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### Epoch Making.

Monday, January the 20th, was a red letter day in Victoria and the occasion had a significance extending far beyond the Capital City. On that day forty journalists assembled at the opening of the new Empress Hotel. They included representatives of all the leading coast papers both North and South of the line. Some of them had never visited Victoria before, but all had learned from various sources of its attractions and the bright promise of a future which has recently dawned upon it. When the inaugural ceremonies were over forty journalists went forth to spread throughout Western America the story of this last enterprise of the C.P.R. Viewed simply from the standpoint of a hotel it challenges comparison for completeness, luxury and artistic appointments with any on the Continent, but this is the least important aspect of an important occasion. The Empress Hotel, Victoria, is the seventeenth in a chain of hostelryes which have made the C.P.R. famous all over the world, and its true significance lies in the fact that it is the furthest West. Victoria has been sadly deficient in high class hotel accommoda-

tion, especially has this been the case during the tourist season. Wealthy travellers to whom a luxurious hotel is a "sine qua non" have held aloof from Victoria because of its deficiency in this respect. Hereafter they will find accommodation unsurpassed in the West, and there is little doubt that the Empress will become a great centre of attraction. Within three days of its opening nearly all the rooms were taken, and a glance at the register shows that there has been a constant stream of visitors ever since. Already there is talk of building an additional wing, for which provision was made in the original plan. Apart from the value of the hotel for tourist purposes the mere fact that the C.P.R. thought fit to spend upwards of one million dollars in building an hotel on Vancouver Island is the strongest possible guarantee that they have faith in its future. In fact all who are in a position to judge realize that the opening of the Empress Hotel sets the seal of certainty upon the completion of a programme which embraces railway building, land clearing, mining, and cultivation which will within a few years make Vancouver Island a centre of interest to the commercial world.