

VICTORIA SYNDICATE TO REBUILD 'FRISCO

An Important Merger of Interests Controlling Deposits of Marble, Sandstone, Lime, Clay and Other Building Materials.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

The formation of an exceptionally strong syndicate was completed this morning. It will have for its purpose the exploitation of the resources of Vancouver and adjacent islands in marble, sandstone and other building materials. The directorate is probably the strongest that has been assembled on one board in the province consisting of the following: James Mitchell, head of the Northern Elevator Company, who is president; Andrew Wright, the wealthy Manitoba capitalist now resident in Victoria; Wm. Fernie, of the Crow's Nest Coal Company; S. G. Marling, a retired lumberman of Vancouver; J. H. Armstrong, New Westminster's most wealthy citizen; G. H. Webster, president of the B. C. General Contracting Company and James Wilson, superintendent of C. P. R. telegraphs. R. W. Clarke, of this city, is secretary temporarily.

The properties at present controlled by the syndicate comprise the newly discovered deposits of marble on Saturna Island, and the Adkins limestone and valuable clay deposits at Esquimalt. An option has also been obtained on the Haddington Island quarries, which will probably be taken up before expiration of the present lease. The principal objects of the syndicate in entering the field at the present time is to enter the market for supplying stone to rebuild San Francisco.

British Columbia quarries have been favorably known for a long time in California, many important buildings in the city by the Golden Gate having been built of stone from this province. One quarry at least, that on Newcombe Island, near Nanaimo, has already been drawn upon by San Francisco contractors. The United States mint, the only Federal building to survive the earthquake and fire, was constructed from this stone at Vancouver. Of its wonderful heat resisting qualities no better certificate need be given; but reference must be made to the fact that San Francisco papers gave the peculiar qualities of the stone as the chief credit for the building mentioned escaping the general conflagration. This quarry is now owned by the Northwestern Construction Company, of California. The well known monolithic granite station at their massiveness, that graced the entrance to the Call building, also came from this province.

While the recently discovered marble deposits on Saturna Island have not yet been extensively developed, the small quantity taken out is conclusive evidence of the quality of the marble. It is grayish-blue, beautifully veined, and already the syndicate has been offered \$7 per foot for it by Vancouver contractors. It has proved, on being polished, splendidly adapted for monumental and ornamental purposes. A couple of specimens sent yesterday displayed these characteristics, but they consisted of a small pillar and a block shaped for the reception of a clock. There are two varieties of marble so far discovered at Nootka. The principal feature of both is the extremely distinct definition of the veining. This is particularly noticeable in one kind which, with what might be termed a white background, the veining forms irregular diamonds almost the color of lapis lazuli. The other is apparently more closely grained, almost grey in color interspersed with wavy veinings of white.

On Saturna Island there are two distinct varieties of sandstone, but the blue-grey. The former occupies the upper strata, and is of fine grain, free from "shakes" or any considerable quantity of iron. When being worked the shales straight through much reducing the cost of quarrying and working. It may be mentioned that the Carnegie library here was constructed with Saturna Island stone. The quarry is remarkably well situated for shipment. In fine weather the product can be loaded directly onto scows as the cliffs slope abruptly from the sea. The sandstone is interbedded with conglomerate, the strata dipping northerly into the island at an angle of about thirty degrees, with a slight tilt to the east.

Before acquiring the Atkins lime property at Esquimalt the syndicate had careful tests made of the quality of the deposits. It is claimed to be one of the purest kinds and the analysis made goes much towards confirming the statement. Three separate opinions have been obtained, one from an expert in Toronto, the second from the United States, and the third from the government laboratory here. On the average the lime runs 99 1-3 per cent. pure calcium. Included in the property is also about four acres of almost pure silica sand. With these two necessary ingredients adjoining the syndicate intends to engage in the manufacture of sand-lime brick.

It is regarding the last mentioned portion of its undertaking, the new syndicate is of especial interest to Victoria. There are many places from which building stone can be obtained, but the Esquimalt deposit is the only one known where the requisite ingredients, lime and silica sand, for this class of material have been located side by side by nature. Sand-lime bricks for the erection of large buildings, stand all kinds of heat, cold and climatic changes better than granite or limestone. When placed in position with a good mortar a wall will harden quickly and become practically a solid mass of best quality sandstone. Architectural uniformity or contrast of color is easily secured without searching the world for materials. These bricks may be made of any tint or moulded in any form.

