PREMIER FAVORS THE PROPOSAL

Joint Conference of Imperial Representatives to Discuss Oriental Immigration

OF EDUCATIONAL VALUE

Proposal of London Times, if Accepted, Would Remove Misconceptions

(From Saturday's Daily)

"I thoroughly agree with the proposal made by Mr. Ferguson and his companions and approved by Lord Ampthill, that a joint conference of representatives from all parts of the Empire should gather to discuss the most important problem of Oriental immigration."

Such was the comment made by Premier McBride on reading two letters published in the London Times of April 13 and 14, discussing at some length the subject referred to.

"While not dealing with all the arguments or deductions in the two letters in the Times," continued the premier, "the main point, to my mind, that stands out prominently is the necessity for a clear and general understanding of the local causes and domestic reasons actuating certain portions of the Empire, in endeavoring, by legislation, to deal with the Oriental immigration question, and whose motives in this respect have been greatly misinterpreted.

The Local Situation.

"Speaking more particularly of British Columbia for example, our anti-Orinetal legislation has been framed, not in a spirit of hostility to Asiatics, and certainly with not the slightest idea of embarrassing the Empire, but with a sincere and natural desire for self-protection and to preserve this portion of Canada from being overflowed by an element which never can be expected to assimilate our ideals of progressive civilization. We feel that the best interests of the Empire can be served, by preserving British Columbia as a white man's country, and that whatever steps we have taken to keep out an Oriental influx and induce white immigration are patriotic and consistent with our duties as good citizens.

"It was the feeling that our ideals and actions had been misconstrued and misunderstood that induced me to support strongly the resolution passed at the last session of the legislature, asking that the governor-general should request the Imperial government, through the colonial secretary, to appoint a royal commission to inquire into the whole subject in relation to Oriental immigration into British Columbia, and especially with regard to the Japanese. As I stated on that occasion in the House, there was no desire in British Columbia to do anything against the interests of the country, but that our fight was one for self-preservation; and I was convinced that an inquiry such as was contemplated by the resolution would demonstrate that it was essential to the welfare of the country that Orienals should be kept out and white immigration encouraged.

Remove Misconception.

"A conference on the lines proposed in the letters in the Times would, to my mind, have a most beneficial effect in removing the clouds of misconception that have obscured our actions, not only in Eastern Canada, but in India, the motherland and abroad.

"Lord Ampthill's opinion is worthy of special consideration in respect to emigration from India, where, as governor of Madras and as acting viceroy and governor-general, he must have had exceptional opportunities to gauge the views and feelings of the people of that part of the Empire. As he well expresses it, 'economic necessity and not prejudice is at the root of the difficulty,' and a full and free discussion by an Imperial conference would certainly do much to make this properly understood.

"To make the conference really beneficial, however, it must not be confined to representatives of the central governments only, but should include delegates appointed by the provinces or states specially affected."

The Original Proposal

The following letter to the London Times of April 13 of Mr. Munro Ferguson and others, follows:

Sir—We and some other Liberals who are interested in colonial subjects desire to put in a plea that the Imperial government should take the initiative in securing a thorough discussion, in which all parts of the Empire should take part, of the whole question of Oriental immigration.

So far this country has stood by in a critical mood, while now one colony now another, deals as it best can with this question, whereas we at home who have the greatest responsibility for Indian and foreign relations should have been the first to seek some common solution. The Transvaal have learned a bitter lesson in attempting to settle their Oriental problem without first carefully inquiring how least to hurt Oriental susceptibilities in carrying out a policy which they feel to be necessary.

Canada has happily taken the better course, both in regard to Japan and to India. In making sure of her ground before taking action. But it is essentially a matter which calls for a common understanding among all members of the Empire. The question is one which in its various aspects affects, or may affect, Australasia, South Africa, Canada, East Africa, and possibly other colonies; it is of the highest importance to India as well as to ourselves in our conduct of negotiations with Japan and China. Hitherto it has only been treated in a piecemeal fashion as the immediate necessity has arisen; it is one to be dealt with in the most comprehensive fashion by consultation among all concerned. Here would seem to be one of the occasions for which the Imperial Secretariat was called into existence. It might most profitably institute an inquiry, whether by a joint commission or otherwise, to thresh out the whole subject.

