cargo. One of the passengers was A. K. Evans, of Vancouver, who goes to Mexico in the interests of a company recently formed in this city. It is incorporated as the Mexican-Trading Company, Limited, and the directors are the following well-known and successful business men:—C. A. Godson, of the Robertson-Godson Company, president; Wm. Braid, of Wm. Braid & Co., vice-president; A. K. Evans, general manager; W. J. Davidson, secretary-treasurer; W. H. Leckie, of the J. Leckie Co.; J. R. Berry, head of the Canadian Pipe Co.; and J. E. Hall, of the Vancouver Milling and Grain Company.

Other prominent people are among the shareholders. The object of the company is to deal in the products of both countries, and business will be sought energetically. A couple of years ago, when there was talk of the establishment of a line of steamers between British Columbia and Mexico, Mr. Evans, representing other interests, made a trip through the latter country, to ascertain the trade possibilities. This has given him a personal acquaintance with conditions there which will be of assistance now.

Another Fleet a Probability.

Andrew Weir, one of the largest ship owners in England, has been spending some time on the Pacific Coast, visiting all the ports. He is investigating the condition of shipping, with a view to entering the trade. He expresses himself as much pleased with what he has seen, in fact he is quite enthusiastic over the prospects, but what his plans are he is very careful not to divulge. It is considered probable that he will enter the trade, and should he thus decide it will mean that another large fleet of steamers will call regularly at British Columbia ports.

What might be done in supplying nursery stock to British Columbia fruit growers is not fully realized by Canadian dealers. Neither does it appeal to the grower that he should patronize home industry. Last week, Mr. T. Cunningham, provincial fruit pest inspector, destroyed a consignment of over 34,000 young trees for interior people, who had them shipped from Tennessee. On more than one occasion the inspector has pointed out that stock raised in the United States, where the country is older and pests abundant, in many cases is infected. Fumigation sometimes destroys minor diseases, but in a year a very large amount of stock has to be cremated.

Mr. R. Marpole, western executive agent of the C.P.R., is negotiating with the British Columbia Development Company regarding the terms and conditions of the proposition to clear and settle 150,000 acres of land on Vancouver Island. Arrangements are being completed gradually in regard to the company's plans there. The government has agreed to the construction to Union Bay via Alberni, and the subsidy has been limited to two years, during which time the work is to be undertaken. When W. Sloan, M.P., for Nanaimo, returned from Ottawa the other day, he stated that it was probable the work would be started this season. Survey parties have been in the field for months.

Fish Hatcheries to be Established.

Immediate attention is to be paid by the federal government to the fisheries, and F. C. Cunningham, superintendent of fish culture for the Dominion, is expected on the coast to inspect the sites for hatcheries. Two are to be built on the west coast of Vancouver Island, each with a capacity of about seven million fry each, and two more will be erected in the neighborhood of the Skeena River. These latter are known as the Babine and Smart Lake hatcheries. The Stikine River is to be populated with fry from these institutions. Mr. Cunningham should reach the coast this week, and no time will be lost in the construction of the buildings.

The steamer "Tees" on her last trip from the West Coast brought down 5,500 barrels of oil from the whaling station at Sechart. Things are pretty busy there, and the capacity of the plant is fully taxed. On the day the "Tees" left seven whales were taken, and the day previous six. When the additional stations are established the output of the company will be increased considerably.

The West Coast Oyster Company, of which Col. Markham, formerly of St. John, N.B., and Capt. George V. Williams, of Wellfleet, Mass., are two of the principals, have completed the planting of 1,175,000 oyster spawn at Esquimalt. They are both practical men, and are sanguine of success. They expect to have the product on the market within a year. This is not the only company engaged in oyster culture on this coast. The market is extensive, and if the oyster can be produced with any sort of size at all there should be much money in the venture.

Lumber Industry Active.

The lumbering industry is beginning to feel the effect of the shortage of cars. Stocks are piling up, and outputs are being reduced. Some of the smaller plants are making preparations to close as there is little chance to ship, and the local market is all that is available. The larger mills have the foreign trade, which is very good at present.

New York and Western capital, represented by E. E. Taylor, inspector, and Calgary agent of the Canadian Birbeck Investment & Savings Company, paid over a million dollars for the timber and mill interests of the Mundy Lumber Company, near Revelstoke. This firm came West from Bradford, Pa., about three years ago, and built a mill at Three Valley, seventeen miles west of Revelstoke. A subsidiary company was formed to handle timber limits in conjunction. This is one of the largest deals yet reported, and is an indication of the steady advance in the price of sawmilling establishments and timber.

The Patrick Lumber Company has been organized in Montreal to operate near Nelson, B.C., where the construction of a sawmill was started some time ago. The officials are:—H. Markland Molson, president; Wm. C. McIntyre, vice-president; J. W. McConnell, Secretary-treasurer; James Patrick and Frank J. Knox, directors. Wm. Molson MacPherson, president of the Molsons Bank, is also largely interested.

The British Columbia Transportation and Commercial Company have received their certificate of incorporation. They have placed already a steamer on the Skeena River in order to facilitate trade there, and they hope to increase the present service within twelve months. The Bulkley Valley offers first-rate inducements to the farmer and fruit-grower. With prospects of a railway at an early date, rapid development is anticipated. The British Columbia Transportation and Commercial Company is interested extensively in properties in the locality and express great faith in the future of the district. The directors are chiefly local men and the head office of the company is in Vancouver. The Bulkley Valley badly needed the service inaugurated and the company, as pioneers, are to be congratulated upon their action.

Real Estate is Active.

The recent rumours that tobacco-growing was likely to be introduced into British Columbia on an extensive scale has received confirmation this week. Messrs. Rothenberg, Stirling and Carruthers are the promoters of the International Tobacco Company, with a capital of five million dollars. The land bought is in every way suitable for the production of tobacco of a fair grade and the men interested, who are experts in the way of tobacco cultivation, feel confident of success.

Increased briskness is noticeable this week in real estate. The Canadian Trust Company, of Vancouver, are interested in the Prince Rupert question, and are authorities upon questions relating to that district. The tie-up in realty investment dependent upon exclusive railway and other holdings has forbidden the possibility of activity, but this week some acreage on Cloyah Bay is offering at reasonable terms. This property faces the portion of Kaien Island, which is destined to become the business centre and is only about fifteen minutes steam away from that point. It is an ideal spot for residence close upon the water frontage, and is backed by ranges of hills. This is the only acreage upon the market at present and it will be a source of interest to those believers in the new terminal city to see how these lots go. The Government sale has been deferred, but when it does finally take place it is anticipated that prices will be exceedingly high. Vancouver real estate agents have had many enquiries from the East and numerous residents in England are anxious to participate. For any one wishing to invest, the attitude is perfectly rational.

The two new steamers, "Corunna" and "Morena," of the Canadian Lake Line, have left England for Toronto with full cargoes of iron consigned to M. and L. Samuel, Benjamin and Company, metal merchants, Toronto. These steamers will not break bulk in Montreal as is customary, as the entire cargo is for the firm above mentioned.

Mr. G. J. Lovell has returned to Winnipeg after a tour through British Columbia, where he was developing the organization of the Annuity Company of Canada.

Mr. J. E. Wilmott, secretary of a large private money loaning corporation in Birmingham, England, is in Winnipeg considering the advisability of starting a branch agency there.