TO TEST SALT WATER SYSTEM

UNDERWRITERS' ENGINEER TO MAKE INSPECTION

Material Reductions in Insurance Rates May Follow.

(From Friday's Daily.)

The pumping machinery has now all been installed at the station at the foot of Herald street for the high pressure salt water system to give additional fire protection for Victoria; preliminary tests of the engines are now being conducted by Superintendent Hutcheson; and in about one week's time it is anticipated that the whole system will be officially tested under the direction of a special engineer selected by the Vancouver Island board of fire underwriters. Great interest has been aroused over the matter in consequence of the expectation that should the system prove the success anticipated in respect to furnishing adequate fire-fighting facilities, material reductions in the insurance rates will be given.

G. V. Lawry, secretary of the board of underwriters, interviewed by the Times this morning, said he appreciated the fact that the public was eagerly awaiting an announcement as to what reductions might be expected, but he explained that until the official test of the salt water system had been made it would be quite impossible to mention any figure with any degree of definiteness. The board had, of course, for some weeks been holding meetings considering the question of reductions, and had come to an understanding as to what recommendations will be made to the head offices, but these recommendations could not be forwarded until the system had been inspected by the special engineer who had been engaged for the purpose, and the same passed upon by the final authority in the matter of fixing insurance rates.

Mr. Lawry explained that as a result of the serious conflagrations which had overtaken the city in the residential district some two years ago, the rates had been increased 30 per cent. The district affected was bounded by Bay, Quadra, Humboldt streets and the waterfront.

The salt water system is designed to protect a smaller area, though it does not follow that the reductions which may be given will not extend to a larger area, owing to the general improvement in the fire-fighting facilities in the city.

The salt water system runs as follows: From the pumping station at the foot of Herald street to Blanchard, along Blanchard to Broughton, along Brougton to Wharf, and up Wharf and Store to Herald. Another pipe runs along Douglas from Herald to Broughton, and along Government also to Broughton.

Connection is also made with the B. C. Electric Railway Company's system, the city having extended along Store to make the connection.

A report has been prepared by the Vancouver Island Fire Underwriters' Association on the improvements made to the water system and the fire department of the city, in which it is stated:

The city has expended about $800,000 upon the following improvements:

Waterworks.

1. The banks of Elk and Beaver lakes (the source of supply) have been raised at certain points to allow the water to rise three and a half feet higher than at present.

2. 9,500 feet of the 16-inch supply main from the lakes to Victoria pumping station has been replaced by 24-inch pipe, in order to increase the amount of water delivered at the pumping station.

3. A 3,600,000 gallon pump has been installed in Victoria pumping station to replace the old 2,000,000 gallon pump which will now be held in reserve. Pump to suck from the 16-inch main and discharge through a 16-inch, enlarging into a 27-inch, main into a 16,000,000 gallon reservoir.

4. A 16,000,000 gallon reservoir has been installed at Smith's hill which is elevated 193 feet above high water mark. From this reservoir the flow is by gravity to town, giving 80 pounds static pressure in the business section.

5. A 100,000 gallon steel and concrete tank, on concrete base, to be kept filled automatically by two 100,000 gallon electric power pumps in the Yates street station has been erected in the high level residential section.

6. New distribution pipes have been laid as follows:

27-inch from Smith's Hill reservoir to Cook and Hillside.

24-inch along Hillside from Cook to Government.

18-inch along Cook from Hillside to Edmonton.

12-inch along Edmonton from Cook to Richmond.

12-inch along Richmond from Edmonton to Oak Bay avenue.

12-inch along Oak Bay avenue from Foul Bay road to Cadboro Bay road.

12-inch along Cadboro Bay road from Oak Bay avenue to Cook.

12-inch along Bellot, Humboldt, etc., from Cook to Government.

12-inch along Menzies from Simcoe to Belleville.

12-inch long Belleville from Menzies to Causeway.

12-inch along Causeway from Belleville to Government.

