

THE HOLIDAYS

Christmas passed off very quietly as it always does in Victoria and very pleasantly. The day in this city is essentially one for family reunions. There is usually some sport, and the football game attracted a large attendance, but that only broke into the domestic festivities for a little while. On the whole weather conditions were favorable. Christmas itself was a delightful day, though the weather was a little threatening at times. There was some bright sunshine, however, and at no time was it unpleasantly cold.

All reports are of the effect that business preceding the holidays was very satisfactory. The crowds in the streets, especially on Saturday night, were very great, and also very good-natured, which is another Victoria feature. One of the very excellent things about the people of this city is the way in which they conduct themselves when in crowds. There is an absolute absence of rowdiness. The police had very little to occupy their attention; the street car service was as good as could be expected in view of the difficulty experienced by the company in keeping up with the growing demands upon it, due to the increase of population. Many people are apt to forget that this town is growing very rapidly; it is outgrowing all its public utilities, and while every possible effort is being made to keep up with the demand, there must at times be some little shortage or congestion. The tramway people make every effort to meet the public demand, and we do not think the people of Victoria are in a position to find fault with the accommodation provided.

A notable feature of the crowds on the streets and in the street cars was the number of people who are strangers to those who have lived here for ten years or more. Every one of the latter remarked it. Indeed it seemed almost like a new city in this respect. The newer residents have all fallen into the good old Victoria way of taking things without undue excitement and being merry and good natured under all conditions. No matter how big this city becomes, we ought to endeavor to preserve this very admirable quality, which visitors so much admire in our people.

THE SHEEP INDUSTRY.

Some time ago the Dominion Government appointed a commission to investigate the sheep industry. The Commissioners went to the United Kingdom and adjacent conditions there and upon the Continent of Europe. They have returned and are now visiting various parts of Ontario. A letter from the live stock commissioner indicates that the commission will visit British Columbia. Here they will find a field in which inquiries can be pursued with advantage. We suppose that many parts of this province are well adapted to sheep-raising and that some of them can be more profitably used for that purpose than for any other. The commissioner speaks of the market in the United Kingdom and on the Continent for frozen mutton, but it will be a long time before the flockmasters of this province have to look outside of their boundaries for customers for their meat products. They are more interested in the market for wool, which the commissioner thinks will, for many years to come, be in the United Kingdom. Probably at present there is not sufficient wool produced in the province to make the question of a market at a distance worthy of consideration. Australia, the Argentine and New Zealand send their wool to the English market, and presumably British Columbia producers could do the same thing by the way of the blue funnel line or others that make round the world trips; but as yet the output in any individual case is not large enough to warrant such shipments. It might, however, be worth inquiring to find out if it would be possible to make large shipments profitably to the English market in this way. This is a phase of the case, which the commissioner can investigate when they reach this province.

With a large and growing market for mutton and a regular demand for wool at a good price, sheep-raising might become a far more important industry in British Columbia than it now is, although it could never be expected to reach the magnitude that it has attained in Australia and the Argentine, for the nature of the country would hardly permit of such a thing. Nevertheless we are sending away a good deal of money every year for mutton, and if the commissioner can show how this can be kept at home, and make the case so close that farmers will engage in the

industry more largely than they now do, their visit to British Columbia will prove of much advantage.

RECIPROCIITY

We find the Montreal Gazette taking much the same position with regard to reciprocity with the United States as that occupied by the Colonist. It will be remembered that we have expressed ourselves as favorable to such mutual concessions by the two countries as would remove needless barriers to trade between them, but have objected to the idea of making any agreement in the nature of a treaty, holding that there are serious objections to tying the hands of the country for any fixed period, especially in view of the possibility of something being done in the way of developing inter-imperial trade. We have contended that all the beneficial effects of a treaty can be obtained and its disadvantages can be avoided by independent action by each country, which action might be the outcome of negotiations or not as each country might see fit. This is the view of the Gazette, and we note what it says:

