

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

Two handsome school buildings are about to be erected in Victoria and the greatest care is being taken by the School Trustees in choosing the architectural designs.

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A fine bathing shed containing forty dressing rooms in all twenty for ladies and twenty for men—has been erected at English Bay, and will prove a great boon to the citizens of Vancouver. Close to the bathing shed there is one splendid stretch of beach 100 yards long.

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The following will give some idea of the value of the ore being taken out at present in the Slocan district.

Twenty tons of ore were shipped from the Idaho mine, Slocan, to the Tacoma smelter. The ore assayed \$168 a ton—119 silver and \$49 lead. It cost \$45 per ton to get it from the mine to Kaslo, \$28 per ton from Kaslo City to Tacoma and to have it smelted. The duty on the lead in the ore was \$21 per ton; the cost of mining, sacking and sacks \$10 more, making \$104 for expenses, leaving a net profit of \$64 per ton. With smelters located in closer proximity to the mines and with better means of transportation it will be seen that mining in that locality may be made very profitable even though the price of silver should depreciate below its present value.

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The catch of the seals in 1892, by British Columbia vessels, reached 46,362 skins, which will be largely increased during the present season.

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Strawberries and raspberries have been plentiful during the past month and some idea may be formed of the perfection which the fruit attains in British Columbia from the following:—A lot of strawberries from the garden of Mr. Mawdsley, Point Comfort, Mayne Island, was brought to Victoria, some of the berries measuring four inches in circumference the fruit being rich and juicy with a delicious flavor.

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Since the great fire which destroyed the city in 1886 Vancouver's population has increased as follows:

In 1886	the population was.....	600
In 1887	"	2,000
In 1888	"	6,000
In 1889	"	10,000
In 1890	"	15,000

and it is now estimated to be from 18,000 to 20,000.

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The Mayor and Council of Victoria accompanied by a party of friends and those interested in the City's water supply, visited Goldstream the other day and from all accounts had a very pleasant time. If the result of the trip should turn out to be an improvement in the quality and quantity of the Victoria water supply the citizens will have no reason to begrudge the Mayor and Alderman this holiday.

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The 20th of July is the 100th anniversary of the completion of Alexander McKenzie's expedition across the northern part of the continent of North America, and it is proposed to commemorate the event in Victoria in such a manner as will show that at least some of the present inhabitants of British Columbia do not wish to forget the memory and heroic deeds of the early discoverers and pioneers of the province.