The process of manufacture of the brick mentioned is much less costly than those made of clay and the finished product can be burned out within twenty-four hours after the raw materials are placed in the machines. It is an interesting process. The sand is measured and screened and then the proper proportion of previously prepared hydrated lime is added to the sand. Then the lime and sand together are passed through the mixing machines adapted to the nature of the material, until they are thoroughly blended and are in the proper condition of moisture, which is another very important part of the manufacturing process. This material is then fed into the heavy press which forms the bricks under extreme hydraulic pressure and delivers them in front of the machine. From there they are picked off by hand and placed on steel cars, which are the only handling they receive during the entire process. These cars hold about 1,000 bricks each and are at once sent to the hardening cylinder. This is a massive drum six feet or more in diameter, containing the square inch of steam run, and is made large enough to hold a day's run of brick on the cars. When filled the cylinder is closed and sealed, and a steam pressure of about 125 pounds to the square inch is turned on and held for eight or ten hours.

Under the heat, moisture and steam pressure a chemical combination takes place between the silica contained in the sand and the lime, forming calcium silicate, and hardening the brick into stone; in fact forming an artificial sandstone, which is harder than the natural stone and is not subject to disintegration or decay from the action of the atmosphere, but continues to grow harder with age. The cylinder is opened at the end of the process and the cars, loaded with finished brick, are pulled out with a special car puller which takes them all at once and also handles the heavy steel head of the cylinder. The bricks are now ready to go into the wall, or put in storage as desired. Bricks made in one day are ready for use on the next. This process is extremely cheap as only from eight to ten men are required to operate a dozen plant. Reliable information states that bricks can be made ready to put into the wall for under \$4.00 per thousand.

An interesting note, just been included of sand-lime brick by a prominent firm in Toronto. The bricks were soaked in water for about two days, and then placed in a refrigerator carrying a temperature of about ten degrees above zero. They were left for about a week, taken out, and placed for three days on top of a large boiler. After again being soaked in water for two days and placed in the refrigerator a second time. Two days of further exposure to this low temperature followed and the bricks were examined. A careful test failed to show any appreciable change either in appearance or texture. This is given to show how well sand-lime brick can stand both heat and cold. The manufacture of clay brick can also be engaged in if necessary.

Should the syndicate acquire the Haddington Island properties the deposit of stone from which the parliament buildings was constructed will pass into its possession. This stone is being used for the new Empress hotel. It is a light grey sandstone, almost white in color and contains very little iron. It is of fine grain and compact texture, ad being highly silicious, weathers extremely well. Although it requires a little more dressing than sandstone its fine appearance and durability have always ensured a good market.

With a city of 350,000 people calling for building materials, and a rapidly expanding local market, the syndicate starts out with every prospect of being a great financial success. There are no quarries of any importance in California near the centre of population. Of course, in the mountain counties of San Francisco. With splendid facilities for deep water shipment, British Columbia stone can be landed in the city to the south more cheaply than the actual cost of transportation of California stone. In view of these facts the prospects of the syndicate is assured. As soon as preliminary matters are disposed of a joint stock company will be formed to exploit the properties.

HAVE STRUCK OIL

Discovery Made at Base of Riding Mountain in Manitoba.

Winnipeg, Aug. 17.—A dispatch from Dauphin states that coal oil in free quantities was struck on the farm of H. P. Nicholson at the foot of Riding Mountain, south of that town, this week. A company will be organized for exploration.

Experienced oil men say this is the real thing.

Strikes increase in number every year in Germany and in 1905 they numbered 2,375, as compared with 1,870 in the previous year. There were also 120 lockouts in 1904 and 200 in 1905.

LIFE BOAT ASSOCIATION

Constitution and By-Laws Adopted at Meeting Yesterday Afternoon—Public Meeting Shortly.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

A meeting of the Life Boat Association was held in the city hall yesterday afternoon. Alderman Douglas presiding. The draft constitution and by-laws as prepared by the sub-committee in terms of the provincial act of incorporation was submitted, approved and adopted. The by-laws stipulated that "the governors of the association shall consist of persons who shall have subscribed to the funds either in one sum of \$25 or upwards, or by an annual payment of \$2.50 or upwards, any of whom shall be eligible to hold office, and who, together with all persons contributing any smaller sum, not being less than \$1, shall be entitled to vote at all general meetings."

It was resolved to hold another general meeting on Friday, 31st inst., at 8 o'clock in the evening for the purpose of electing a president, vice-presidents, treasurer and a committee of management, such appointments to be made from such as have either already subscribed the required amount, or who shall, on or before the date of meeting, do so.