12-inch along Douglas from Herald to Humboldt.

12-inch along Quadra from Burdett to Hillside.

10-11-inch along Chatham from Store to Douglas.

12-inch along Store from Johnson to Pembroke.

12-inch along Wharf from Humboldt to Johnson.

8-inch along Blanchard from Burdett to Hillside.

8-inch along Herald from Government to Douglas.

8-inch along St. Charles from Cadboro Bay road to Rockland avenue.

8-inch along sundries from sundries to high level tank.

2-7-inch along Discovery from Douglas to Store.

8-inch along Pembroke from Douglas to Government.

12-inch along Pembroke from Government to Store.

Sixty thousand feet of 2-inch and 100,000 feet of 4-inch pipe for outskirts.

7. A high pressure system for fire service only, taking salt water from the harbor or fresh water from the domestic supply mains as required, and distributing it through independent mains throughout the business section, is now completed.

Thirty-one hydrants each having two 2½-inch hose connections and one 5-inch connection for siamesing three lines of 2½-inch hose, are installed on this system. Under this arrangement the hydrants average 300 feet apart on Wharf and Government streets, and about 600 feet apart on Douglas and Blanchard streets, whereas the standard requires that they be not over 200 feet apart. No doubt the extra hydrants will soon be installed once the system is seen in operation.

Note—In the district covered by the high pressure system there are also 33 hydrants on the gravity system.

A pumping station, two-story fireproof structure located at the foot of Herald street. Two pumps of 4,000,000 gallons capacity each, one pump to be driven by steam and the other by electricity supplied by the B. C. Electric Railway Co.

This system is planned to deliver 14 streams, with a running pressure of 130 to 135 pounds at the hydrants.

Fire Department.

1. The present fire alarm system has been improved as follows, and a number of new boxes will be added.

In central office (in main fire hall) is installed a Gamewell six-circuit repeater, and a six-circuit automatic storage battery switchboard. The system has been subdivided into five sections and connected to the repeater. The improvements named greatly reduce the chances of mixed alarms.

2. A new brick fire hall has been built at S. W. corner of Douglas and Dunedin streets.

3. The old frame shingle roof fire hall on Kingston street has been torn down and replaced by a brick fire hall.

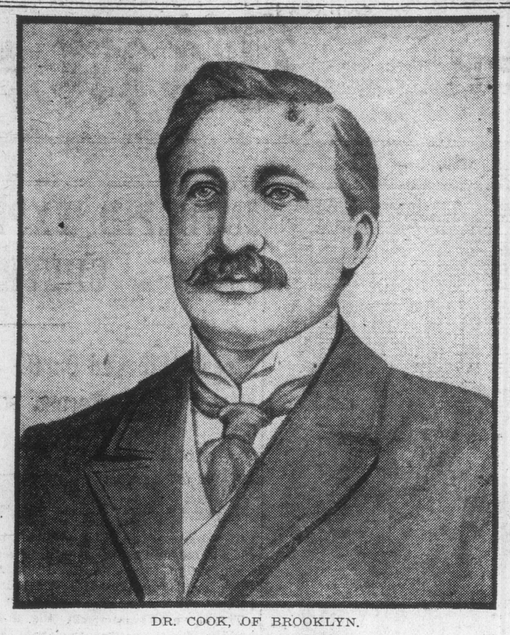
4. The following additional apparatus has been purchased:

Two combination chemical and hose wagons, 2,500 feet of hose (2,500 feet additional on order), one turret nozzle mounted on wagon, for use with high pressure system.

Several Siamese connections for high pressure hydrants.

5. Ten men have been added to the fire brigade.

6. One Waterous fire engine, 700 gallons per minute.



DR. COOK, OF BROOKLYN.
Discoverer of the North Pole.

IDEAL WEATHER FOR THRESHING

Work on Prairies Will Be Finished Earlier Than Expected.