There is doubtless an apprehension current in certain colonies that, by entering into discussion on the matter, they thereby commit themselves to a reopening of the question on which they have definitely made up their minds, whether their country is to be a white man's country. This is not necessarily so. The chief danger in the present circumstances is not so much the exclusion of our Indian fellow-subjects or of our Oriental allies and friends from some of our colonies as the uncertainty which exists on the subject.

We proclaim in India that all are equal under the British rule, and then our subjects find, on going to certain colonies, that this is not so; it may be best that the distinction of color should be drawn, but it requires definite statement, so that we may not seem parties to a deception, and that all concerned may know it. Or we and some of our colonies may become parties to a treaty with a foreign power, giving free access to each other's countries, and we may find afterwards that full opportunity is not given for the exercise of this privilege. On such matters it is essential that facts should be faced, and that after full consultation between all parties concerned in the British Empire these facts should be made known. Again, if there are parts of the Empire where the objections to Oriental immigration do not hold, it is advisable that these also should be publicly designated by common consent of all concerned. Thirdly, if Orientals are to be excluded or their immigration limited in any part of the Empire, it is all-important that the methods adopted to enforce this limitation should be carefully considered and arranged to cause the least possible friction or sense of arbitrary dealing. Finally, it is well that by means of a common exchange of view all parts of the Empire should be enabled to count the cost, not to themselves alone, but also to all the other parts, resulting from any policy which each may adopt.

To Remove Misunderstanding

We are all imperialists in the sense that we desire to keep an Empire united by far closer bonds than even the closest alliance can knit. But to make this possible our world-wide interests and responsibilities require that all cause of misunderstanding should from the first be removed. The great Dominions rightly wish to be masters of their domestic concerns, of which one of the greatest is immigration, but they also desire, as we do, that their domestic policy should harmonize as much as possible with the engagements which the Mother Country may have entered into in the discharge of her imperial duties.

A joint conference would enable them to grasp our difficulties and us to understand theirs. If no better result than that of clearly stating the problem is attained that will be something gained, for a clear statement of a difficulty is often the best road to a solution. It is, therefore, much to be hoped that the government, taking courage from Canada as example, may find it possible to institute such an inquiry as we have suggested—an inquiry to which representatives from our own Colonial, Foreign and India Offices, from India, and from all the Colonies and Dominions concerned, should be parties.

We are, sir, your obedient servants,

R. MUNRO FERGUSON.
E. T. COOK.
JULIAN S. CORBETT.
H. A. L. FISHER.
BASIL WILLIAMS.

Lord Ampthill's Proposal.

Lord Ampthill's letter to the London Times of April 14 follows:

Sir—May I be allowed to express the satisfaction which I felt, and which must have been felt by many others, on reading the letter signed by Mr. Munro Ferguson and four other prominent Liberals which you published yesterday?

With the terms of that letter I desire to express my complete agrement, for the course so reasonably advocated by the writers in one which I have constantly urged both in and out of parliament during the past two years and which has the advantage of your own weighty approval.

It is something that the importance of the question of Oriental immigration as an Imperial problem on the first magnitude should at least begin to meet with recognition, and Mr. Munro Ferguson and his friends have very clearly and convincingly demonstrated the reasons why that question should be discussed with all the formality and authority of an Imperial conference.

His Reasons.

There are two or three reasons which I should like to emphasize; the first is that general ignorance prevails on the subject, and the second is that the question, so far from having been closed by the independent action on the part of the colonies concerned, is reopened in a new form by the increased comprehension at the issues and growing resentment displayed by the people of India. That comprehension is in advance of the understanding of our own democracy, and that resentment is justified by the whole course of our administration of India. That the colonies are not blind to the danger of Imperial unity is amply proved by the spontaneous action of the Transvaal government in the matter of the Asiatic Registration Act and by the still more spontaneous and gratifying action on the part of the Canadian Government in sending Mr. Mackenzie King to confer with the Imperial government. There could surely be no better proof that the colonies recognize the need for discussion and are willing to discuss the question anew. It is only the Imperial government which fears and shuns discussion, and that attitude is not likely to command respect in the colonies where our fellow-citizens look to us for a lead in matters of Imperial policy.

Proper Cause.

