THE VISIT TO DUNCANS.

Lord and Countess Aberdeen Spend Yesterday Afternoon in Cowichan District.

Evening Party at the Drill Hall Last Evening Proves a Grand Success.

The perfect arrangements made by the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway company for the vice-regal party's visit to Duncan's Station yesterday, were responsible for much of the enjoyment of the trip. A special train, consisting of smoker, first-class coach, private car Maude and dining car was placed at the party's disposal by the railway company. Both the interior and exterior of the cars were prettily decorated, the employees having spent much time in preparing for their distinguished passengers. Besides the vice-regal party there were on the train: the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Dewdney, Miss Wilson, Hon. J. H. Turner, Mrs. Davie, Mr. and Mrs. James Dunsmuir, Mr. and Mrs. H. Croft, Miss Dunsmuir, and Mr. Vowell, superintendent of Indian affairs.

The train left Victoria shortly after noon, lunch being served on the way up the line, the train running slow, to allow the members of the party to see and enjoy the scenery, with which they were well pleased. Duncan's Station and the buildings in the vicinity were gorgeously decorated, and all the inhabitants, including several hundred Indians, were present to welcome the visitors. The Kuper Island Indian band played lively airs. Mr. W. H. Lomas, Indian agent, on behalf of the Indians, presented His excellency with an address. The Governor-General replied as follows:

Your Honor and Gentlemen:

Most heartily do I thank you for this loyal and hearty demonstration. We have looked forward with pleasure to this visit. I think it a great advantage also to have the opportunity of meeting you. We are pleased with your assurance of loyalty. I am glad to learn that you are setting a good example in the way of cultivating the land and following other kinds of industry. You and we the white people are fellow-citizens and fellow subjects—fellow subjects of the illustrious Queen. The Queen is the emblem and representative of our constitutional rights and liberties. We are all settlers in this land, but the Indians certainly are older settlers than we, and therefore it is quite right that their address should come first. I hope we shall all be able to join in increasing the prosperity of this country, and lastly we shall always value this interesting address as a pleasant token of a very interesting occasion, and when I write to Her Majesty the Queen I shall mention this event, because I know it will interest Her Majesty. Lady Aberdeen is taking some photographs and if they are successful we shall send some to Her Majesty. One word about the school. We are very pleased to hear that the industrial school is thriving and that it is sure to do much good. Now, on behalf of Lady Aberdeen and myself, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Mrs. Dewdney, and the assembled company, we offer our hearty good wishes. His excellency concluded by thanking the band for the manner in which it had rendered the national anthem.

A pupil of the Kuper Island Indian school also read an address to which the Governor-General replied:

This, like the other address which we have received, is a graceful and cordial expression, brief and to the point. We thank you very heartily for it. It is all the more agreeable and welcome to us because it bears signs of being the spontaneous and actual production of the pupils, or of one representing the pupils of this excellent school. I notice also with satisfaction your reference to the efforts of the government to act justly and considerately toward the Indians, especially in relation to the establishment of the Industrial school. You may be very sure that it is the permanent attitude and disposition of the authorities in this country to do their part not only in acting fairly and justly, but more—to endeavor to secure opportunities for enabling the Indians and others to improve their position and to develop the resources of the country as well as its progress in the best sense—namely, the economical, moral and religious welfare of the whole population. I again thank you and beg that you will convey to your fellow pupils our best thanks for this action on their part. I will conclude with cordial good wishes for the success of the institution.

On the conclusion of his excellency's remarks the visitors were escorted to the agricultural hall, which had been handsomely decorated, and where a lot of farm produce was on exhibition. The party were escorted to the platform by Mr. Horace Davie, reeve, and Major Mutter, and the following address was read:

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir John Campbell Hamilton Gordon; Viscount Formartaine; Lord Haddo, Methlic, Travis and Kellie; Viscount Gordon of Aberdeen; Baronet of Nova Scotia; Earl of Aberdeen, P.C. LL.D., Etc., Etc., Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada and Vice-Admiral of the same.

May it Please Your Excellency:—

On behalf of the citizens of the District of Cowichan, the Cowichan and Salt Spring Island Agricultural Society, the Odd Fellows' Duncan lodge, No. 17, the Knights of Pythias Maple lodge No 15, the Independent Order of Good Templars, and the Vancouver Island Flockmasters' Association:

We beg to approach Your Excellency on this the occasion of your first visit to our district to tender a most cordial welcome to our Governor-General and to Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen.