A very important communication was read suggesting a plan by which a life boat propelled by suitable power might be at once obtained to be stationed in Victoria. "A life boat for Victoria" being the watchword, something in the nature of a subsidiary club, with a considerable membership already promised, with voluntary crew, will be part of the scheme. The project being favorably received a committee was named to further the objects sought to be brought about. The energy and enterprise displayed seem to indicate a fair show of success in the near future, so that the sentiment of the past may be brought into action.

NANAIMO MEMBER VISITING CITY

RALPH SMITH'S VIEWS ON LEPER QUESTION

He Advises Strong Representations to Dr. Montizambert Against Lazaretto at Albert Head.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

Mr. Ralph Smith, M. P., arrived last evening on the Inverloch from Nanaimo. On the trip he met a large number of his constituents at the different islands, and heard a number of representations with regard to the needs of that portion of his district.

The immediate cause of Mr. Smith's presence in the city is in connection with the application of a keeper for the new light on Trial Island, which is now being installed. It is necessary that the keeper be appointed at once so that he may become acquainted with the machinery which the engineers are installing, and which is expected to be in operation in a couple of weeks. An appointment will likely be announced in a few days.

Mr. Smith was asked what steps were being taken by the Dominion government with reference to the disposition of the leper island, and whether or not they would be removed to Albert Head. He said:

"I discussed the matter with the department of agriculture before leaving Ottawa. At that time the recommendations had been made by officials of the department to the minister contemplating the removal of the colony to Albert Head. I met the minister and went into the whole matter with him, and advanced the opinion very strongly that such a step would be unreasonable and unpopular, feeling that it would have a very bad effect on land values not only at that point, but throughout the district. The assumption of some people in Victoria that the public works department had been instructed to make provision for the accommodation of the lepers at Albert Head was unwarranted, as before I had wired both the ministers, Hon. S. Fisher and Hon. W. Templeman, and was assured that absolutely nothing would be done until Dr. Montizambert had visited the island and given the people of the city and district every opportunity to be heard. There need be no cause, therefore, for alarm, as nothing will be done until Dr. Montizambert comes, and the people of Victoria should then place their views strongly before him as I did to the minister. Personally, I am strongly opposed to such a step, and feel that the suggestion that the transfer be made was done with a view to consulting the convenience of some, rather than of the interests of the people at large."

Mr. Smith is visiting the dry dock and Esquimalt to-day, this being his first opportunity to do so since the new superintendent, Capt. Gould, took charge.

Mr. Smith is accompanied by Mr. W. J. McAllan, of Nanaimo.

SEEKING DRINKWATER

Young Man Who Flew High in Portland is Still Out of Reach.

Portland, Ore., Aug. 18.—J. H. Drinkwater's effects are at the Hotel Imperial, but the alleged son of the C. P. R. official has vanished from here and the police have so far sought him in vain. He has not been seen since Thursday afternoon, and he is now more sought than when he was piling up hundreds of dollars in auto and bank bills.

He paid also for rooms and stenographer with bad checks. Word came yesterday that he had cut a similar swath in Victoria.

COMMISSIONERS ON WEST COAST

INTERESTING VISIT TO QUATSINO SOUND

Fishery Inspector Taylor Destroys Trap Erected by the Indians in Marble Canyon.

Some valuable information for the use of the fisheries commission was collected on the recent trip of the D. G. S. Quadra which returned from the West Coast early in the week. It will be remembered that members of the commission made the trip for the purpose of inspecting fishery stations along the coast, complaint having been made that at some of these conditions were not wholly sanitary. That these reports were unfounded and that all stations visited were found in a state of cleanliness is a matter that has already been chronicled, but no reference has yet been made to what constituted



FISHERY COMMISSIONERS ON BOARD THE QUADRA. Capt. Hackett in centre; Inspector Taylor and Commissioner J. C. Brown on his right, Commissioner R. Hall on left.

the most interesting incidents of the whole voyage. There were aboard the steamer J. C. Brown, of New Westminster; Richard Hall, M. P. P., and Inspector Taylor. The party arrived at Quatsino on the 4th inst. They found the waters of the Sound teeming with fish—salmon, black bass, trout and other varieties. The Indians had been taking halibut in large quantities, and had been conveying it to their houses, where they cured it either for their own use or for sale. One very large piece was found to be filled with the fish in the different stages of being thus treated.