The colonies are obviously right in leaving it to the Imperial government to take the initiative in the matter which concerns the Empire as a whole and which particularly concerns the largest and most important part of the Empire, the India for which we are primarily responsible. But it cannot be doubted that if the invitation, which was so deplorably neglected at the Imperial conference of last year, were to be given, the Colonies would welcome the opportunity of renewing the effort to "systematize the practice of the Empire" which was initiated by Mr. Chamberlain at the colonial conference of 1897. The question was not ripe for a further effort at the time of the Colonial conference of 1902, but it was ripe at the time of the Imperial Conference of 1907. It is over ripe at the present time. Imagine the feelings of the thoughtful men of India when they heard that a question concerning the honor and dignity of India as well as the unity of the Empire would only be discussed at a conference assembled for the consideration of Imperial problems "if opportunity should offer and time permit." That is the answer which I received from Lord Elgin in reply to my question in the House of Lords, and that answer, no doubt, represented the capacity of the Colonial office to appreciate an Imperial problem under the regime which has just come to an end. Time and opportunity are usually supposed to be the servants and not the masters of statesmen when national and Imperial affairs of the first importance are concerned. Some of those who object to further discussion say that there is nothing to discuss, and this attitude is the most striking proof of the general ignorance on the subject. Others again urge that the question is one which concerns only the domestic interests of the colonies; but this, as already shown, is not the view of the colonies themselves.

The Gain.

The advantage of a discussion "by conference or otherwise" would be that principles would be enunciated and explanations promulgated with an authority to which the isolated utterances or writings of individual statesmen cannot possibly attain. From such a starting point, from principles which would become as authoritative as those of the British Constitution, it would be possible "to translate the wishes of the people into the language of statesmanship" (if I may borrow a pregnant phrase of your own) and to persuade the colonists no less than the people of India and other Asiatics, that economic necessity and not racial prejudice is at the root of the difficulty. When that is done, animosity and resentment on both sides will be reduced, for economic competition is indigenous in all countries and understood of all peoples; it is part of the natural order of human society and is capable of regulation. Racial prejudice, on the other hand, cannot be regulated by law or custom, but inevitably leads to blood strife.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
AMPTHILL.

Milton Ernest-hall, Bedford, April 14.

POLICY OUTLINED BY TOURIST ASSOCIATION

Honorary Secretary With Assistant and Committee Appointed by Executive

(From Saturday's Daily)

It was definitely decided to continue the Victoria Tourist association along the same lines as heretofore, at a meeting of the executive held yesterday afternoon. In considering the election of officers a suggestion that an honorary secretary should be appointed to supervise the work of the organization met with favor. John Nelson, manager of the Times, was nominated and elected unanimously. There were present His Worship Mayor Hall, in the chair, Alderman Cameron, W. A. McCurdp, C. H. Lugrin, J. H. Lawson, Jr. Sam Sea, W. B. Williams, F. W. Vincent, J. Nelson, G. Coldwell, J. Arbuthnot.

Attention was drawn to the petition from the real estate agents of the city to the city council protesting against the contemplated appointment of Herbert Cuthbert as secretary of the association while conducting a real estate agency. The general opinion was that such a move had been premature. It was not considered that the petitioners had any ground for the action they had taken because Mr. Cuthbert's appointment had not been definitely decided on. Even had they considered that they had reason to object those present thought that it would have been better for them to address themselves to the members of the tourist association rather than to the city council, the latter body having endorsed the policy it was proposed to adopt in expending the grant which had been made for the maintenance of the institution.

There was a lengthy discussion as to the best method to pursue in order to obtain as much benefit as possible from the outlay of the $4,000 that had been granted by the municipality. It was agreed, finally, that it would be unwise to vacate the present Fort street rooms and allow the advertising campaign to be carried on from the city hall. While this was admitted it also was patent that the expenses would have to be curtailed. Then the suggestion was ventured that an honorary secretary be selected to supervise the work, with the stenographer, Miss Atwood, as assistant secretary and a printing committee to take in hand the issuing of appropriate literature. The idea met with instant favor and, forthwith, was acted upon.

John Nelson was nominated and elected honorary secretary while Miss Atwood was given the appointment referred to. The printing committee was named as follows: John Arbuthnot, H. Kent and F. W. Vincent. It is understood that these officers will immediately proceed to prepare for the prosecution of the usual vigorous campaign in the advertising of Victoria's beauties in the effort to direct tourist travel to this part of the coast.