We also desire to express our loyalty and warm attachment to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, and to offer to yourself the respect due to you as Her Majesty's honorable representative.

We hope that Your Excellency's term of office may prove conducive to the continued prosperity of Canada, and be a source of lasting gratification and of pleasant memories to yourself. We shall always appreciate the warm interest which Your Excellency has taken in agricultural affairs in the Dominion, and we hope for the best results from your active sympathy with and valued counsel to the farming community. We regret that Your Excellency's numerous engagements, together with the lateness of the season, prevent a more extended tour of our district and inspection of its varied beauties and resources. Should Your Excellency at some future period again visit this district, we hope that you will be able to travel by an all-rail route, as we think that no distant date will witness the completion of another trans-continental road having Victoria for its terminus, with the Esquimalt & Nanaimo as part of the system.

In conclusion we request that Your Excellency will be pleased to convey to Lady Aberdeen our highest expressions of esteem and regard for her noble efforts in all that pertains to the elevation and advancement of her sex.

The Governor-General replied:

Your Honor, Mr. Reeve, Major Mutter, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Most heartily do I thank you for this address, conveying as it does in most loyal and genial terms a welcome and a greeting which certainly we shall ever remember with peculiar satisfaction. I say peculiar satisfaction in no mere conventional or common place sense. I use the expression not only because of the contents of this address but because this locality and settlement have for long been familiar to us by name and by reputation. You can understand, therefore, that it is with especial interest and pleasure that we find ourselves amongst you. There is another feature among many which makes me value this address particularly, and that is its comprehensive element. It represents quite a number of different societies, but all of course, equally endowed with the character of loyal public spirit as evinced by this demonstration and also by the common characteristic of an interest, a sincere and especial interest in this place and district, and with an evident determination on the part of each and all to omit no effort towards the promotion of its success and prosperity. (Applause.) I have heard among other things about Duncan's and the locality generally, of the excellent farming lands which lie within its borders. Of course the time since operations were commenced here has not as yet been so very long—at any rate not to allow more than what we might call a beginning, to be made, though a most encouraging and satisfactory beginning. I speak of this comparatively early period in your history mostly for the sake of alluding to the future development which may be expected. I understand, and I hear it with great pleasure, that there is a prospect of a creamery being established in these parts. (Applause.) From what I have heard already of creameries within the borders of the Dominion, I am led to look with great hope and confidence on that form of enterprise. I have no doubt that many people will tell you that many creameries in the United States are closed because of their want of success. Well, if that is the case, I think you will find that it has been because of want of management or from the land being unsuitable and not from any inherent weakness in the system. I speak of the failures in the United States because I have not as yet heard much in that direction as regards creameries in the various provinces of the Dominion. (Applause.) I speak in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture of British Columbia and therefore I must be careful of what I say. I have no doubt he will not correct me publicly but rather in private if I make mistakes. I have no doubt that dairy farming should be cultivated in such a locality as this. I am told that there is no question about the good prices to be obtained for the best quality of fresh butter in Victoria—prices which made me rather envious, or at least ambitious, as a fellow farmer. There is, I may tell you, a prospect of Professor Robertson, the dairy commissioner coming to British Columbia next spring, and I would strongly advise you either to secure a visit from him or to get him to come to some place as near you as possible, because he has most excellent and valuable suggestions to offer in regard to such an enterprise. In fact I do not know any man better qualified to act in that direction. (Applause.) I suppose the farmers of this district will be inclined to say that if they can furnish good fresh butter to Victoria or any other commodity they will expect good, fresh money, or in other words, prompt payment. (Laughter.) I must not allow myself to be led by the suggestive topics of this address to enter upon any lengthy remarks. I just wish to mention that the chief reason why the name of Duncan's is already so familiar to us is because we claim personal friends in this locality since the parents of Miss Teresa Wilson a valued friend of ours who assists Lady Aberdeen as her secretary, are settled there and we have thus been kept informed of what is going on here. (Applause.) I hope that some part of our time may be spent in visiting them and also in seeing the surroundings of this place. The day is not brilliant, but the weather has been fine enough to enable us to be very much impressed by the beauties of the scenery that we have passed through, and secondly by the appearance of comfort and enterprise around us, as well as by the decorations which have been displayed to welcome us on this occasion. I cannot close without offering some word of hearty thanks on Lady Aberdeen's behalf and also on my own for the genial references to her contained in your address. Such utterances are gratifying, and should be an encouragement to endeavor to forward the best interests in the fullest sense of the word of this country, which we are all becoming more attached to and proud of. (Applause.)

