

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS ON PACIFIC COAST

General Development—Shipping Interests' Services— Real Estate for Distant Buyers

(Staff Correspondence).

Vancouver, May 12th.

Although fault is found with general trade conditions in instances, consequent upon the stringency in the money situation, in Vancouver things are looking bright. In Victoria large public works are in hand, and announcement is made of the dry dock to be constructed there as part of the naval policy of the government at Ottawa. Lumbering operations create activity from the neighborhood close to Victoria to the northern end of the island, and with good existing conditions in this branch of industrial activity, much is doing. The Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company, with its big mill at Chemainus, is to start logging its extensive limits on Cowichan Lake, and will bring the logs to tidewater over the new line built by the Canadian Pacific Railway. These logging operations will be in the same district as those of the Empire Lumber Company, which proposes shortly to commence activities on its big proposition.

Benefits of Agricultural Development.

At Duncan, also in the Cowichan district, is to be seen the benefits of agricultural development. The Cowichan creamery is one of the most successful co-operative institutions of its kind in Canada, and last year distributed over \$195,000 among its 300 patrons. Not only does it produce a standard butter that commands a price of five cents over that prevailing in the local market, but it makes a specialty of gathering eggs daily. This enables the small land holder at Duncan and in vicinity to market his produce at the best price obtaining. The result is that Duncan is a prosperous community and expanding rapidly. The land is well situated and with so many settlers it is well kept and productive. It is doubtful if there is another community of its kind in Canada.

That expansion is steady on the lower mainland is indicated by the growth of the directory of the British Columbia Telephone Company, the May number of which has been issued. This book has increased 118 pages in a fourteen months. While the increase in the January directory was thirty pages, it was thirty pages this time in the Vancouver section alone. The classified section, made up of business and professional names, increased ninety inches. It is reckoned that the company installs about 500 new net phones per month, and has an immense amount of new construction on hand, all over its territory which includes also Vancouver Island.

Shipping Service Inaugurated.

Inauguration of the service of the Hamburg-Amerika-Dampf-Actien-Gesellschaft was effected by the arrival of the first steamship of the line at Vancouver this week. This was the Sithonia, which is the first on the new service of the company to the Orient and Pacific ports. When the Panama Canal is open the boats will likely take that short cut and make around the world trip. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company starts its service to this coast in July, and with the Blue Funnel and the Danish East Asiatic line four large concerns will be operating freight boats to western ports of Canada. These show the development of shipping, so that when a large dry dock is ready it ought not to be used so much for naval as for commercial purposes.

If the government builds its dock at Esquimalt, it is not probable that several millions will be forthcoming for another dock on Burrard Inlet, though most of the commercial shipping finds its way to the later harbor, and where repairs might be more conveniently done. There is not likely to be enough business on this coast for two large concerns. Since the government has signified its intention of increasing the amount of the subsidy, it might be that capital for the enterprise, long talked of, can be secured.

Buyers Should Investigate.

Speculative real estate in and about Vancouver has fallen off during recent months, though sales are taking place in property in the city which has established values. Big subdivision companies are not putting through many sales locally, but a feature of their business is the outside enquiries and far-away buyers. People here know and understand the situation, and are not misled by gilded literature, but those remote from the scene of operations, thinking to realize the profits which have made Vancouver famous, are led to purchase. Before buying they should consider conditions and analyze statements made, else later on they may find their money tied up for a long term of years.

The Royal Agricultural Commissioners, who are holding sittings in different parts of the province, were at Abbotsford

this week, where they were entertained at a banquet. Mr. Charles Hill-Tout, president of the Abbotsford Board of Trade, pointed out that the commission should do good work, and before agriculture could be placed on a favorable footing there must be a restoration of the balance between industrial and agricultural development. Almost all the legislation for the last half-century the world over had been in favor of industrial enterprises, and Mr. Hill-Tout quoted the banking act of Canada as an example. While every opportunity was given business men to borrow from the banks, the farmer could get little assistance. It was suggested that banks for the accommodation of farmers was absolutely essential if agriculture was to be placed on the same footing with other industries.

