

VICTORIA'S EXHIBITION.

There is every indication that the exhibition to open on Tuesday next and continue during the week will be the best and most attractive that has yet been held under the auspices of the British Columbia Agricultural Association. In view of the general business experiences and the greater counter attraction at Tacoma, it required, no doubt, the exercise of a great deal of nerve to undertake and develop a show upon the scale of the one to which we refer. However, the enterprise displayed during the last two years by the president and committee rendered it essential that the attractions should be greater than ever, as well from the value of prizes as from the outside features designed to achieve the one grand result.

Tuesday next, the first day of the fair, is to be a civic holiday. America's Day, Canada's Day, Children's Day and Societies' Day following in their succession. Bicycle races, foot races and horse races are down upon the programme, as also football, baseball and lacrosse matches, together with tugs of war, military manoeuvres, etc. There is to be a grand procession of children, who will sing in chorus, while the music each day will be exceptionally fine. All this is outside the exhibition proper, which, as the entries indicate, will be one of the finest collections gathered of animals and their products, field and garden fruits, as well as of the thousand and one articles the work of home industry. We are satisfied that the show will only require to be seen to be appreciated, and we therefore commend it to the attention of the public.

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH US.

During the last few days Victoria has been visited by a prominent representative of the financial interests of the French Canadian people of the Province of Quebec. Hon. Alphonse Desjardins, who left on Sunday morning on his way home, is president of La Banque Jacques Cartier, an institution which, with the old established Banque du Peuple, and its younger confreres—if such a term may be used—La Banque Nationale, La Banque d'Hochelaga and La Banque Ville Maire, has been materially instrumental in assisting the French Canadian trade interests of Lower Canada. But these concerns are not altogether of provincial importance and influence, each of them having branches and direct connections in Manitoba and the Northwest. Mr. Desjardins, who was at one time editor of *Le Nouveau Monde* newspaper, is an observant and enterprising business man, and of the prospects of the North Western and Pacific Coast provinces he is very sanguine, his first visit (th-

present) having convinced him of the solid facts regarding them.

The numerous excursions made by prominent Eastern men to the Rockies and beyond have been productive of much good and may be expected to lead to a more liberal expenditure of the public moneys in these works of development which devolve upon the Dominion authorities, whose necessity and advisability they have been slow to appreciate, particularly since our representative men in Parliament, while doing some kicking in our behalf, have failed to enregister the opinions of their constituencies by giving an adverse vote at a time when its significance could not fail to be appreciated. Some people say that Hon. Mr. Laurier has returned home encouraged by the results of his western visit. Many of our citizens are, it is true, ready to give their votes for candidates in opposition to the present Government because of its sins of omission and commission, and it will be well for them and for those who at present represent this Province to bear this in mind before it is too late.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

The well known sealer Triumph has returned to port having the distinguished honor of being high liner, having taken no less than 3,100 skins, most of them in Behring Sea. This is said to be the largest number of skins ever taken by any sealer.

Last week's *British Columbia Gazette* announced the addition to schedule A of the Poison List of the Pharmacy Act, 1891, of rough on rats, rat poisons, oil of tansey, preparations of cantharides and chloral hydrate, and, to Schedule B, of carbolic acid.

We have already referred to the annual report of the British Columbia Board of Trade, when it was submitted to the annual meeting. It has now come to hand in attractive pamphlet form, and contains statistics of a varied and instructive character.

The *Northwest Magazine*, of St. Paul, suggests, in order to prevent such disastrous railway strikes as have recently occurred and which have cost the United States over eighty millions of dollars, that the men employed in the railway service be regularly enlisted by the authority of national law.

The sealer Favorite, seized for an alleged violation of the Behring Sea regulations, has been very properly released because it was considered she had been improperly taken into custody. No doubt her owners will find reason for

a suit for damages because of having been thus unjustifiably dealt with.

SIR JOHN THOMPSON, premier of the Dominion, is, it is said, about to visit this Province. We trust he will do so, as we are sure he will discover many wrongs which ought to be righted and many ways in which the administration of the affairs of Canada can be made much more acceptable and beneficial to the inhabitants of this portion of it.

The Board of Trade excursion to the Interstate Fair on Saturday last—British Columbia's Day—was a very successful affair, and every one who went returned highly pleased with what he had seen and the reception which was accorded the visitors. On America's Day at the exhibition here next week, a deputation from Tacoma is expected to arrive. It is to be hoped they will be as well treated and go back as well pleased as those who went from Victoria and Vancouver to the Sound celebration.

The fact of prominent residents of Portland, Oregon, having formed a company with a capital stock of a million dollars to carry on one or more beet root sugar factories in that State raises the question of the possibility of starting such an industry in this Province. The advantages to be derived are numerous. A new departure is offered for our farmers, who might profitably grow beets, the conversion of which into sugar would find employment for a number of people whose wages would be earned in the Province and be likely to be spent here, while the farmer and the rancher would have an additional field for the exercise of his energies. Our climatic conditions are, we believe, favorable to the growth of beets, and it would, we think, be advisable for the Provincial department of agriculture to give the subject attention.

A suit of considerable interest to this Province is at the moment before the New York Courts. The United States Government is suing the North American Commercial Company for \$130,187.50 on account of the failure of the latter to pay the annual rental for the seal islands of \$60,000 a year, and the sum of \$9,62½ for each seal killed by them as stipulated in the contract. On the other hand the Company claim \$283,725 damages against the Government on the ground that under the contract the Company was to be allowed to take 60,000 seals during the first year of the contract and 100,000 each succeeding year for twenty years. Owing to federal regulations the Company were able to kill 20,000 only the first year, and the second year they were allowed to take no seals at all owing to the *modus vivendi*, the contract having, they claim, been practically violated by the Government.