

Businesses Worth While: Independent Impressions

V. A FIRST VISIT TO THE EMPRESS MANUFACTURING PLANT.

Notwithstanding the dictum or allegation about how the route to a certain region is "paved with good intentions," it must, in the final analysis, be well for most human beings that they have it in their minds or hearts to do many things,—even if, because of the fleeting days and years, they manage to overtake only a portion of them. Indeed, there is scriptural authority for that, for some one of old wrote concerning a great purpose unrealized by its originator, "it was well that it was in thine heart."

Among the numerous outstanding business firms with which this Magazine's twelve years of service has brought its management into some measure of connection and contact, there is none of which we have had a happier impression generally than that of the firm, the picture of whose Vancouver City buildings we have pleasure in here introducing to our readers. It is well when keenness about their own business does not prevent men occasionally exchanging ideas on other subjects.

rather to note a few details calculated to be of interest to all citizens actively concerned in the development of life and work in this part of the Empire.

Naturally, therefore, one of the first things we asked in a few minutes conversation held with one of the partners of the firm was how the name "Empress" came to be used. It seems that the company was incorporated in 1897, somewhere about the time that the Empress liners began to come into the port of Vancouver; hence the name. The firm originally started as tea and coffee merchants, and later went into the canning business, and development has been steady in all departments.

In examining the plant one may start at the shipping department—and see cars being loaded on the railway track—or on the basement or ground-floor of the two buildings that are now in use, and climb upward. Or one may take an elevator to the top and then descend leisurely by the stairways to the street level. The one difficulty is that,



Neither in a journalistic nor personal way do we believe in flattery; but it is quite consistent with that attitude of mind to hold that most of us have need to be more alert to say or write—as far as we honestly can—the duly complimentary thing. Courtesy of that kind needs to be cultivated and practised, not for a day or a week, but for all time.

If time and space permitted us to record only one impression, gleaned in an unaccompanied walk the other day through the Empress plant, we should say to all users of "Empress" stamped goods that the idea left with us was a reminder of the old proverb "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," and that that was suggested, not only by the scrupulous attention given to the handling of the goods but to all the utensils and equipment in use.

As observing readers understand by this time, our aim in this series of impressions is not to publish any consecutive records—much less any so-called "write-ups"—but

if a person is of an enquiring turn of mind, and of a nature to be interested in the details of the work of his fellows, he will probably pause so long at one section that he will find a meal hour or a closing time has arrived before his tour of the premises is half completed.

Incidentally one learns that the American Can Company is responsible for the attractive and substantial lithographed cans used by the Empress firm. Every one who uses his eyes in a grocery store is of course familiar with the Jam cans with the "Empress" ship pictured upon them, and those, we gathered, contain the finer quality of goods. The second grade, not less wholesome and serviceable, but suited for the more moderately-placed consumer, is classed as the "Climax" brand, and on these, if we remember aright, the labels are not lithographed, but affixed. The writer in deed believes he made acquaintance of these blue-coloured cans in a few bachelor homes on the prairies years ago. But such goods must come as "a boon and a blessing" to