There are two grounds of objection to reciprocity. First, during the continuance of a treaty the hands of the parties to it are tied and neither of both of them may in consequence suffer a loss greater than the good the treaty secures. Then under reciprocity there may grow up interests which would suffer if the agreement were abrogated, and because of this the weaker or smaller of the parties to it may be coerced into consenting to an extension that may not be politically or generally advantageous. Third, there are also to be considered the developed industries of the country and the welfare of the communities that depend upon them. It would, for instance, be awkward for the Government and disastrous to business if, by a reciprocity treaty, say, the cotton trade did after the tariff of 1897 went into effect, and there are other industries that could be destroyed by reciprocal tariff changes just as readily as those which might be advantageously built up by the same means. In spite of tariffs the trade between Canada and the United States has grown year by year, and in spite of tariffs it will continue to grow. The tariffs of the two countries may even be changed with advantage to encourage growth. The satisfactory way of securing the end, however, will be by independent legislation, each country doing that which it thinks best for itself.

CONDITIONS IN SPAIN

The year is drawing to a close with a very serious state of things existing in Spain. The Prime Minister seems determined to carry out his policy of reform at all hazards, and one of the hazards is that of such a rupture with the Church as may precipitate an exceedingly dangerous crisis. In no part of the world has clerical influence been as great as it has hitherto been in Spain, and it is not likely to be abandoned without a struggle. We do not for a moment imagine that the clergy will aim at the overthrow of the monarchy, for the republic element of the population would be very impatient of clerical control; the danger which threatens will arise from the general upsetting of the public mind. A press correspondent telegraphing from Madrid on the 11th inst. said:

"Any hour may bring a revolt in Spain. The slightest event may precipitate it. One governmental precaution too many will start trouble, or one thing, any indiscreet utterance of some monarchist official or the right of revolutionary leaders will be the signal for a widespread uprising. There was never a dynasty in greater danger than the King Alfonso's at this minute."

He goes on to say that the Portuguese republicans are working hand in glove with the republicans in Spain, and have been doing so for a long time. It was not intended, he says, to bring matters to a head in Portugal so soon; but there seemed to be danger in delay, and consequently Dom Manoel was deposed before a similar demonstration could be made against King Alfonso.

The correspondent adds: "The republican idea both in Spain and Portugal is steadily gaining a federal republic in which both countries are included. This is deemed necessary because the population of Spain is split according to the geographical location into a number of very distinct races. It is believed they will live together with least friction if they are given some role in public local affairs, with a single president and congress for the entire group, much after the pattern of the United States Government. The plan seems satisfactory to all the republicans throughout the entire country, and there is no doubt that the Portuguese are willing to join such a union."

It is admitted that Alfonso will make more of a dent for his crown than did his neighbor in Portugal, and it is no means certain that he would not be able to hold it. In these three nations the undoubted resolution of the King to hold his position, the antagonism which his policy has created among the clergy and the growing strength of the republican movement, are all the elements of a situation which for serious men can hardly be overrated.

THE BANKING ACT

The charters of all the banks expire on July 1st of next year, and they will be renewed by the measure now before Parliament, which contains some new features that will be looked upon as of importance. One provision relates to statements published by the banks, and provides that the parties who sign these shall be taken to have made a personal examination of their contents and to be informed from their own knowledge that they are correct, being liable both civilly and criminally if anything set out in such statements is found to be incorrect. There is also a provision for what is called a shareholders' audit. This means that the shareholders at an annual meeting may demand an audit and call for any information which they may require. At a meeting of one of the leading banks recently a shareholder asked for some information, but it was refused, and in reply to a question, Mr. Wilfrid Laurier, who introduced the Bill, said that such a refusal would not be desirable possible. At other times five per cent of the shareholders may demand an audit from the Canadian Bankers Association. There is no provision for a government inspection of banks, and an intimation has been given out that when the Bill goes into committee there will be a very active effort to include something to that effect in the measure.

There is some talk in Quebec of running provincial elections on the naval question. Why not make it the issue in municipal contests? There would be as much sense in the one as in the other.

The Railway Commission has fallen in with the express companies. Of all the public bodies that start under the microscope to handle public matters, the Railway Commission displays a minimum of fear, favor or affection for transportation people.