I should like, if I am not occupying too much time, to add a word or two more; first, with reference to the exhibit and display of the products of this place. I claim to be something of a farmer, and if I am unable, owing to other duties to live on my farm I at least know enough of farming to be aware how difficult it is to make a farm pay. (Laughter.) However excellent may be the natural capabilities of the land, there is no doubt of this, that great care and good management are requisite, persistently requisite, if you are to make land satisfactory in all respects. It is very pleasant to see such specimens as these, but the first thing which occurs to me is, at what rate could I produce that and at what rate could I sell it.— You see I am becoming quite commercial. I would also thank the donor of these flowers so kindly presented by a young lady, with whom we may almost claim acquaintance because I knew her grandfather, Admiral Maitland Dougall of Scotland. (Applause.) I am quite aware that in addressing this audience I am probably speaking to many from the Old Country, perhaps even recently from thence. (Applause.) This adds to the interest of the occasion, but I confess it also adds to my sense of responsibility in replying to this address. I notice also the kindly Scottish—nay, Aberdeenshire—quotation behind us. It has a homelike sound. Again I thank you. His Excellency concluded by asking for a holiday for the children attending the schools.

Miss Edith Harriet Maitland-Dougall presented Countess Aberdeen and Lady Marjorie with very handsome boquets.

The Governor-General and Countess Aberdeen took a drive through the district to visit a friend, Mr. Wilson, and upon their return tea was served in the dining car, the party being the guests of Mrs. Croft and the Misses Dunsmuir. Just before the train started for Victoria, Lord Aberdeen addressed those present, again thanking them for their reception, and continuing, said:

"I also wish to record our sense of indebtedness for the courtesy which has been displayed by our friend Mr. Dunsmuir as representing the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway. Of course I quite understand that this action and this hospitality is offered to us in our official capacity—it is a mark of loyalty and public spirit, none the less to be valued because it is also pervaded by kindly personal sentiments. The action of Mr. Dunsmuir has in fact been similar to that displayed by that great railway corporation the Canadian Pacific Railway company, who during our present tour on the Mainland have shown their great courtesy in offering us special travelling facilities. I allude to that circumstance with the more pleasure because I hope it will allay any anxious misgivings on the part of any who may imagine that the Governor-General is travelling at the cost of the taxpayers. (Laughter.) They will take note of my observations that that is not the case. The Canadian Pacific Railway considered itself justified as a loyal and patriotic matter—as does also Mr. Dunsmuir, our host of to-day—in enabling the Governor-General to make more extended expeditions than would have been possible if he had been called upon to fall back entirely upon his own resources. I again thank you, and all I have to say is that if the weather had not been altogether fine the people, if I may use the expression, are. (Laughter and applause.)

THE EVENING PARTY.

Over five hundred ladies and gentlemen attended the evening party at the drill hall last night, there being lots of room for that number to thoroughly enjoy the various dances on the well arranged programme. The gentlemen who had charge of the decorations and those who carried out the directions of the committee had done their work well, and when the electric light was turned on the scene was a very brilliant one. There was not a bare space on the walls of the hall, flags and evergreens completely hiding the ponderous pillars. All around the hall were comfortable couches, many of them set in "cozy corners," where a rest could be enjoyed between the dances. There were also seats in the gallery, which were occupied all evening by many spectators, who being unable or not willing to dance could enjoy the ball as well as the dancers. At the far end of the hall was a raised dais, with a canopy of flags for the viceregal party, and at the rear was the dining room, which was also profusely decorated, the tables looking both pretty and tempting. A staff of men from the B. C. B. G. A., under Sergeant-Major Mulcahey, acted as ushers and attended to the other wants of those present, so that there was at no time any confusion. Two men also acted as sentries at the dais.

