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THE SEPTEMBER REVIEW.

The immense exports of wheat to Europe tell the story of increasing business throughout Canada, and, concurrently, of the increasing power of the whole country to buy. The same can be said of the United States. In July and August, the exports of flour and wheat from that country equalled 30,688,020 bushels, against 16,810,785 bushels during the same months last year, an increase of over 130 per cent. The shipments for this month, it is expected, will amount to nearly 5,000,000 per week. Even Australia shipped 3,200,000 bushels of wheat to England, last week, and India is shipping an extraordinary surplus to the continent. These big exports explain the comparative ease of the European market and the check on the heavy advance in America.

Coming nearer home, it is pleasing to note that money is comparatively easy and in good demand. The banks respond readily to all reasonable calls, and commercial paper is abundant. The volume of trade, for the month, in most lines, has been up to general expectation, while rates remain quite firm, and, as there is no danger of inflation caused by speculation, it is believed a slight relaxation may occur.

The movement of merchandise to the interior, where country merchants are stocking up and enjoying an ordinarily fair trade is an indication of the belief in a good season's business.

The lumber trade has improved, and the same may be said of trade in groceries, boots and shoes, leather, dry goods, woollens and hardware. Everything considered, British Columbia has good reasons to feel satisfied for the present and sanguine of the future.

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITIONS.

The great fair at New Westminster has concluded, and the one at Victoria is now in progress. With regard to the New Westminster exhibition, we may say that too much credit cannot be given to all concerned for the manner in which the affair was carried out. Never before in the history of the Province has she had such an advertisement of the wealth and variety of her resources, and the beneficial results which may arise therefrom cannot be fully appreciated nor estimated at present. Even the forces which control the weather seemed to be interested in the success of the exhibition, and hundreds of

visitors were amazed that such a climate prevailed in any country in high latitudes.

If there was one display that attracted more particular attention than another it was the exhibit of native fruit. In this connection it should be remarked that there are only a few districts in the Dominion in which fruit-growing can be regarded in the light of a profitable industry. Nova Scotia has exported small amounts of fruit in the past, but not sufficient to be spoken of as a matter of commercial importance. Fruit-growing must eventually become a source of great revenue to this Province, and the people of New Westminster have certainly contributed their share towards the encouragement of this industry. The people of the East must have fruit, and easy means of transportation provided by our great national transcontinental line will make fruit-growing in this Province decidedly profitable in future.

Another interesting feature of the New Westminster exhibition was the unique display of native woods by local sawmill companies. Our people have always contended that the wood to be found in this Province was better adapted than that growing in any other part of the Dominion for manufacturing and finishing purposes, and this fact was emphasized at the fair. Best of all, we have an almost inexhaustible supply of these woods, and the time is not far distant when they will be in great demand in the east. The exhibits of agricultural products and live stock are also spoken of in the highest terms.

Taking it altogether, as we said before, the New Westminster exhibition has been a pronounced success. The exhibits, both as to quantity and variety, were a credit to British Columbia. The management are so pleased with the outcome that they are determined to excel in future, if possible, the success achieved this year.

The result of the Victoria exhibition is no longer in doubt; in fact it is quite evident that its measure of success will be far beyond any previous calculation. There is only one condition to reckon with, and that is the weather. Already the city is crowded with visitors, who have come to see the first genuine attempt of the island people to produce something worthy the name of an industrial exhibition. Few who have not watched closely the preparations can form a correct idea of the enormous labor involved in getting ready for an exhibition of this kind. Everything had to be built from the foundation up; and the result proves that the work fell into good hands. The management worked together for the good of the exhibition from the president down to the lowest official ably supported by a most efficient and hard-working secretary. And the men, as has been said of another affair of this kind, who have been so liberal of their time and energies have a double satisfaction; that of knowing that they have brought within reach by many degrees the most complete exhibition of the agricultural and industrial resources of the province ever attempted, and of knowing that their splendid services are already, and will be even more generously yet, appreciated by the public. The exhibition building is a really good one. It is most commodious

and well appointed, and may be described as being an imposing structure. It commands a magnificent site and could not be better located, all things considered, for the reception and shipment of specimens. It is within easy access of the wharf at Cadboro Bay, and the tramway facilities which have been afforded make it easy to be reached by visitors from the city. There are signs of a keen but nevertheless generous rivalry between the cities of Westminster and Victoria for pre-eminence as an exhibition town, and, even were not comparisons odious, some difficulty would undoubtedly be experienced in coming to a decision as to which was really the best. Not a few of the exhibits that were made at New Westminster are in course of display in this city, and doubtless, when the awards are made, some of the decisions will be reversed, and that without in any way reflecting upon the judgment of the gentlemen who are responsible for them. Oregon, Washington, the Mainland and the neighboring islands all been laid under tribute for Victoria's display which is emphatically a splendid one. The more such exhibitions there are the better. Competition is said to be the life of trade, and competition in the direction of material advancement greatly aids in the attainment of substantial and satisfactory progress.

The Irish newspapers are beginning to glow with enthusiasm over the promised benefits to the port of Queenstown from the development of the trade of Japan and the East, via the Canadian route. "Trade," says the *Irish Times*, "will soon take advantage of the fresh and marvelous opportunity."

"We take the information and figures," said Mr. Dickey, "we have now before us, and blame Sir Hector for not being so well acquainted with the facts as we are now." This is a generous view of it to take, says the *Manitoba Free Press*, and if it could be entirely dissociated from the least suspicion of partisan feeling it would be in the highest degree creditable to the member for Cumberland. But was it not Sir Hector's duty to be as well acquainted with all the circumstances relating to the administration of his department as the public are now? And if he were, how can he be excused or defended in the light of all that has taken place? It is well to be generous; but sometimes it is necessary first to be just.

The Australians, according to a contemporary, are the greatest tea drinkers in the civilized world. Next comes Britain, where the per capita consumption of tea is $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. to less than one pound of coffee. Coffee drinkers have the lead on the continent of Europe, Russia alone excepted. The United States follows the lead of France in the national taste for coffee as well as fashions, but in Canada the consumption is two lbs of tea per head to less than one lb. of coffee. Thus it will be seen that the cup which Cowper sang so sweetly holds its place pre-eminently in the affections of Britons the world over. Tea-drinking is a habit and, perhaps, the taste of it, as some modern medical theorists might make out, is a hereditary legacy.