

Our Pacific Province.

VICTORIA INDUSTRIES—CONTINUED.

Last week some of the leading industries of Victoria, including iron works, boots and shoes, furniture and soap manufactures, were briefly dealt with. This week the same line will be followed, commencing with

LUMBER, AND SASH AND DOOR

manufacture. There are several establishments engaged in manufacturing sash and doors, etc., but only one saw mill is conducted on any considerable scale. The Rock Bay saw mill, the name by which it was known, is owned and operated by W. P. Sayward, and was established in 1858. The present mill was built in 1878, Mr. Sayward having a mill previous to that time some twenty miles from Victoria. The mill has a capacity of 6,000,000 feet annually, and is run principally for the city trade. The logs are brought from along the coast for a distance of 150 miles.

The Chemainus saw mill; Croft & Angus, proprietors, have a branch lumber yard at Victoria. The latter is the largest mill on Vancouver island, and though not a Victoria industry, may be referred to here. This mill is located at Horse Shoe Bay, on the Island railway, sixty miles from Victoria, and has been established about fifty years. It came into the hands of the present proprietors about four years ago, when it was enlarged and new machinery put in. The capacity is now about 30,000,000 feet yearly. There are also shingle and lath mills in connection, with a capacity the former of 40,000 and the latter of 20,000 daily. Manufacturing is done both for export and Provincial trade. The timber for the Island railway was cut largely by this mill. H. A. Harrison is the general agent for the mill. The other new mills on Vancouver Island are: One at Nanaimo, the northern terminus of the Island railway; Haslem & Lees, proprietors; capacity about 5,000,000 feet annually. One at Comox, 180 miles north of Victoria, on the east coast; this is a small local mill; Urquhart Bros. are proprietors. There is a mill at Cowichan, which has been idle for two years. It is owned by Wm. Sutton, of Walkerville, Ontario, and has a capacity of 15,000,000 or 20,000,000 feet annually. The first mill erected on Vancouver Island was built by the Hudson's Bay Co.

So much for the lumbering interest of the Island generally. We will now return to Victoria and consider the sash and door industry. Samuel Gray is the proprietor of one of the establishments in this line, and manufactures sash, doors, mantels, mouldings, hand-rails, newel posts, and a great variety of articles in wood. A general wholesale trade is done in the lines mentioned. Office fittings and planing are also done. Mr. Gray is the patentee and manufacturer of the improved, self-supporting geometrical stairs, a unique contrivance for saving room. This is a stair, elevator, light shaft and ventilator all combined. Quite a business has been done in supplying this stair to parties in the States. Mr. Gray is now turning his attention to the Territories and Manitoba, and he hopes to introduce his goods in this direction, especially in sash, doors, etc., manufactured

from the celebrated woods of Vancouver Island.

The Queen City Planing Mills are owned by Johnson, Walker & Flett. Everything is done in wood manufactures, including sash, doors, blinds, frames, brackets, etc. A small saw mill is also run in connection, used only for cutting lumber for the sash and door factory. The business has been established four years. The premises are on quite an extensive scale, the main building being 50x100 feet, two storeys, exclusive of saw mill, engine and boiler house, dry kilns, etc.

Muirhead & Mann, manufacturers of sash, doors, mouldings, etc., have been established since 1870, and do a large wholesale business in all sorts of wood manufactures usually turned out from an establishment of the kind.

C. C. Hayward is the owner of a sash and door factory, with a saw mill in connection. The size of the factory is 75x30 feet and the mill 45x30 feet, and a warehouse 40x30 feet, all two storeys high. He also carries on an undertaking business, and both manufactures and imports goods in the latter line.

Smith & Clarke, contractors and ship joiners, also have a planing mill and sash and door factory, manufacturing principally for use on their own contracts.

Among the industries of Victoria is a pianoforte manufactory, carried on by Goodwin & Jordan, established three years. Pianos are manufactured throughout at the establishment. The establishment of organ manufacturing is also contemplated.

CLOTHING MANUFACTURE.

T. B. Pearson & Co. are manufacturers of demin and duck clothing, overalls, etc., cottonade goods, tweed pants, shirts of all kinds, underclothing and men's general furnishing goods. About twenty-five men are usually employed. New and more commodious apartments have just been secured on Yates street, and it is expected that the staff employed will be increased to forty men. This is one of the industries which promises to increase in importance. The material used is imported direct from the factories.

THE VICTORIA RICE MILLS

Have been established in the city about two years, and is a branch of the Mount Royal Milling and Manufacturing Co., of Montreal. The establishment of this industry in Victoria is due to the fact that the coast has a Chinese population, the Celestials being the principal customers of the establishment. The rice is imported in the "puddy" state, that is in the natural state, when it is enclosed in a husk, something similar to oats or barley. The first process which it is put through is that of removing the husk, or chaff. When this is done there remains another coating, similar to the bran of wheat, which is taken off by another process, when it becomes the rice of commerce. A portion is ground for rice flour. Rice which becomes broken during the process of removing the husk and inner coating, is shipped to San Francisco where it is used in the manufacture of lager beer. To show the peculiarity of the Chinese population, it may be stated that the mats in which the prepared rice is put up for sale, are imported from Hong Kong, China, the Chinese having scruples about buying unless

put up in this way. Even the cord with which the mats are tied is imported from China. The Siwashas, as the Indians of British Columbia are called, are also large consumers of rice.

CIGAR MANUFACTURING

Is carried on to a considerable extent at Victoria, there being five factories in this line all employing white labor. Cigars are also manufactured to some extent by the Chinese. About forty to fifty men are employed in the five factories mentioned. Formerly this was quite a flourishing industry, but latterly eastern competition has been very severely felt, the country now being flooded with eastern goods. The home-manufactured cigars are all high class goods, it being found impossible to turn out medium and common cigars in competition with the product of cheap eastern labor. The goods range in price from \$40 to \$100 per thousand. The people of Victoria have been educated to appreciate a choice cigar, and the demand is very largely for the very best qualities. The leaf is imported from San Francisco, New York and Montreal principally.

Insurance Briefs.

The average term of exemption from destruction by fire of the theatres in Europe is twenty-two and a half years; in the United States it is ten years.

The life insurance agents of New York City are making an effort to weed out the dead-beats from the list of solicitors. One of the heaviest loads that both life and fire insurance has to carry is the dead-beats who manage to get fastened on as solicitors. The man who can discover a way to rid the business of them can fairly claim to be a public benefactor. Intelligent and honorable solicitors, both in life and fire, are a benefit to the business, and the more of them the better, but the fellows who have proven themselves unfitted for any business in which they have engaged in the past and who have no motive or pride in the business beyond the occasional commission they get as a charity, degrade the business and lessen public respect for those legitimately engaged in it.

The Making of Gold Lace.

One of the most singular mechanical operations imaginable is the making of gold wire for what is known as gold lace. The refiner first prepares a solid rod of silver about an inch in thickness: he beats this rod, applies upon the surface a sheet of gold leaf, burnishes this down, and so on, until the gold is one hundredth part to thickness of the silver. The rod is then subjected to a train of processes which brings it down to the state of fine wire, when it is passed through holes in a steel plate lessening step by step in diameter. The gold never deserts the silver, but adheres closely to it and shares all its mutations; it is one-hundredth part the thickness of the silver at the beginning, and it maintains the same ratio to the end. As to the thinness to which the gold-coated rod of silver can be brought, the limit depends on the delicacy of human skill. It has been calculated however, that the gold actually placed on the very finest silver wire for gold lace is not more than one-third of one-millionth of an inch in thickness, that is, not above one-tenth the thickness of ordinary gold leaf.