No sooner did the party arrive on the Sound than they started in search of information. Inspector Taylor learned

promptly done. One of the sailors of the Quadra having performed some perilous feats in getting at the fastenings, but he soon demolished the whole trap. The ingenious method which the Indians had employed in fastening cedar thongs to the walls of the canyon came in for a lot of comment. The trap was photographed from below before being destroyed, and will form an interesting record of what the native fasteners along this line. There is small chance of it ever being renewed, for Inspector Taylor is too energetic for the Indians to take much advantage of him in the way of interfering with the run of salmon. No Indians were seen in the vicinity by members of the party, all having discreetly kept out of sight. They had been warned to take out the trap or the Quadra would come. Consequently the sight of the steamer indicated what was about to be done.

After embarking again on the Quadra the party proceeded to Ma-laty river, which was examined by the commissioners. No salmon were seen in the river, but the pines, it was observed, were jumping outside, they being late in arriving this year. From this river the Quadra again got under way, and steaming at a 12-knot speed reached Winter harbor at sundown. A beautiful sunset on the broad Pacific ended one of the most interesting days the commissioners had experienced, the only regret expressed being that Commissioner Hall had not taken his fishing rod along to Marble canyon, for



THE INDIAN FISH TRAPS IN MARBLE CANYON, QUATSINO. The photo shows a sailor of D. G. S. Quadra cutting away the trap under direction of Fishery Inspector Taylor.

tenacity of a bull dog. Mr. Taylor thought at first it was a big founder which he was lifting to the surface of the water, but when he raised the two to the deck of the steamer in the manner described, all aboard were willing to concede to him all honors of the day's fishing. On the Monday following the bright after-dinner speech, the Quadra proceeded to the east coast of Vancouver Island, via Cape Scott. Everybody was up bright and early to see Seymour Narrows as the Quadra passed on Tuesday morning. The enthusiastic members from Victoria was especially anxious to see for himself the feasibility of building a bridge over the narrows. He concluded from these observations that spanning the narrows with a railway bridge was perfectly practicable, and that Victoria of necessity would some day become a great railway centre. Going on to Nanaimo Messrs. Brown and Taylor debarked, while Mr. Hall came on to Victoria over the E. & N. railway. During the last evening aboard and while the party with officers of the ship were gathered around the dinner table, Mr. Brown made one of his bright after-dinner speeches, thanking the captain and officers of the ship for the many courtesies they extended throughout the voyage.

LARGEST REALTY DEAL IN HISTORY OF CITY

A Thousand Acres of Land in South Saanich Purchased Yesterday by Local Firm—Part for New Industry.

The largest real estate deal ever consummated in Victoria was completed late on Friday. By it H. H. Jones & Company acquired 1,000 acres of land in South Saanich, within six miles of the city. The property included in the transaction consists of sections 53, 75, 76, 77, 81, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106 and part of 107. An interesting feature of the deal is that the conveyance of section 91 carries with it absolute control of the greater portion of Prospect lake. It is expected that two adjacent sections will be purchased to round out the estate, which will then make it the largest individual holding on the island, of greater extent than that at present controlled by R. P. Elthet.

While the primary object of the purchase cannot yet be made public it may be confidently stated that, from part of the property, will spring an industry that will make Victoria and vicinity famous all over the world. Its

nature will be practically new and of a character that few readers of the Times surmise.

Immediate use will be made of different portions of the land included in the deal just completed. There is now about 13 1/2 acres of the best bearing orchard on the island, but this will be extended by 65 acres next spring. It is well known that fruit in the locality ripens from two to three weeks earlier than in other districts and full advantage will be taken of this fact to secure the best market. About 150 acres are already in crop, and 75 more will be ready for cultivation next year.

Some of the best hunting ground in Saanich is also upon the property, and it is stated that the game will be strictly protected and maintained as a private preserve. Fishing in Prospect lake will also be protected.

The price paid for the property has not been named, but is believed to be in the vicinity of \$50,000.

BIG REAL ESTATE SALES THIS WEEK

MUCH CITY PROPERTY RECENTLY TRANSFERRED

Renewed Activity in Local Market Shows Confidence of Outside Investors in Victoria.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

This week was the most active in city realty that has been witnessed for several months. Several outside deals of importance were also reported. Altogether the sales aggregate at least \$200,000, which shows that as the season advances evidences of increasing prosperity are not without their effect on outside investors.