The meeting then adjourned

MANY INDIAN TRIBES TO RUN FOR REGATTA

Representatives From Salard, Mainland and Sound Coming for Celebration

The Indians of every tribe of Vancouver island and many of those of the mainland are expected to participate in the aquatic sports which it is proposed to hold at the Gorge in connection with the Victoria day celebration.

Chief Cooper of the Songhees band left a couple of days ago for the purpose of rounding up the natives. We will visit Cowichan, Comox, and, if necessary, will go to the West Coast in order to get into communication with the natives living on reservations in that locality. It also is his intention to spend some time on the mainland on the same business, and, besides, he will make a tour of the Sound in order to advertise the canoe races and induce some of the Indians who make their homes at different points along the north coast of Washington to come to Victoria to participate in the forthcoming festivities.

Members of the Victoria day sports committee state that a specialty will be made of the Indian canoe competitions in the Gorge regatta. They point out that the energy, the enthusiasm and the tribal rivalry always makes these contests of exceptional interest. Chief Cooper has promised to bring even more of his brethren to Victoria this year than heretofore, and those interested are of the opinion that their races will be one of the finest features of the fete.

London, Ont., May 8.—Miss Annie Purdy, aged 28 years, was probably fatally burnt at her home this morning. She had been ill, and it is supposed got up in the night to light a lamp. This morning she was found in an unconscious condition beside her bed, fearfully burnt.

SALVAGE OF THE STEAMER OTTER

Was Towed to Safe Anchor in Sydney Inlet by Fishing Schooner Alice

TEES ALSO BRINGS VESSEL

Towed Her to Port Yesterday Morning—William Jolliffe Unsuccessful

(From Saturday's Daily)

With the disabled steamer Otter, Capt. W. H. Whiteley, in tow the steamer Tees, Capt. J. Townsend, reached port yesterday morning. The Otter was found at anchor in Refuge Cove, where she was towed by the gasoline auxiliary fishing schooner Alice, Capt. G. R. Daniels, owned by E. A. Sims, of Port Townsend, formerly of Victoria, who, with the fishermen of the Alice, working on a share arrangement, will libel the C.P.R. steamer and her cargo for salvage. The William Jolliffe, standing well off the land, failed to find the derelict. Her smoke was seen off Hesquoit point from the Tees when the coasting steamer started to tow the C.P.R. freighter to Victoria, and the salvage tug returned yesterday after a vain search.

The Otter, whose tail shaft broke on Wednesday at noon, was sailed and towed by her boats toward Ahousaht after the purser and chief officer were sent to Clayoquot to telegraph for assistance, Capt. Whitely seeking to work the steamer to an anchorage. The wind veered, however, and she was anchored in 23 fathoms of water abeam of Ahousaht, six miles from the land. In this position the Alice found her and towed the Otter to a safe anchorage at Refuge Cove, a salvage job which will probably net the fishermen $4,000 or $5,000. The weather became worse soon after the Alice towed the Otter in, the wind increasing and sea raising. There was a strong gale with velocity of from 60 to 70 miles an hour and very high sea blowing while the Otter was in Refuge Cove and disaster might have occurred had the Alice not answered the distress signals made by Capt. Whiteley.

The Otter was on her way from the whaling station at Narrow Cut creek, Kyuquot, to Sechart with 400 barrels of whale oil, about 80 tons worth $110 a ton and 90 tons of fertilizer, to load more at Sechart for Victoria, when her tail shaft snapped at noon on Wednesday. She had left Kyuquot at 3 a. m. with fine weather, and Capt. Whiteley and part of his crew were sitting down to dinner when the engines suddenly raced, the vibration shaking the steamer from end to end as though an earthquake had occurred. They hurried on deck and Chief Engineer Allan was not coming from below. He told them what they had already guessed—the tail shaft had snapped just inside the tube.