Is there an average man's money? asks a contemporary. A prior question to be determined is whether or not there is an average man. That gentleman is an individual of whom we hear often, but none of us has ever seen. He does not exist in point of fact.

It is announced that the ex-king of Portugal is going to attend lectures at Oxford, and will make a tour of Canada and the British Colonies in order to get an understanding of British methods of government. Contrary to what was at one time thought to be the case the ex-king is not rich. He hopes to win his crown again when he is a little better fitted to wear it, and, if not, to be of some service to his country.

The people of the United States are congratulating themselves upon the fact that there have been so far only fifty-seven lynchings in the country this year. This is not quite the lowest record in a quarter of a century, for three years ago there were only fifty-one. An encouraging feature is alleged to be the fact that all of the persons lynched this year, except five, were negroes. Civilization is marching on.

Collier's says that the kind of governor-general Canada wants is one who will think about roasting but his dinners and horses. This is not right. Canada does not want men in Ridesau Hall who will trouble themselves about the affairs of political parties, but it is all the better for such men who, like the present incumbent of the viceregency, are able to discover lines of usefulness that are wholly outside the domain of politics, though within the realm of statesmanship. A governor-general who knows how to stand about, from the things over which politicians squabble, and yet is far-sighted enough to see that above and beyond questions of a temporary nature there are questions which touch the life of the people, questions that are of a permanent nature, questions upon which we can all see alike when once they are brought to our notice, may do very much indeed for Canada and the British Empire. We have such a man in His Excellency Lord Grey, who found no difficulty in getting into touch with the Canadian people and was able to stimulate the proper development of our own country and the promotion of imperial unification.

Messrs. Leonard and Arthur McBride are spending the holidays at their parents' home in the Delta. Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Saunders, of Vancouver, are spending the holidays with old friends here.

Mr. W. J. Macdonald, M.P. for Dowd, is expected home next week from an extended tour of Great Britain and the Continent.

Miss Nellie Farnon, daughter of Mr. H. G. Farnon, M.P. for Glasgow, is spending the holidays at the parental home.

Mrs. McBride has returned to New Westminster, after spending a few days here as the guest of her distinguished son, the Premier, whose two daughters accompanied her back to the Metland for a short visit.

We Have the Articles to Make Your New Year's Dinner Table Attractive

Give us a call before you make up your mind what to put on your New Year's table. We have many good suggestions that we will only be too pleased to give you. It is an important matter to have a nice dinner set, etc., etc., and we have all that can be wished for by any person, in wonderful assortments. Nice White Table Linens, a nice Centrepiece, a nice Vase, etc., etc., all help to make the table look attractive. We want you to have a nice table to start the New Year with, and if you will leave it to our good judgment or our advice, you may rest assured you will have one of the most elegant tables at a most reasonable cost that can be found in the great West.



Beautiful Dinner Sets

For New Year's Dinner Tables

We have a splendid assortment of Dinner Sets for you to choose from, and if you want to select a nice set for your New Year's dinner, and one that will last you for many New Years. Give us a call. Here are a few of our prices, which are very reasonable.

- CARLSBAD CHINA DINNER SETS
98 pieces with handsome floral border... \$14.00
113 pieces with handsome floral border... \$18.00
112 pieces in white and gold... \$20.00
170 pieces in maroon and gold... \$30.00
111 pieces, bridal rose pattern with gilt edge... \$30.00
100 pieces, pink flowers and fern... \$16.00
SEMI-PORCELAIN DINNER SETS
97 pieces, plain white raised border... \$9.00
98 pieces with floral pattern and gilt border... \$12.50
105 pieces, brown, floral design... \$15.00
113 pieces, pink and green border, gilt edge... \$17.00
113 pieces, floral design... \$25.00
129 pieces, Ovan, blue band... \$30.00

- LIMOGES CHINA DINNER SETS
100 pieces, beautiful forget-me-not design, with gold handles, also designs in heliotrope, pink roses, and green floral, at... \$25.00
100 pieces in beautiful pink rose design, with gold edge, at... \$35.00
100 pieces in pink rose and green floral, with gold edge and gold handles... \$37.50
98 pieces beautiful violet-patterns with gold edge, also in a beautiful fern design, at... \$50.00
WEDGWOOD DINNER SET
Here is a Dinner Set that you really ought to see. It is in white and gold, and is most artistic. This set will make a splendid New Year's gift—117 pieces... \$40.00

A Few Glass Suggestions

We have a splendid variety of glass to adorn your New Year's dinner table at very reasonable prices.

