

HALF YEAR'S STORY OF STEADY PROGRESS  
Victoria Maintains Commercial Supremacy as Accentuated by Phenomenal Growth of Business.

(From Saturday's Daily.) Standing on the threshold of Dominion Day, it is well to accentuate once again the manner in which Victoria is sustaining worthily her rightful position as capital of the banner province of Canada. To-day marks the close of the first half of 1906, and every resident of the city has cause to be proud of the increasing commercial importance evident each month since the opening of the year.

This prosperity has not only been general, but cumulative. Every branch of any importance reports not only a large increase in business over the same period of 1905, but also that each month shows an advancement over the month previous. The consensus of opinion is that an average of twenty per cent increase has marked the first six months of this year over January to June, 1906. This statement is made after interviewing nearly all the prominent firms and is rather a conservative estimate.

Exports of domestic goods have shown an increase of nearly half. Statistics for the first half of 1905 totalled \$224,514, while in 1906 the increase of 46 per cent is shown in the aggregate in this line of \$330,398.

Real estate activity is strongly emphasized by the receipts of the land registry office. For the opening six months of 1906, the Registrar's office took in the sum of \$22,844.40, taking a very conservative estimate for June, and the official returns for the five months previous, the receipts for the same months of 1905 were \$14,237.50.

Particular Branch of Business has been that of lumber. During 1905 the Chemainus mill shipped 20,392,072 feet of lumber, while in 1906 the total was 24,102,791. Taking this as a basis the shipments for the half year ending to-day will be over \$1,000,000 or larger than those of the whole of last year.

Whole Output Available of the Shawinigan Lake Lumber Company. With the opening of navigation to the Yukon there have been made heavy shipments to live here in future. Regularly for the construction of dredges. Many local mills have started overseas shipments, among them being Lemon, Gonnason & Co. and Moore & Whitteman.

Wholesale and manufacturers are doing extremely well. There is only one note of dissatisfaction, and that matter should be of adjustment. A prominent manufacturer and shipper said yesterday: "Business is increasing rapidly, but we could double our sales on the mainland if rates to the interior were equalized by the C. P. R. Victoria and Vancouver should be put on exactly the same basis. At present this city is discriminated against, and there is difficulty in persuading merchants in the interior to buy goods without us having to absorb the extra freight. This reduces our

profits materially, and the C. P. R. should even to secure the additional revenue to be derived, place this city on the same basis as the mainland terminal at Vancouver."

The First Cannery. Within the city limits, the institution of the open water has been working since the opening of the season, and taking its fish, not subject to the regulations in force for net fishing. During the last half year, two important financial corporations have opened branches here: the Northern Bank and the British American Trust Company, Ltd. Both are doing a good business and consider their operations in Victoria a source of considerable profit.

Several proposed sources of supply have been looked into, and it is announced that next week will probably see the new scheme take definite shape. There is also every prospect of new permanent side-walks being constructed in different parts of the city during the next few months.

Additional bathing facilities have been provided, and Victoria's beauty spot is more popular than ever before. The New Grand Theatre at once leaped into favor and has filled a want for a high-class vaudeville entertainment.

Many home-seekers have come here to reside since the new year. They are generally people of means, and have acquired some of the best property within the city and in the surrounding suburbs. Their presence is a source of congratulation, not only for their assisting Victoria to reach its present position, but also for their friends. Satisfied newcomers are the city's best advertisement.

Organized "boosting" was taken up with enthusiasm early in the year, and the result has been a steady increase in the number of manufacturing plants that form an important factor in commercial upbuilding.

Not only has the city's business been progressing during the past half year and look forward with extreme confidence to the future. No other city in the province can show such rapid strides recently, and the coming six months will more than equal the record of the semi-annual period that closes to-day.

Continued activity has marked the real estate market during the past week, in addition to the sales of Alex. McDonald, Lee Gee Wing and others previously mentioned. Several of interest have been made. Col. Herchmer, formerly commissioner of the N. W. M. P. has bought 17 1/2 acres in Fairford road, near St. Charles street, adjoining Government House, and will erect a large residence. This was concluded by E. B. C. Bagshaw.

ATTENDED SHIRINERS' MEETING. J. H. Greer Returned Yesterday From Chicago and Other Big Eastern Cities.

J. H. Greer, the Tates street shipping and commission agent, has returned from an extended tour through a number of the big Eastern American and Canadian cities. Mr. Greer left Victoria over a month ago to attend the Imperial Council of the Myrtle Shrine held in Chicago on the 12th and 13th of May. It had been arranged that this meeting should be held in Los Angeles this year, but owing to the disaster to San Francisco plans were altered, and the money that was to be spent in making preparations and in entertaining was devoted to the sufferers at the Golden Gate. It is now decided that the next annual meeting shall be held in Los Angeles, and Mr. Greer says that it is estimated that there will be a large number come West via the C. P. R. Mr. Greer was the only representative from British Columbia among 500 present.