The Otter swung helpless. The land was six miles away, Ahousaht, an Indian rancherie, store, post office and small settlement which lies at the southeast hand of Flores island, at the entrance to Clayoquot, was abeam; Cat-face mountain bore to the northeast. A boat was put down at once, and Chief Officer J. S. Ormiston, Purser Cridge, two seamen and a fireman started for Clayoquot, rowing. When they started off on their long pull, Capt. Whitely got a mutton-leg foresail and jib, and took advantage of a moderate breeze from the westward to endeavor to make an anchorage at Ahousaht. The wind was light and two boats were lowered, one carrying two engineers, the other a fireman and seamen, to tow the broken down vessel, while Capt. Whiteley had the wheel and the steward was the only other man on board.

Until 2 p. m. on Wednesday the boat's crew rowed, making but three miles, when the wind died down and they made no further progress. Soon the wind sprang up from the northeast and rather than be drive seaward Capt. Whitely decided to anchor. Rain was falling, the barometer dropping and dirty weather promised. Soundings were made, showing 23 fathoms and, having good gear, Capt. Whiteley decided to drop his mudhook in the great depth. He paid out 75 fathoms of chain, rigging a big tackle to allow of the vessel riding better. When the hook held, lights were prepared, the Union Jack flown upside down as a signal of distress and preparations made to stay for the night.

The steward made dinner, and the night looked most unpromising. Keen apprehension was felt, but no one cared to make known his fears to the other as the clouds lowered after sunset and the wind started to blow a fresh gale, at first from the northeast, then shifting to the southeast, blowing along the coast. The Otter then labored a good deal, straining noisily at her anchor, and night neared with the promise of a full gale. What the night would bring was a matter of keen worry, for all knew what hanging close under the land in a gale meant if the anchor parted.

Schooner Sighted.

At 8 p.m. as twilight was giving way to darkness, a schooner was seen running up from the south, southeast under her foresail. The schooner, which was about the size of the vessel of the sealing fleet, proved to be the Alice, Capt. G. R. Daniels, owned by E. A. Sims of Port Townsend with 10 fishermen, working on shares, outbound from Port Townsend to the fishing grounds. Capt. Whiteley did not think she had power, but was anxious to have the vessel stand by. He had a torch ready soaked with oil, for a night signal, and the flag was still fluttering reversed, at the jack-staff. As the Alice came up abeam the whistle was blown in four blasts of quick succession several times—the usual signal of distress, and then the schooner hauled around and stood toward the Otter. As the vessel dropped her sail it was seen she had auxiliary power, and as she came alongside in the dim light, those on the Otter heard the shouting faintly.

"What's wrong," shouted Capt. Daniels laconically.

"Broken down" answered Capt. Whitely; "Can you tow us to Ahousaht?"

"No we've not power enough," came the answer from the Alice.

There was, it seems, a council on the fishing vessel. All on board were on shares, and had a voice in the business. They had no insurance, and were afraid that their engine might be overtaxed; but they were seamen and knew the danger of leaving their fellow seamen in a dangerous position with a gale promising.

"Well try to get you to Refuge Cove" shouted a voice from the Alice.

"All right, hook on" said Capt. Whiteley, and the Alice "hooked on." Capt. Daniels put over a dorey which bobbed up and down on big seas and from this dorey a conversation was kept up while the anchor was being, with difficulty, being brought from the unusual depth. Capt. Whiteley was anxious to know if the fishermen knew the locality. "You bet" sang out one of them—and later when he came on board Capt. Whiteley found an old shipmate who had been with him on the sealing schooner Arietas and afterward on the tug Lorne. This was Bob Crowley, a former Victoria sealer, now a fisherman.

A line was drifted down with the dorey, made fast, and the Alice started for Flores island. She had no bits and had to take the line through her hawser pipes and make a bridle around the stern from the foremast. It was now about 11 p.m., very dark, and stormy, a gale blowing freshly. Soon, though, the gasoline boat and her tow rounded Cape Rafael and was brought to a safe anchorage in Refuge cove, where she rode with the wind blowing at the rate of between 60 and 70 miles an hour. Had she remained outside the situation would have been far from pleasant.

The Race to Salvage.

Meanwhile Purser Cridge had telegraphed from Clayoquot, where he arrived during the afternoon, and the steamer Tees Capt. J. Townsend, and the salvage tug William Jolliffe were racing from Victoria. A gasoline steamer, the Clayoquot, owned by the Mosquito harbor sawmill, which Mate Ormston had secured, was also starting out, and the steam whaler Orion had been ordered from Sechart. The government steamer Quadra meanwhile lay at anchor in Barkley sound.