- Decanters, quart size, with cut neck and stopper. Each \$1.50... \$1.25
Decanters, quart size, with cut neck and fern design, engraved. Per pair... \$3.75
Also in pint size at, per pair... \$3.00
Decanters in beautiful etched patterns. Quart size. Per pair... \$9.00
Pint size. Per pair... \$7.00
Plain Champagne Glasses. Doz. \$2.50
Plain Cut Claret Glasses. Per dozen, \$2.25 and... \$1.50
Plain Whiskey Jugs. Each... \$1.50
Plain Sherry Glasses, from, per dozen, \$2.00 to... \$7.50
Plain Port Glasses from, per dozen, \$2.00 to... \$1.50
Plain Whiskey Glasses. Doz. \$1.00
Water Glasses, from, per dozen... 60¢
Plain Finger Bowls, Per dozen \$3.00
Etched Champagne Glasses, at, per dozen... \$4.00
Etched Claret Glasses, Per doz \$3.50
Etched Port Glasses, Per doz. \$2.50
Etched Sherry Glasses, Per doz \$2.50
Etched Whiskey Glasses, Doz. \$1.50
Etched Water Tumblers, Doz. \$1.75
Etched Finger Bowls, Doz. \$3.50

Cutlery for the New Year

- CARVING SETS
3-piece Carving Sets, in beautifully lined cases, consisting of knife, fork and steel, from \$12 to \$45.00
5-piece Carving Sets, in \$20.00 to \$75.00
CUTLERY CASES
Oak Cabinet with 1 drawer containing 2 sets of carvers, 1 dozen dinner knives, 1 dozen dessert knives, 1 dozen dinner forks, 1 dozen dessert forks... \$60.00
Ditto... \$40.00
FISH CARVERS AND CASES
Very handsome, per set, \$7.50, \$9.00, \$6.00, \$5.00... \$4.50
Oak Cabinet with 2 drawers containing 2 sets of carvers, 1 dozen dinner knives, 1 dozen dessert knives, 1 dozen dinner forks, 1 dozen dessert forks, 1 dozen table spoons, 1 dozen dessert spoons... \$100.00
DESSERT SETS
Beautiful oak and green cases with copper trimmings, containing 1 dozen knives and forks, with pearl handles and sterling mounts, \$35.00, \$30.00, \$25.00 and... \$20.00
Cases in dark brown and green, containing half dozen dessert knives and forks with pearl handles and sterling mounts, \$15.00 and... \$12.00
FRUIT KNIFE CASES
In beautiful cases, lined with satin, 6 in a case. Beautiful pearl handles, \$7.50, \$6.50... \$6.00
FISH KNIVES AND FORKS
In beautiful cases, containing 1 dozen knives and forks, with pearl handles, sterling mounted, \$35.00, \$30.00 and... \$25.00

Dainty Table Linens

If there is a table napery need to be supplied for New Year's, this is the house to fill such wants. Certainly you will require dainty linens—the "feast" would not be half as good otherwise. So if you are not abundantly supplied, let us show you our offerings in imported linens. We import direct from the best Irish mills, and our superior qualities and unbeatable values have built for us a magnificent business in Table Linens. We guarantee the quality of every piece, and for materials of such quality these prices speak for themselves.