The Governor-General and Countess Aberdeen ,accompanied by the Lieut.-Governor and Mrs. Dewdney, Captain Urquhart, A. D. C., Mr. Erskine, A. D. C., and Miss Wilson, arrived at the hall about ten o'clock, and were met at the door by Lieut.-Commander Garforth and officers of H. M. S. Pheasant, Lieut.-Colonel Rawstorme and officers of the R. M. A., Lieut.-Colonel Peters, D. A. G., and Lieut.-Colonel Prior and the officers of the B. C. B. G. A. Arriving at the dais the officers formed a line on either side and the party passed through to the seats. The Governor-General and Countess Aberdeen stood in front of the platform, and many of those present were presented to them. This concluded, dancing commenced, the set of honor being as follows:

His Excellency and Mrs. Dewdney.

The Lieut.-Governor and the Countess of Aberdeen.

Lieut. Garforth, R. N., and Mrs. Rawstorne.

Colonel Rawstorne and Mrs. Macdonald.

Thomas Earle, M. P., and Mrs. J. H. Turner.

Hon. Theodore Davie and Mrs. Baker.

Mr. Justice Crease and Mrs. Earle.

Senator Macdonald and Mrs. Walkem.

The Scotch Reel which followed the Lancers was danced by the Countess of Aberdeen and Chief Russell and Senator Macdonald and Mrs. Russell.

At midnight supper was announced, and several hundred sat down at the first table with the guests of the evening. It was an hour before all had been served, but during that time extra dances were danced, so that the enjoyment was not allowed to lag.

The music supplied by the B. C. B. G. A. band and the pipers for the Scottish dances was splendid, and added much to the enjoyment of the evening.

An hour was spent this morning at Jubilee Hospital, their excellencies showing much interest in that institution. The party, which consisted of the Governor-General and Countess Aberdeen, Mrs. Dewdney and Mr. Erskine, A. D. C., arrived at the hospital at 11 o'clock. Lieut.-Gov. Dewdney could not be present, being detained on public business. They were met at the main entrance by the president, Joshua Davies; Vice-President, F. B. Pemberton; Directors: Charles Hayward, W. M. Chudley, George Brown, I. Braverman, J. L. Crimp, John Braden, A. Wilson, D. M. Eberts and H. M. Yates, secretary. Mayor Teague and Drs. J. S. Helmcken, Davie, Corson, Holden and Renwick were also present.

The party inspected the wards, their excellencies speaking a few words of encouragement to the patients. It was explained to the Governor-General that the hospital had been erected in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, and that it had been opened by the Duke of Connaught and Princess Margaret. The Governor-General signed "Aberdeen. Highly interesting and satisfactory," in the visitors' book. The only criticism was in reference to the operating room, which he thought was not good enough for the institution.

THE CHINESE MISSIONS.

The Governor-General, accompanied by Mr. Erskine, A. D. C., attended a meeting in the Y. M. C. A. hall this afternoon, addressing the Chinese of the various missions and a number of ladies and gentlemen interested in the work of the missions. There were present on the platform: Bishop Perrin, Archdeacon Scriven, Revs. Joseph Hall, Lipscombe, Clay, Cleaver, Murison, and Gardner, Major Dupont and Secretary Carter of the Y. M. C. A. The meeting was of a devotional character. In opening the meeting Bishop Perrin said:

It is not because His Excellency is here in his official capacity as the representative of the Queen that we congratulate ourselves on his presence this morning, but because he has taken and ever will take the deepest interest in all Christian concerns. We have not prepared any address for his excellency this morning. We simply wish from him, if he should see fit to address us, a few words of encouragement in the work of our Christian mission. We are not here to consider for a single moment the very vexed and difficult question of Chinese labor as compared with white. But as these our brothers and sisters are living in this city, the different churches have tried to impress upon them the truths of the Christian faith—and in no small degree have succeeded. And therefore when your excellency was so kind as to say that you would meet us we did not expect from you any response such as might have been anticipated if we had approached your excellency on any political or economic question. We simply want a few words of encouragement from you in this eminently Christian work. We shall, therefore, sing a few hymns this morning and endeavor to make this a devotional service more than anything else. We know that the interests of the poorest Chinaman will be protected by Her Most Gracious Majesty as much as those of the most exalted subject in the realm. But we realize this morning that our standing orders from Jesus Christ are to preach his Gospel; and it is not to the patronage of Your Excellency—or even to the power and authority of the Queen that we look, but it is in the name of him who is the "King of Kings" that we stand here this morning.