Brandon, Sept. 3.—With a period of perfect weather farmers have been making remarkable progress in threshing and reports from all districts are that work will be finished much earlier than expected. If weather conditions continue favorable this season of harvesting and threshing will be one of the shortest on record and Eastern harvesters will be able to return home much earlier than in other years.

Grain Movement.

Winnipeg, Sept. 3.—Local telegraph companies report that the grain rush began nearly two weeks earlier than last year, having now been in full swing a week, whereas in 1908 the first cars did not start till September.

DROWNS HERSELF.

Modesto, Cal., Sept. 3.—Mrs. L. C. Walthers, wife of a farmer living near Oakdale, committed suicide by drowning herself in the watering trough on the ranch. Her husband found the body floating in the trough as he drove up to water his team.

TAKING LEAVE OF VICTORIA.
Governor General, Lady Grey and Daughters Bidding Adieu to Government House Party.

TRADE COMMISSIONERS INSPECT FACTORIES

Japanese Visitors Meet Members of Seattle Chamber of Commerce.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 3.—The visiting Japanese trade commissioners began this morning an inspection of the factories of Seattle and nearby towns which will last the greater part of the day. The first place to be visited was the brewery in Georgetown and the condensed milk plant at Kent.

A conference between the Japanese commissioners and the representatives of the chamber of commerce was held in the rooms of the latter last night at which tentative plans for the carrying out of the itinerary of the visitors in the United States was discussed The meeting was productive of much enthusiasm and the utmost good feeling prevailed. Baron Shibusawa, chairman of the commercial delegates, voiced the sentiment of his countrymen when he predicted that trade between Japan and the United States would increase steadily and made the positive declaration that whenever an article needed in Japan could be bought in the United States at the same price as elsewhere, this country would be favored. He expressed the hope that this country would act in a like manner in the matter of imports from Japan.

WILL DEFEND FLAG AT NORTH

UNITED STATES TO TAKE LAND IF OF ANY VALUE

Danish Government Plans Royal Welcome to Dr. Cook.

Copenhagen, Sept. 3.—Late this afternoon Dr. Maurice Francis Egan, American minister at Copenhagen, on board the yacht New Yorker, met the steamer Hans Egede and with a wave of his hat, gave the first greeting from the American people to Dr. Frederick A. Cook, discoverer of the North Pole, who was standing on the deck of the steamer.

The yacht bore the flag of the American republic which planted at the northernmost point of the globe, and it was a welcome sight to the eyes of the explorer after his long and perilous trip through the desolate regions of ice. In deference to the wishes of the Danish government, which had requested that Dr. Cook be allowed to land under the Danish colors flying from the masthead of the Hans Egede, Dr. Egan abandoned his tentative plan to transfer Cook to the yacht so that he might land under the stars and stripes.

New York, Sept. 3.—That the flag planted by Dr. Cook on the new Arctic continent will be defended by the United States was the opinion expressed by Attorney-General Wickersham at Lawrence Beach, L. I., his summer home to-day.

"The constitution will follow the flag if the new land discovered by Cook proves to be of any value," said Mr. Wickersham. "The new territory may, perhaps, not prove a very valuable acquisition, but if human beings can live there or if there are native races living there, a serious question of citizenship will have to be considered. However, before taking any position in the matter, I prefer to wait for information of a little more definite character."

Law of Discovery.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 3.—Dr. Hannis Taylor, an authority on international law, stated to-day that in his opinion the United States could now make claim to the ownership of the North Pole by right of Dr. Cook's discovery.

While he admits that such a move would be without precedent until the discovery has been actually verified, he also is of the opinion that the principles recognized in the discovery of land could now be applied permanently to the ice fields.

When assured whether the United States would lay claim to the 30,000 square miles of land that Dr. Cook claims to have discovered near the pole, Assistant Secretary of State Adee said:

"This question will undoubtedly come up later before the law officers of the department. Whether or not this government will care to lay claim to the snow and icebound region in the vicinity of the pole is a question."