- Unbleached Table Linens, at, per yard, \$1.00 to... 45¢
Bleached Table Linens, at, per yard, \$1.25 to... 95¢
Table Cloth, 2 x 2 1/2, \$4.25 to... \$2.50
Table Cloth, 2 x 2 1/2, from, each... \$3.00
Table Cloths, 2 x 3 yards, from, each... \$3.75
Table Napkins, from, per dozen, \$7.50 to... \$1.00

Weiler Bros The March of Progress Finds Us Keeping Time As Usual

WILL ENGAGE IN SHARK FISHERY

Local Company Plans the Carrying Out of Extensive Operations in British Columbia Waters

Preparations on a very large scale are at present being made by the Canada Pacific Fisheries Company, the organization formed as a result of the purchase and absorption of the Pacific Whaling Company by interests identified with Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann to exploit the fisheries of British Columbia. While primary attention in the immediate future will be paid to whaling, the company proposes to embark in a shark and halibut fisheries next summer.

At present work is well advanced on the construction of a new whaling station at Naden Harbor in northern Queen Charlotte and operations will be commenced from the early in the spring. With the opening of the hunting season four whaling stations will be operated, those at Sechart, Kyugot, Rose Harbor and Naden Harbor. These will be all stations established on the Canadian coast. The Naden harbor station, the last to be built, is at present giving employment to eighty men and upon its completion will have cost upwards of \$100,000, as the most up-to-date apparatus is being installed. To further the work at the most northerly of the stations, the steamer Henshawe has been chartered by the fisheries company and she now at Naden Harbor, whither she has carried construction material and machinery.

Ten whaling steamers will be operated by the company next year; 11 Orkon, St. Lawrence, Germania, St. Bastian, William Grant, Red, White, Black, Green and Yellow. The latter five are now on their way from Christchurch to this coast, and will be commissioned by next spring.

The company is now endeavoring to obtain the construction of a new shark fishing from either Norway or Iceland. Sharks in abundance are found in the waters off Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands, numbers of the fish averaging twenty feet in length. The fishing will be pursued from sailing boats, the catch being brought in and treated at the whaling stations.

Halibut Fisheries. The company hopes to be in a position to commence work on the halibut during the coming summer. This branch of the fishing industry the steamer whaling will be used. The halibut fishery is being developed at several whaling stations and the catch will be brought in nightly. Experts in this industry are being employed already all the different information relative to markets is being collected. At the stations being planned will be installed, and the halibut will be shipped as far as the prairie provinces in refrigerated cars.

In the meantime busy preparation are being carried on at the different stations of the company, where the whaling plants are being renovated so as to be in perfect condition when the hunting season opens. A large amount of bone dust, a by-product of the whale, which is being collected and Kyugot will be carried to Sa Pedro early in the New Year by the steamer Petriana, which was recently purchased by the fisheries company. The Petriana is being fitted with air fans. An electric lighting apparatus has been installed as well as passenger accommodation for the use of the company's employees. The Petriana will leave for Leavenworth in a few days to coal, and from there she will go to the whaling stations to collect 1,000 tons of bone dust which will be carried southwards to the Californian port.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Osoyoos coal is now on sale in Nelson. Big game hunters from Ontario have this season been thick in Cariboo. A steamer has been discovered on Milk river, not far from Telkwa. Revelstoke's Y. M. C. A. now has upwards of 450 members. The C. P. R. marine line is now complete as far as Lytton. Mayor Duncan McIntosh has decided to stand for re-election in Greenwood. Vancouver's police force is to be numerically strengthened. Vancouver's horse show dates have been fixed as the 15th to 24th April. Diphtheria is reported to be epidemic at Salmon Arm. Slooan City is forming a Conservative Association which seems certain of long life and usefulness. More than 100 men are now employed at the Britannia mine Howe Sound. Antonia Kosavitch was instantly killed near Homer last week, by being struck by a falling tree. Ratepayers of East Burnaby are moving in the direction of securing a public park. The Fraternal Order of Eagles will erect a fine entertainment hall at Cumberland. Chillsack, since the result of the Scott act vote has doubled the price of town liquor licenses. A small fleet of river boats for the upper Fraser will be put on the water next season by a coast syndicate. A Japanese giving the name of Yoshida, was seriously injured by a C. P. R. train at Vancouver Sunday and may die. The Sisters of the Sacred Heart have completed arrangements for the erection of a modern new hospital at Revelstoke. Hog cholera is epidemic at Summit Lake and 175 hogs of the drove owned