His Excellency said:

I am very much obliged to the Lord Bishop for the words of kind introduction and also of explanation which he offered at the commencement of this meeting. I confess that when I read in the morning newspapers to-day the announcement which had been sent to them apparently with reference to the gathering here I felt that it would probably be expedient that some such explanation as that which was so appropriately made by the bishop should be forthcoming lest any one should misunderstand the nature and purpose of this gathering. It arose in this way: A few days ago I had a very courteous request from a reverend gentleman who is superintending one of the missions which have been organized with reference to the Chinese who live in this city or district. The request was that I should receive an address from that particular society. My reply was that of course I was always most ready to receive any such expression from any body or society engaged in working for the welfare of any portion of the community (hear, hear), but I thought it would be still more appropriate if all the missions of the same kind could unite in some combined expression of that sort if any were to be arranged. You will easily understand that in any case it is the duty of the Governor-General to be free from anything like personal predilection, bias or preference, in so far as his official capacity is concerned, and apart from that capacity I confess I am very desirous to do whatever I can to promote harmonious, sympathetic and comprehensive action, especially in regard to religious and philanthropic work. Therefore I stated that I would be pleased to receive any address or expression with reference to this matter if all the various denominations or churches working in this field should unite or combine. This morning I learnt that this meeting was to take place, and it is quite evident that it is owing very largely to the action of the bishop—who is always ready to display a sympathetic spirit of the sort which I have tried to describe—that this united attitude has been attained. At least I trust that this is the case, for that is the footing on which I am here to-day.

With regard to the actual meeting, the bishop has explained the nature of the gathering so fully that I need not dwell on that topic. I shall only repeat my concurrence in what he has said that my presence here does not imply that we are taking any part in anything pertaining to political or economical questions, however important they may be. On the other hand, every one will feel, no doubt, that all members of a community, without reference to race or creed, have a claim upon all who desire to promote the general welfare, and therefore it would be a strange and not happy omission if the churches displayed an indifference to what I may describe as the spiritual interests of that particular section of the community who are represented here in such numbers to-day. For my part, I offer hearty good wishes for the success of this religious work, totally unconnected as it is obviously with any such political question as that to which I have alluded. Now I should think that any one who has got hold of even the outer fringe—of the very elements of Christianity—could hardly take any other view. If there are persons who think that certain classes who come amongst us are to be treated merely as aliens, that is another question—but as regards the Christian religion no body of Christians could consistently look upon the matter in any other way than that which I have described. I think our Chinese friends will recognize this action to-day as one indicating the sentiments to which I have alluded, and if so I have no doubt that they will not regret having come here to-day, and I also hope that this service may be of advantage and benefit to us all in the truest sense of the word. This is a busy time of day, and therefore we must not expect the proceedings to be prolonged. We meet, appropriately enough, in the Y. M. C. A.—an organization which has as one of its principles a comprehensive attitude and a readiness to place at the disposal of all concerned in Christian work such facilities as it may possess. The hour of midday is often regarded in such associations as an hour for devotional exercise such as that which we are engaged in to-day. Therefore I will not prolong my remarks, but will simply express my hearty good wishes for all earnest, judicious, well considered efforts of this kind on the part of the Christian community.

Prayer was offered by Rev. W. L. Clay, followed by the singing of the hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." The Chinese sang in their own language the hymn "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." His Excellency then made a few remarks to the Chinese, which were interpreted by Rev. Mr. Gardner. One of the girls from the Methodist Chinese home presented the Governor-General with two baskets made of flowers, so worked as to represent Chinese flowers.

INSPECT THE R. M. A.

This afternoon the Royal Marine Artillery marched to Government House, where they paraded and were inspected by His Excellency. This evening at 7:30 the Governor-General will inspect the boys' brigade of the Y. M. C. A., following which will be the meeting at the Victoria Theatre, which is to be addressed by Countess Aberdeen. In the morning the party leave for Nanaimo.

—The sewerage commissioners met this morning with Messrs. Pearse, Higgins and Macaulay present. A large number of accounts were passed and some matters of detail as to the payment of the men at work on the sewers by the city were arranged. It was agreed that when a man is discharged or leaves voluntarily he shall be paid at once.

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