Among the excursions is that under the management of W. B. Fisher, to be made in the evening steamer which leaves at 9 o'clock for the trip among the islands. At Cowichan bay a regatta will be held by the residents of their respective islands. Races, etc. The trip should be a most enjoyable one, and the steamer will assuredly carry a full complement of passengers.

The arrangements in connection with both these picnics is such as to give all who wish to attend an opportunity to do so. The trains leave Victoria at 8 a. m. 10 a. m. and 1 p. m., and return at 5 p. m., 7 1/2 p. m. and 8 3/4 p. m.

By the Victoria Terminal railway there will also be an excursion to accommodate the Sunday school of the Centennial Methodist church. The picnic will be held at Sidney park, and a very complete programme of sports has been arranged, including foot races for boys and girls, various novel races, and a number of other sports.

The appointment of these two assessors completes the organization of the whole province into assessment districts by the provincial government. There are seven districts in the province apportioned to seven assessors. In addition to these two just appointed the following have previously had their districts allotted: A. Lucas for the territory west of the Columbia river; S. McSmith for Vancouver and its vicinity; and S. A. Fletcher for New Westminster district.

It is the intention to make the assessment uniform as possible throughout the province. The assessor will be in charge of the day's proceedings. Oak Bay never loses its charm, and being within easy reach of the tramway line the children may have a full day's picnic.

Victoria West Methodist church will likewise make Oak Bay its picnic place. The ladies of the church are preparing to provide all needed refreshments for the picnic to be held on Monday next. Besides the usual light refreshments, ice cream, etc., there will be on hand all that is necessary for a good picnic meal.

The annual Sunday school picnic of the Congregational church will be held again at the Grand Falls of the Gorge park for its picnic. The place is an ideal one for the purpose, and gives a splendid opportunity for enjoyment.

DOMINION ARRANGEMENTS. MANY PICNICS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY Various Events Which Will Attract Citizens of Victoria Celebrating Canada's Natal Day.

Monday when citizens of Canada celebrate the natal day of the country as a united Dominion will be fittingly observed by residents of Victoria. The arrangements for spending an enjoyable day are excellent, and a wide variety of amusements at different points has been included among the programmes prepared.

There are many excursions by rail and steamer both to and from Victoria, and the management of these excursions will be assisted by prominent citizens. The arrangements for a picnic on the islands will be held by the residents of their respective islands.

By the E. & N. railway there will be a succession of excursion trains run for the convenience of those who wish to visit Goldstream and Langford Plains. At the former place the Sunday school of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church will hold their annual outing and preparations have been made to give the children and their parents a delightful time at this popular resort.

At the concert on Tuesday evening the chief attraction will be the piano solos by the visitor. His numbers will include the following: Andante quasi allegretto, by Brahms; Prelude, op. 28, by Chopin; Polka, op. 70, by Chopin; Au Printemps, by Rameau; Grand Valse, op. 34, by Chopin; Tannhauser (March), by Wagner; and Rhapsoedie Friska Rapido, by Liszt.

Among the excursions is that under the management of W. B. Fisher, to be made in the evening steamer which leaves at 9 o'clock for the trip among the islands. At Cowichan bay a regatta will be held by the residents of their respective islands.

By the Victoria Terminal railway there will also be an excursion to accommodate the Sunday school of the Centennial Methodist church. The picnic will be held at Sidney park, and a very complete programme of sports has been arranged, including foot races for boys and girls, various novel races, and a number of other sports.

The appointment of these two assessors completes the organization of the whole province into assessment districts by the provincial government. There are seven districts in the province apportioned to seven assessors.

It is the intention to make the assessment uniform as possible throughout the province. The assessor will be in charge of the day's proceedings. Oak Bay never loses its charm, and being within easy reach of the tramway line the children may have a full day's picnic.

PROF. MEYER IS HERE. Taking advantage of the presence in the city of Prof. Meyer, late of San Francisco, an entertainment is to be given in the school room of the Metropolitan church on Tuesday evening.

Prof. Meyer is one of the sufferers by the earthquake and fire in the Californian city. His house was completely wrecked, and his valuable grand piano was among the ruins. The instrument with the upheaval of the floor by the quake was thrown against a partition in the house, and crashed through it. Prof. Meyer only had time to reach the outside when the front of the dwelling collapsed burying the whole of the contents.

Among the excursions is that under the management of W. B. Fisher, to be made in the evening steamer which leaves at 9 o'clock for the trip among the islands. At Cowichan bay a regatta will be held by the residents of their respective islands.

By the Victoria Terminal railway there will also be an excursion to accommodate the Sunday school of the Centennial Methodist church. The picnic will be held at Sidney park, and a very complete programme of sports has been arranged, including foot races for boys and girls, various novel races, and a number of other sports.

The appointment of these two assessors completes the organization of the whole province into assessment districts by the provincial government. There are seven districts in the province apportioned to seven assessors.

It is the intention to make the assessment uniform as possible throughout the province. The assessor will be in charge of the day's proceedings. Oak Bay never loses its charm, and being within easy reach of the tramway line the children may have a full day's picnic.