There is considerable reticence as to the purchaser yesterday of the property at the northeast corner of Government and Humboldt streets, opposite the post office. At present the Belmont hotel occupies the corner and there are several small houses on the Humboldt street frontage. The plot that cornered hands runs 86 1/2 feet from the corner along Government street and 132 feet back to Gordon street. A. W. Jones, limited, and A. J. Weaver Bridgman were the agents concerned in the sale, which involves a sum of between \$40,000 and \$50,000. The corner is one of the most valuable remaining available in the city for commercial purposes and will soon be the location of a modern business block.

Several important sales were also made during the week by the B. C. Land and Investment Agency. The purchase prices aggregate well over \$30,000. As most of the transactions were made by local men who do not wish their identity made public no specific particulars can be given. The sales of the corporation mentioned included properties on Rockland avenue, George road and in the Victoria West and James Bay districts. Two sales were effected in the latter. Eight lots in the Fairfield estate also changed hands during the week in three deals for one, two and five lots respectively.

W. N. Mitchell, of the firm of Hembrough & Mitchell, general merchants of Moose Jaw, yesterday purchased direct the Seabrook residence on George road. The price was \$10,000. Mr. Mitchell, as previously reported, recently purchased about thirty lots in the Fairfield estate.

Heisterman & Company report, in addition to a number of small sales, the transfer of the Jackson residence, and five acres of grounds, on Hillside avenue to a newcomer named Wilson, and another house and lot at the head of Yates street to a local man. The amount included in these transactions was practically \$10,000.

FROM NATURAL CAUSES.

Coroner's Jury Returned Verdict at Inquest on Body of the Late J. A. Sims.

The unfortunate case of asphyxiation on Thursday was the subject of an enquiry by Coroner E. C. Hart, M. D., yesterday, when an inquest was held on the body of the late J. A. Sims, an employee of the Victoria Gas Company.

Evidence was given to show that deceased was suffering from a weak heart before the inhalation of gas, which was the immediate cause of death. It was also elicited that another employee who was working with him suffered no ill effects. The jury accordingly declared a verdict of accidental death.

As previously announced, the funeral will take place at 2.30 p.m. to-morrow from the parlors of the B. C. Funeral Furnishing Company.

Nappy Is That Man Who Walketh in Shoes That Contain "Foot Elm."

Foot Elm satisfies feet that yearn for comfort.

BACK FROM THE NORTH.

Bishop Dottenwill Encountered Several G. T. P. Survey Parties On His Trip.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

Bishop Dottenwill, head of the Roman Catholic church in British Columbia, has just returned to New Westminster from a tour of the Indian missions in the northern interior of the province. He was accompanied by Father Coombs of Stuart lake, and had a very enjoyable trip. He found things very satisfactory, from a religious and moral standpoint. Material prosperity is in evidence among some of the Indians, while others are not so well off. The whole future of the district will be changed by the opening up of the country by the Grand Trunk Pacific railway. The bishop encountered two surveying parties. One was working near Fort George and was one of several surveying on the Yellowhead Pass route, which would pass through the valley of the Nechaco river, crossing the Skeena quite a distance inland, possibly near Hazelton, and continuing to the coast. The other party of surveyors was one engaged further north of the Pine river pass route. This route, the bishop thinks, will not be the one finally selected.

Bishop Dottenwill was away two months and a half, and for one less rugged and accustomed to outdoor life, the trip would have been very trying. He and Father Coombs left the train at Ashcroft and then proceeded 225 miles by stage to the spiritual needs of about 1,800 people. The bishop states that he found steady and satisfactory progress made in religious matters. The greater number of the tribes are removed from contact with the whites and as a result the ravages of firewater are not so manifest. Perhaps the best evidence of the work being done by the Roman Catholic church was shown by the large attendance at the meetings and the number of conversions. Over 450 were confirmed by the bishop at the various places. Sixteen were confirmed at Stone creek, Fraser lake, Stuart lake, Babine, Hakoblate and Fort George. At each meeting upwards of 500 people were present, and for miles around and many attending two or three meetings. These meetings were held for eight or ten days in each place.

Bishop Dottenwill looks exceptionally well after his trip.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORS.

H. Dallas Helmcken, K. C., occupied the chair at the regular meeting of directors of the Royal Jubilee hospital held Friday evening at the institution concerned. The usual reports were read and adopted. That of the finance committee showed that the total days' stay for July was 1,486, at an average cost per diem of \$1.75. Warrants were ordered drawn for \$1,531.46 for supplies and \$1,034.80 for salaries.

The house committee requested further consideration for re-roofing the hospital and reported that a new drying stove had been purchased for the laundry. Long usage had rendered the one previously installed defective.