At the same time that Capt. Whiteley was arranging with the captain of the Alice, the Tees was outbound from Victoria and the William Jolliffe, Capt. Stratford, from Esquimalt. The salvage boat had been blown down and had fired up hurriedly, starting to sea with one boiler. The Tees did all she could, but the more heavily powered tug passed her near Carmanah point about 3 a.m. on Thursday. The Tees started for Clayoquot to pick up the mate and purser of the Otter and reached there about noon on Thursday. The gasoline steamer Clayoquot had found the weather too rough to put to sea and had sheltered just beyond Sharp point, where she lay that night, within two miles of the Otter, unaware that the disabled vessel was safe at anchor at the other side of the point.

Finds the Otter

The Tees met the Clayoquot, waiting until the big sea subsided, and took off Chief Officer Ormiston of the Otter. She was proceeding seaward at the northwest of Flores island down Sidney inlet when, while passing the opening of Refuge Cove the Otter was seen at anchor. The Tees turned and steamed into the cove, dropping anchor about 30 yards from the disabled vessel. Capt. Townsend went on board and a line was made fast, the Tees starting for Victoria with her tow at 4 p.m. on Thursday.

The fishing schooner Alice remained in Refuge cove, waiting the moderation of the weather before proceeding on her cruise. Capt. Daniels came on board the Otter and procured a statement of the circumstances of the picking up of the steamer, and stated that he was willing to leave a settlement to arbitration as to the amount of salvage. The steamer is valued at $20,000, and her cargo is worth $9,000, the two being covered by insurance. The settlement will probably be made on the principal of general average, a representative of the fishermen, who share equally in the salvage money under their agreement, coming to Victoria to seek a settlement which will probably be made without recourse to litigation.

The Return

The Tees left at 4 p.m. on Thursday with her tow. She was not reported, the wireless telegraph station at Estevan point being out of repair, and the gale had put down the wire to Clayoquot. Purser Cridge and two men were left at Clayoquot, where the hotel keeper wants "their board guaranteed." A telegram was received yesterday from the purser to this effect. As she rounded out from Refuge cove smoke was seen, which was believed to be from the tug William Jolliffe toward Hesquoit point, where the salvage tug was searching for the derelict. About the same time the salvage seekers sighted smoke from the Tees and her tow and turned homeward. The lookout stations on the island coast failed to report the two steamers, and it was not until the Tees rounded Race Rocks with her tow that Victorians learned that the Otter was safe and that the Tees had brought her to port.

Capt. Townsend is winning much praise for his expeditious work in locating the Otter and his quick tow, and Capt. Whiteley is, too, getting a mead of praise for the manner in which he coped with the trying situation. The broken tail shaft and propeller was not lost. When it broke it skipped from the sleeve and jammed against the rudder post. The steamer will be taken to Esquimalt and overhauled, as soon as a survey has been made. The Tees, after mooring the disabled vessel, at once began taking coal and cargo and left early this morning for Quatsino and way ports, one day late.

ORGANIZATION HAS IMPORTANT OBJECT

Fruit Growers' Headquarters Here Will Be Bureau of Information

(From Saturday's Daily)

The affairs of the Victoria Fruit Growers Association and Exchange, Limited, are prospering greatly under the management of James Drummond, and the membership already includes some 250 persons. As the objects of the exchange become more fully known, it becomes clearer what an important factor it may become in opening up the fertile areas of the island. Not only will the association find a market for all the fruit produced, thus relieving individual growers of all anxieties in that respect, but its headquarters in Victoria will also be a sort of bureau of information for all interested in the business of fruit raising. New comers with capital desirous of embarking in the industry will there be able to get from a competent and disinterested source, valuable suggestions as to where or where not to locate, and in what sections the various kinds of fruit come to the highest degree of perfection. Inexperienced growers troubled with strange insects or other pests will there be able to get skilled advice as to the best means of alleviating the plague, and will, generally speaking, be able to take advantage of the accumulated experience of the older fruit growers. Another valuable feature of the head office, which is expected to develop as time goes on, is the fact that members are going to send in notice of their wants there when they need help. No employment bureau will be started and no fees will be charged, but those looking for employment in that line will be able to find out what positions are available.