Victoria West Methodist church will likewise make Oak Bay its picnic place. The ladies of the church are preparing to provide all needed refreshments for the picnic to be held on Monday next.

The annual Sunday school picnic of the Congregational church will be held again at the Grand Falls of the Gorge park for its picnic. The place is an ideal one for the purpose, and gives a splendid opportunity for enjoyment.

Among the excursions is that under the management of W. B. Fisher, to be made in the evening steamer which leaves at 9 o'clock for the trip among the islands. At Cowichan bay a regatta will be held by the residents of their respective islands.

SHIPYARDS SWARMING WITH BUSY WORKMEN. Local Institutions Handing Work of Great Magnitude Accentuating City's Importance as Shipbuilding Centre.

(From Saturday's Daily.) Five hundred thousand dollars at least per annum is paid out in wages to workmen in the shipyards of Victoria. To this may be added \$1,500,000 spent in supplies, and it will be seen that \$2,000,000 comes to this city from this branch of industry alone.

The most prominent factor in this important class of work is the business of the B. C. Marine Railway Company Limited, at Esquimalt. Seven and a half acres of land are used by this company in connection with the enterprise, and 200 is the average number of men employed. The monthly pay-roll reaches \$25,000, or \$300,000 per annum. This plant is

One of the Most Complete on this side of the Pacific, and consists of a sawmill, foundry, machine, boiler and joiners' shop, together with the necessary engine house and offices. The marine ways will take a vessel of 300 feet in length.

A busy scene is presented at these extensive works. At present there are under construction a wooden steamer for the C. P. R., a steel tug for the Dominion government. The former, that will be called the Princess Royal, is 225 feet in length and will cost a quarter of a million dollars. It will be used on the Stagsway run. Fifty thousand dollars will be about the cost of the steamer for the government. It will be used in the quarantine service and replace the Esquimalt.

In addition to the work mentioned, this company has performed extensive repairs to many other vessels recently. The Princess Mary was practically rebuilt at a cost of \$100,000, and is now on her first run after re-entering the water. The Chamier also was overhauled thoroughly, about \$25,000 being spent on the work. This work occupied attention from January to April. In February the ship Bermuda received new masts, yards and rigging, and many other vessels have been extensively repaired.

The B. C. Marine Railway Company has been instrumental in bringing a Large Number of Vessels to Victoria from the other side of the Pacific. Within the last six months there have been the Ellerie, Cambrian King, Asgard, Wyvern, Blackhawk, Chiswick, Ohio, Otto, Esplanade, Ponzon, Garonne and Henly. All these were taken into the drydock and overhauled. Practically all repairs required in a large amount of money being spent here. Agents all down the coast are continually on the look out for business, and the manager, H. F. Bullen, makes regular trips far and south as San Francisco.

Another shipyard, the Star, near Point Ellice, is also controlled by this company. It has a large plant in Vancouver, but the works in this city are much more extensive, and Victoria is the home office and headquarters.

When visited yesterday the works presented a very animated appearance, and the workmen were busy as usual for the Princess Victoria was being turned, and a number of men engaged in building the engines for the government steam launch. Caulkers were hammering away at the Princess Royal, and other workmen building large fresh water tanks for the same boat.

The Victoria Machinery Depot is also extremely busy at present. It has under construction a steel vessel for the government that will be used on the Fraser river, and a large scow for the C. P. R. The ship Tamar is receiving an overhauling. There are from 50 to 60 men employed here, and the monthly pay roll runs in the vicinity of \$2,500.

TEACHERS ENTERTAIN GARDEN PARTY AND DELIGHT VI.

Victoria official Provincial Teachers' day at the conclusion of the year. The opportunity of welcoming the capital and men entrusted of the youth of the province will go to the teachers. It will be a grand opportunity to our people.

Through the many of the teachers for their vacation have been taken of the given by the rate a number of the engaged in visiting the coast around. It has been done by the body in continuous, but several are on the tapis. Some of the week, and as the after showers fell from the atmosphere, it was a relief to them. The summer is not yet over. Most of the teachers and the cream and d. Vanished very engaged for those stationed a number from.

These were all opportunities for rowing were of. When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

TEACHERS ENTERTAIN GARDEN PARTY AND DELIGHT VI.

Victoria official Provincial Teachers' day at the conclusion of the year. The opportunity of welcoming the capital and men entrusted of the youth of the province will go to the teachers. It will be a grand opportunity to our people.

Through the many of the teachers for their vacation have been taken of the given by the rate a number of the engaged in visiting the coast around. It has been done by the body in continuous, but several are on the tapis. Some of the week, and as the after showers fell from the atmosphere, it was a relief to them. The summer is not yet over. Most of the teachers and the cream and d. Vanished very engaged for those stationed a number from.

These were all opportunities for rowing were of. When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.

When evening became lively, a Fifth Level, a B. C. Copper, and several other parties. Full in every part of the expressed the gratification of the all fresco entertainments. These were all opportunities for rowing were of.