Preparing to Welcome Cook.

Copenhagen, Sept. 3.—Delighted at having the first opportunity to do honor to Dr. Frederick A. Cook, the courageous American, who succeeded in reaching the North Pole, where hundreds of others had failed, the Danish government is planning a royal welcome for the hardy explorer when he reaches here to-night.

Completely entwined in American and Danish flags, the torpedo boat Jutland left here this morning to meet the Egede, and will escort the vessel to Elsinor. On the Royal Geographical Society's boat will be Dr. Egan, a famous scientist, and M. G. Melchion, who will welcome Dr. Cook to Danish soil in behalf of the government.

The exact time of the arrival of the explorer here is not known, but he is expected to reach here some time to-night.

To-morrow he will be presented to the King and Queen, and to-morrow night he will be tendered a monster banquet, which will be attended by the high officials of the government. There is no skepticism here regarding the authenticity of Dr. Cook's discovery.

Capt. Hansen, a wealthy expert of the meteorological institute, who has lived in the Arctic seas the year around making observations, declared to-day that his observations coincided exactly with those of Dr. Cook's regarding the weather, ice and trails.

Expedition Cost $50,000.

Chicago, Sept. 3.—P. G. Bradley, a brother of John Bradley, who financed the Cook exploration expedition, announced that it had cost his brother $50,000 for the explorer to discover the Pole.

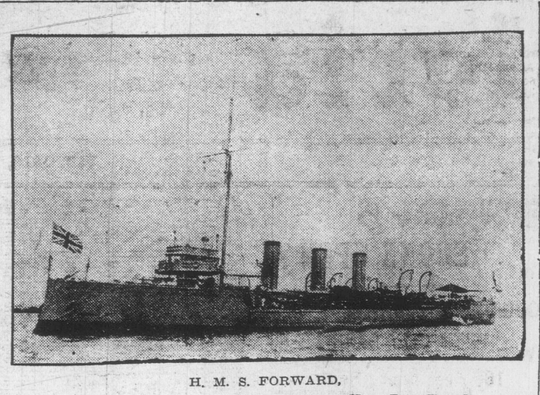
"BIG RED APPLE DAY."

Residents of Fruit Districts Celebrate at A.-Y.-P. Exposition.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 3.—This is the day of "the big red apple" at the exposition, and more than 1,500 visitors from the great apple-growing country about Wenatchee are on hand to celebrate the occasion. The day's festivities began with an elaborate parade in the down-town district, and the remainder of the day was spent at the exposition. The "big red apple" was much in evidence, as the visitors distributed a carload of apples and water melons.

AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY.

Toronto, Ont., Sept. 3.—The Aeronautical Society of Canada was formed last night at a meeting in the offices of Featherstonhaugh & Company. F. B. Featherstonhaugh is chairman and E. H. Guthrie secretary.



H. M. S. FORWARD,
The 25-Knot Scout on Which Explosives Have Been Found.

MRS. PEARY SATIRIC OVER COOK'S REPORT

Reminds Public of Explorer's Airy Story of Ascent of Mount McKinley.

South Harpswell, Maine, Sept. 3.—Mrs. Peary, wife of the noted Arctic explorer, was satiric regarding Dr. Cook's discovery of the North Pole when interviewed to-day at her summer home on Eagle Island. She said:

"I have been expecting to hear that report ever since I knew Dr. Cook had started for the pole. It has been a standing joke at the 'explorers' club, and in our set in New York. But please do not quote me as being incredulous over the report. It would look too ugly coming just at this time.

"After all, I can only say that it is a greater surprise to me that Dr. Cook was able, alone with but two Eskimo boys, to accomplish in so short a time what so many others of greater experience and better equipment have failed in doing. I am sorry that Dr. Cook has wrested the honor of discovering the pole from my husband, but I congratulate him.