Railway Assurances.

The Pacific Great Eastern is giving another assurance of the starting of the operations, which according to agreement should have been started last July. Now the proposition is being made that the owners of land should grant free right-of-way. The proposition is that the company will build its line through West Vancouver to Horseshoe Bay and operate either gasoline or electrically-driven cars until such time as the regular tram service is instituted. This suggestion of free right-of-way is something along the line of that of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company. It had the people whose property fronted on proposed extensions in certain parts of the city pay so much per front foot.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS EMPOWERED TO BORROW MONEY

The following school districts have been authorized to borrow money. The particulars are given in order, name and number of school district, amount required and name of secretary-treasurer:—

Alberta

Boyle, No. 2910, \$1,200. A. Young, Bentley.
Jewett, No. 2276, \$300. C. H. Piper, Veteran.
Dejay, No. 2765, \$1,800. J. W. Jones, Wastina.
Avonroy, No. 2738, \$1,100. T. S. Scott, Camrose.
Cappon, No. 2811, \$2,000. C. A. Sloan, Cappon.
Sedalia, No. 2858, \$1,800. E. Goodwyn, Sedalia.
Rush Point, No. 2710, \$5,000. L. Bierinckx, Castor.
Holyrood, No. 2596, \$1,200. T. A. Torrance, Islay.
Coyote Flat, No. 2901, \$1,500. C. H. Starling, Leo.
Burns, No. 2569, \$1,500. A. Ellacott, West Wingham.
Viola, No. 2874, \$1,600. A. L. Robertson, Sunnyside.
Froebel, No. 2821, \$1,300. M. J. Dieringer, Wild Horse.
Avonlea, No. 2868, \$1,600. C. M. Butterfield, Wheat Belt.
Edmonton, No. 7, \$1,250,000. W. D. Bradey, Edmonton.
Avondale, No. 1775, \$1,700. F. W. Grainger, Grainger.
Pontmain R.C., No. 20, \$3,000. T. S. Blanchfield, Trochu.
Ferndale, No. 2804, \$2,000. W. C. Bergquist, Strang.
Muir.
Maypole, No. 2889, \$1,500. T. N. Battrick, Macklin.
Sask.

Saskatchewan

Scofield, No. 2895, \$1,800. F. Halvorson, Kuroki.
Lovedale, No. 838, \$2,000. T. McDonald, Brock.
Abermule, No. 1319, \$1,700. J. D. Tennant, Leigh.
Saskatoon, No. 13, \$175,000. W. P. Bate, Saskatoon.
Lambton, No. 767, \$1,500. H. J. Daubney, Bengough.
Broadview, No. 5, \$12,000. H. W. McDonald, Broadview.
Alexander Plain, No. 1029, \$1,500. F. Assmus, Schmidt.
Snipe Lake, No. 1096, \$1,500. T. C. Warren, Noremac.
Teo Lake, No. 1358, \$2,200. J. T. Vallance, Glenloney.
Silver Creek, No. 519, \$1,200. A. F. Brigham, Kamsack.
Battleford, No. 71, \$1,500. F. W. D. Thompson, Battleford.
Hazel Bank, No. 1054, \$1,600. H. W. Walker, Hazel Bank.
Yellow Grass, No. 539, \$25,000. M. A. Wilkinson, Yellow Grass.
Swift Current, No. 167, \$20,000. J. T. Dodds, Swift Current.
Red Wing, No. 2857, \$1,000. W. A. Riggs, Box 565, Prince Albert.

The Boston Insurance Company has been licensed to transact the business of fire insurance in British Columbia. Mr. George R. Thomson, Vancouver, is the company's attorney.

A by-law to grant a bonus of \$10,000 to the Canadian Boving Manufacturing Company on certain conditions was carried at Lindsay, Ont. The Boving Company is already a going concern, it having assumed the property and plant of the Madison Williams Company, manufacturers of hydraulic and other heavy machinery, and this bonus is for the purpose of helping the new firm to extend the works.