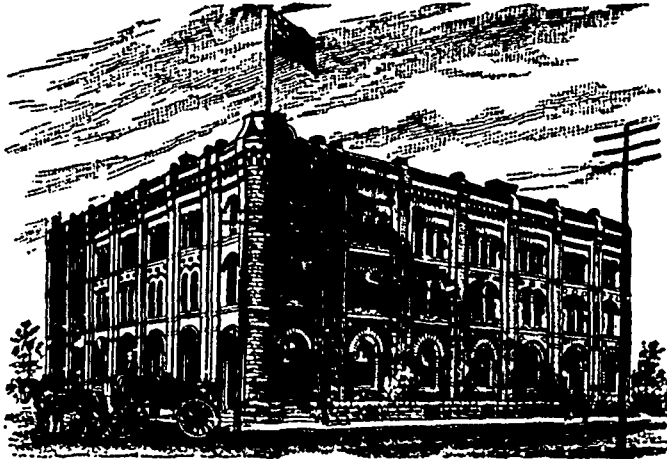


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Victoria Board of Trade.

At the quarterly meeting of the B. C. board of trade of Victoria, the following was presented as a synopsis of the matters dealt with in an interview between the council of the board and the minister of public works, during his recent visit to Victoria.

Memo.—Victoria harbor—more liberal expenditure in consideration of the constantly increasing trade and shipping. Dredging on a more improved and modern scale and plan, both with a view to utility and economy, and in view of the obsolete character of the dredge now in use. Dredging approach to new wharves in outer harbor. General enlargement of Victoria harbor system by constructing a sea wall extending from Brochie Ledge to Ho Land point. [Note:—Suggestion already made to department that Government Engineers should report approximately on this scheme, which, if carried out, would furnish the finest harbor on the Pacific coast.]

Lights, Beacons, and Buoys.—Continued neglect of the department to oft repeated reports, re this much needed work, particularly on the coast of Vancouver Island, north of Nanaimo.

Telegraphs.—No alternative line connecting with United States systems; sanction of Government asked thereto. Present system unsatisfactory and monopolized by railway company.

Graving dock, Esquimalt.—Lengthening of present dock to meet the growing requirements of shipping.

Powder Magazine, Beacon Hill Park.—Suggest that Minister of Militia order removal at once of this dangerous obstruction.

General.—Referring to general contributions of revenue made by Victoria to the Dominion exchequer.

A communication was received from J. Wilson, superintendent of C. P. R. telegraph company, requesting that he be furnished with a detailed statement of the board's complaint against the telegraph service.

Mr. Ward remarked that the frequent interruptions to connections and the bad delivery service were two points. The communication was referred to the council.

A communication was ordered to be addressed to the minister of customs, requesting that instructions be given to have the board furnished with monthly statements containing statistical information, as forwarded to the government.

A communication was presented from Elmer Minnick, of the Northern Pacific railway, asking for all information in possession of the board regarding the attractions and advantages of Vancouver Island.

Nineteen new members were nominated as follows: Henry Croft, M. P. P., Beaumont Beggs, T. W. Carter, Fred. J. Claxton, C. E. Mallette, E. E. Blackwood, J. A. Johnston, J. E. Crane, Joshua Holland, Dr. G. L. Milne, M. P. P., Chris. Spencer, John Braden, Wm. Jensen, W. H. Bone, Wm. Templeman, Morris Moss, R. Erskine, F. Elworthy, and Gus Leiser.

A lengthy discussion took place on the question of advertising the city. The president urged the careful consideration of the matter before any action was taken, and a resolution, introduced by Heistman and Routledge was finally passed favoring the preparation of a souvenir volume of Victoria, and leaving the matter for consideration in the hands of the council.

Activity in Dried Fruit.

The *Montreal Gazette* of October 10 says: "An active business in dried foreign fruit to arrive has been one of the features of the week, the bulk of the *Dracona's* cargo having been already turned over, and beyond one lot which the importer is holding there is very little in first hands. It seems, therefore, as if those jobbers who have been holding off for more favorable terms would be disappointed. The *Dracona*, which is now at Quebec, brings out about 68,495 half boxes and 600 quarter boxes of *Valencias*, which, as we have said, have been pretty well cleaned out of first hands; except the lots that were imported by jobbers direct. The *Escalona*, which was delayed at Cadiz and which sailed on the 3rd, has only 30,000 boxes, while the *Florence*, the last direct steamer, now loading at Denia, is only expected to bring moderate supplies. Therefore the total direct importations of *Valencia* fruit into Canada will fall far short of the average. On the other hand our

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consumption is increasing yearly and is now estimated at 300,000 packages. It would seem therefore as if the stock would run light this fall. The *Escalona* will not arrive until the end of November, and the *Florence* some time in November, so that there is a possibility of fruit being wanted before they arrive. The basis on which business to arrive has been done is 6 to 6½ as a rule, although some who got frightened offered for less and are sorry now that they did so. One dealer has cleared out the balance of his lot of ordinary to arrive at 19½ 6d and his layers at 2½ 6d ex *Dracona*. There are a few thousand boxes of currants also on board of her which have been selling at about 5½ to 6c. Otherwise there is no change.

Canned Salmon.

The London, England, *Grocer* says of salmon: "The position of the market for salmon at the moment is certainly stronger, and bids of 1s to 1s 6d per case over the reduced quotations lately ruling have been refused for several large lines, so that purchasers for immediate consumption cannot now execute their orders on the same basis as before." Commenting on this paragraph from the *Grocer*, the *New York Commercial Bulletin* says: "Add to this the fact that English buyers have purchased considerable new Columbia river and British Columbia fish, and also some Alaskan for forward delivery, and reason may be found for venturing the statement that the surplus stock of 1899 pack in the market will not go as far as some authorities on both sides of the Atlantic predicted not long ago. Within three days time there have been orders here by cable for some specially favored Columbia river brands for immediate shipment to Liverpool direct via rail and steamer at the highest prices of the season, and fairly liberal quantities of British Columbia stock have also been taken at full prices for shipment via Montreal. As far as export movement is concerned, the market would thus appear to be in very fair shape, and the home trade movement is certainly not discouraging, although showing no particular animation at the moment."

A parcel post arrangement between Canada and Japan has been completed.