"If Dr. Cook has discovered the pole he will have to bring back some of Mr. Peary's records to prove that he has been farther north. It is customary for explorers to leave records in their own handwriting in cairns built of stone.

"I hardly believe that Dr. Cook will give out much of a story until he gets into communication with the newspapers. He is too clever and shrewd not to realize the value of the story of the true discovery.

"Yes, if is true that the cairn containing records must be built on land, as the ice is always moving.

"I can't help recalling the story regarding Dr. Cook's ascent of Mount McKinley, about which he wrote in his book. In that book he says he ascended the mountain, looked at his aereoid and then came down again. When scientists wanted to know the height, he says he was in such a hurry that he did not have time to compute the altitude.

"At that time Dr. Cook was alone, too. He had gone with the expedition that failed in their attempt to scale the mountain. When they left Dr. Cook was left in charge of the supplies.

"The party had hardly reached the east when the news came that Dr. Cook had made a successful ascent of the mountain, but for me to say anything at this time might be construed as bad taste. I do feel loyal to my husband and feel that he will bring the pole back with him. If he does, then it is for him to talk of this report, for he could either prove or disprove it. I can't."

RAILWAY MAN DEAD.

G. W. Dickinson, General Manager of Seattle Electric Company, Passed Away.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 3.—George W. Dickinson, one of the best known railroad men in the United States twenty years ago and who has resided in Seattle since 1897, is dead here of pneumonia. He served as division superintendent on the Northern Pacific before coming to the coast. Later he was transferred to Tacoma with the title of general superintendent of the western division. Dickinson subsequently gave up railroading to become general manager of the Seattle Electric Company.

APPELLATE COURT IS PROCLAIMED

ACT ESTABLISHING IT BROUGHT IN FORCE

Provincial Government Takes Formal Step in That Connection.

(From Friday's Daily.)

The provincial government this week, as was forecasted, has issued a proclamation which appears in the Gazette creating the Court of Appeal for the province. The act providing for it was passed in 1907. The act provided that it should only be brought into effect on a proclamation by the Lieut.-Governor in Council. This proclamation appears now, the date being September 1st.

At the same time the act amending the Supreme Court, which makes the necessary changes which follow the creation of the Court of Appeal, is proclaimed in effect.

The appointment of judges to the Appellate court rests with the Dominion government. These appointments of course cannot yet be made.

MONTREAL'S LOSSES.

City Treasurer Gives Evidence Before the Royal Commission.

Montreal, Sept. 3.—City Treasurer William Robb was on the stand before the Royal Commission yesterday afternoon and made an interesting and most outspoken witness. He told Judge Cannon of hundreds of thousands of dollars the city was losing annually through poor methods of collecting taxes and failure to collect, of patronage and its abuses, placing the total loss at well over a million dollars a year.

TAKING LEAVE OF VICTORIA.
Earl Grey Going on Board D. G. S. Quadra on Thursday.

NOT WORRYING OVER CAPTAIN BERNIER

Was Equipped for Two Years' Trip in Northern Regions.

Ottawa, Sept. 3.—The story sent out from Montreal that government officials are worrying over Capt. Bernier, is ridiculed here. Bernier left July last year for a two years trip with orders to visit more inaccessible regions in the Arctic than have yet been touched, but he had no orders to make a rush for the pole nor was he equipped for such a venture.

The deputy minister of marine and fisheries says he does not expect to hear from Bernier until next summer.

MURDERER ENDS LIFE.

Stettler, Sept. 3.—The body of Anton Woldrich, who shot and killed his wife and daughter here on Dominion Day, was found by John Fisher, a well digger, in an old well on the farm of T. H. Braams, three miles south of Stettler. At the inquest held on Thursday by Coroner Donovan a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind was returned.

PLOT TO BLOW UP WARSHIPS

EXPLOSIVES FOUND ON SCOUT FORWARD

Naval Officers Ordered to Make Thorough Search of Vessels.

