

BEAUTIFYING OF THIS CITY

JOSEPH TASSE HAS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Details of Scheme Which He Suggests for Making Victoria Attractive.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

There is a growing feeling which recent developments brings all the more prominently to the attention of citizens, that a broad comprehensive scheme of beautifying in connection with Victoria must be carried out. The city is the capital of the province, with the most equable climate in Canada and is destined to become from year to year more important as a tourist centre and more attractive to the seeker after an ideal place of residence.

People from the east and middle sections of the Dominion are seeing in Victoria advantages as a place of residence and are making it their home. It is becoming the great educational centre of the west, and with the facilities in the way of schools which have been opened here, pupils are being attracted not only from the different parts of the province, but from the prairie section of the Dominion. This condition is destined to become more marked as time goes on and Victoria must prepare itself for becoming a great residential centre.

Yesterday the Times made reference to the model scheme which was being carried out in the sub-division of the Uplands farm. There should be a general scheme devised looking to the putting of the various other parts of the city in a condition somewhat approaching the ideal conditions which are to prevail in this new subdivision.

Nature has dealt very generously with this city. Its natural beauties are not equalled by those of any other place in Canada. But there remains much to be done in embellishing it and in adding attractiveness to its environment. To do this effectively it should be carried out on a stated plan without ever-recurring changes in policy.

In the course of the interview it should also be mentioned that Mr. Tasse remarked: "In order to succeed in obtaining from the government the necessary legislation, I know that the honorable prime minister, Mr. McBride, would only be too happy to receive the patriotic support of a unanimous approbation from his colleagues in the legislature for a bill which he is animated by a feeling of progress and 'do it now' sentiment."

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law that the real estate of the city is responsible for the loan. The assessed value of the property to-day in the city of Victoria is about \$22,000,000. The debentures issued by this commission would mature, say, in 25 years; as the maturity of these debentures is a new issue of debentures could be made to replace the matured ones, paying the same interest. The expenditure of that money would bring here during the execution of that plan, in a very few years, a number of wealthy men with large incomes, especially from the Northwest territories, Alaska, and the Yukon, and also the Old World. The coming of these men of wealth in the city of Victoria, building homes for themselves, would create a increased value in ten years of \$50,000,000, showing an increased assessed value for the repayment of the first debentures at over double the security. The adoption of this scheme would have the effect of creating here the financial centre of the province of British Columbia.

"The interior of the province would benefit in a very large measure by the investment of capital by these men of wealth for the industries of the different kinds looking after capital, especially the mining interests. The investment of the province should be a plan of this kind, for the reason that it will not cost them anything in the way of extra taxes. The enhancement of the increased value of property in Victoria will pay many times over for all the cost of improvements.

"The wealth created by the population," concluded Mr. Tasse, "coming in here on an average of at least 1,000 a year, calculating that each man would build a home costing on an average of \$10,000, would mean an additional \$10,000,000, outside of their living expenses, which will really be about as much. Thus it will be readily seen that the government grant of \$30,000 a year will be covered many times by the taxes received from the wealthy population that this model city would attract."

In connection with his scheme it will be noticed that Mr. Tasse says particular stress on the fact that the provincial government will lose nothing in connection with the project. It will, on the contrary, add largely to the revenue derived from the province. The yearly expenditure of \$300,000 which Mr. Tasse considers will most likely attract an additional 1,000 wealthy people to Victoria each year, will mean an additional revenue to the provincial government of something like \$200,000.

Considering, therefore, that the legislative body would seem to have everything to gain and nothing to lose, there is every reason to hope that legislation will be introduced this present session having for its object the appointment of a commission such as Mr. Tasse suggests.

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AMERICAN ESTIMATE OF JAPANESE INFLUX

Deadlock Apparently Exists Between Nations Over Immigration Problem.

Tokyo, Feb. 8.—The delay in reaching a final settlement of the immigration question between Japan and the United States is due to differences between the two governments concerning statistics and minor details. The Japanese government in its memorandum of Dec. 31st, maintaining the incorrectness of the figures presented by Ambassador O'Brien, which showed an extraordinary number of Japanese entering America since March, replied to the American memorandum with the Japanese figures, showing a wide divergence.

The American memorandum of January couched in the friendliest terms, said that it appeared impossible to reconcile the discrepancy in figures and suggested the possibility of frauds. The Japanese government attempting to discover the exact cause of the discrepancy engaged last week in a comprehensive investigation to unearth possible frauds and it is conceded that these cases have been discovered but these are insufficient to explain the disparity.

This investigation has caused ten days' delay in the negotiations. The Foreign office has pointed out to the Associated Press, however, that while it doubtless will be gratifying to be able to write final to the vexatious problem, it believes it best to clear up the statistics. In the meanwhile, passports will be issued to laborers.

TWO PERISH IN FLAMES. Sioux City, Ia., Feb. 8.—In a fire of unknown origin, at South Sioux City, early to-day, the rooming house of Edward Streeter was burned to the ground and Edward Streeter and Morris Albertson perished in the flames. Five others were injured.

Explosion on French Warships. Paris, Feb. 8.—Admiral Philibert, commanding the French naval forces in Moroccan waters, telegraphs that 14 sailors were wounded, five of them seriously, as the result of an accident to the boiler of the cruiser Jeanne d'Arc off Tangier yesterday.

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