London, Sept. 3.—Following the discovery of high explosives in the coal bunkers of the crack scout Forward, the members of the British admiralty to-day are in a state of ferment.

Similar discoveries in three battleships recently caused a rigid investigation to be ordered, and the investigators were in the midst of their probing when the announcement was made that high explosives had been found on the Forward.

As a result of this latest finding, instructions have been rushed to every officer in the navy to thoroughly search their vessels for high explosives. It is feared that an attempt is being made by enemies of the nation to blow up the biggest and best battleships of the British Empire, as in every instance the explosives have been found on first-class vessels.

H.M.S. Forward is a scout of 2,850 tons. She cost £285,000. She is 365 feet in length, with 38¾ feet beam, a draught of 14½ feet and a speed of 25 knots. She is armed with 16 small quick-firing guns.

BALDWIN ORGANIZING ARCTIC EXPEDITION

Says Cook's Discovery Will Give Stimulus to Exploration.

New York, Sept. 3.—That the discovery of the North Pole and the probable discovery of the South Pole in the near future will result in a great stimulus to Arctic explorations, and a rush of students and scientists to the polar regions is the firm belief to-day of Evelyn B. Baldwin, the celebrated explorer and meteorologist.

In an interview to-day with the United Press, Dr. Baldwin said:

"Dr. Cook's achievement is simply wonderful. He was extremely fortunate in finding a chain of islands where game was plentiful, and also to encounter such a smooth surface to within five degrees of the pole. The assistance of the brave little Eskimos was also of great value to Dr. Cook, and they cannot be given too much credit.

"The scepticism being manifested regarding Dr. Cook's wonderful feat of travelling 500 miles in 35 days is not well founded, as it not only was possible, but was very probable under favorable circumstances.

"I think the finding of the South Pole," continued Dr. Baldwin, "will be much easier because there is a continent around there and the ice therefore will be stationary while the Arctic ice is continually shifting and breaking.

"I now am getting up an expedition which is to cross the Arctic region, and we expect to start very soon. We will have a strong vessel and hope to drift completely through the northern ocean, come out somewhere between the northeast coast of Greenland and Spitzbergen and make side trips in dirigible balloons.

"We seek specimens and records for meteorological observations, and we expect to find land west of Crocker Land. Unless I am badly mistaken we will be soon hailed as the first expedition to cross the northern ocean."

EARL GREY AND PARTY VISIT A.-Y.-P. FAIR

Governor-General Will Be the Guest of City Council of Seattle.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 3.—Earl Grey, governor-general of Canada, Lady Grey, their daughters, Lady Sibyl and Lady Evelyn, and Hon. Sybil Broderick, Lord Lascelles and Mr. Leferson-Gower, who arrived last evening on the Canadian government steamer Quadra, are spending to-day on the exposition grounds, examining the Canadian exhibit and visiting the other buildings. Members of the party will be entertained by the council at luncheon today and will see the boulevards and streets, in which Earl Grey is much interested. The Earl and his party are the guests of Samuel Hill.

His lordship has just returned from a trip to the Yukon. He paid a splendid tribute to the riches and possibilities of the Yukon.

WINNIPEG POWER PLANT.

Winnipeg, Sept. 3.—Tenders for $425,000 of equipment for the civic power plant were accepted by the city council yesterday. The lowest tenderers were Bovirg & Co., London, $97,150; Vickers, Sons & Maxim, London, $93,080; Canadian Westinghouse Co., Hamilton, $100,000; Canadian General Electric Company, $11,600; Canadian Fairbanks Company, Winnipeg, $14,900; Canadian Foundry Co., Toronto, $27,520; and Canadian Fairbanks Company, $26,959.

FLIGHT OF AN AIRSHIP.

Paris, Sept. 3.—The army dirigible airship the Republique sailed to-day from Paris for La Palisz, 240 miles to the south. The aerial craft was in charge of Capt. Boise and carried besides the crew three passengers.