Received with Enthusiasm

Manager Drummond has just returned from a tour of the fruit growing districts and reports that everywhere the fruit growers are welcoming the new organization with enthusiasm. Antiquated methods of growing as well as selling the fruit are being abandoned everywhere, with the result that the industry is receiving a great impetus. Discussing his tour yesterday, Mr. Drummond said:

"The fruit growers of Vancouver island and the adjacent islands are all coming into line, and are entering the organization. We had a meeting in Salt Spring island last Monday, and those interested in the fruit business all decided to join the association directly its aims were explained to them. Last year the ranchers at Salt Spring island found it almost impossible to market their fruit, many of them not getting back the cost of packing and shipping. This was simply because there was no businesslike method of handling the product, the growers being left at the mercy of the dealers. The result was that they were all disgusted, many of them talking of cutting down their orchards. The tune is changed now, and the Salt Spring men are returning to the work with renewed energy now that they are assured of reaping the proper rewards of their labors.

"The association will handle the entire crop produced by the members, and as they have their agents in all cities in which British Columbia fruit finds a market, there will be no trouble in disposing of the fruit to the best advantage, care being taken to keep all the markets properly supplied but none glutted.

At Duncans.

"I also attended a meeting at Duncans on Wednesday. It was largely attended by an enthusiastic audience, and all the fruit growers present joined the association. W. H. Hayward, M.P.P. is one of the largest stockholders. At Duncans as elsewhere, modern methods of fruit culture are being adopted by every one with the result that the quantity and average quality of the fruit is being greatly improved. There is a meeting at Gordon Head tonight, and, then I am going to Mayne island and Pender island, where the orchardists are very keen to come in and share the benefits of cooperation.

"There is no trouble about the market. The only trouble we are going to experience this year is in getting enough fruit. We have already booked orders from Australia for several car loads of apples, and we have had to turn down orders for several carloads of rhubarb which we could not fill. We also have very heavy advance bookings already for strawberries from the prairie towns. We have agents in all the prairie towns and can sell all the strawberries we can raise. We are also going to operate a jam factory and a drying plant in Victoria, which will take care of any fruit that cannot be profitably disposed of at any time where the markets are fully supplied.

Information Bureau.

"Our headquarters in Victoria are at the corner of Yates and Wharf streets and we intend to make a sort of information bureau out of it in order to take care of the business end of the industry. Everyone interested in fruit growing will be welcomed and we shall be glad to give them any information that we can, whether as to methods of fruit culture, the most advantageous localities in which to locate, or any other information that we may have in connection with the business. As our members will notify us when they need help, so we shall be often in a position to give information that will be of value to those looking for situations. There are plenty of fruit ranches where they would be glad to get young fellows anxious to learn the business before going into it themselves, and where the new settler could earn a little money while getting his eye teeth cut. In this way the newcomer is not likely to lose his money by buying unsuitable land. I was able to find a position for a young fellow just out from England with a little money only yesterday. He wanted to work on a ranch before buying one himself, and I had no difficulty in placing him.

"The fruit industry employs many hands. For instance five acres of strawberries need thirty pickers. I sometimes think that there is an opening here for female labor. Girls make the best pickers, and they could work on the fruit ranches during the spring and summer on first coming out to the country while looking for places in which to settle down permanently. At present a great deal of the picking is done by Chinamen. They are getting more independent and in every way less satisfactory every year, while they demand just as much pay as white labor. That being the case, it would be much better to employ white people. At Salt Spring island I was shown houses in which Chinese pickers had refused to live while at work. They were good houses, quite good enough for any white person, and much better than any quarters that Chinamen can get in town. But they knew they were badly needed and the result was that they got ugly because they knew they could do so with impunity."

Altogether the Victoria-Vancouver Fruit Growers' association seems to be an assured success, and to be destined to have an important part to play in the development of the island.

Will Develop Property.

On the Tees, which left for the west coast last night, was a party of men who will be engaged in the development of the property of the Nootka Marble Quarries company, in which several prominent Victoria residents are interested. The party consisted of K. Smith, Arthur Stephen, Robert Grey, William Williamson, Robert Ramsay, J. Jannet, R. Matthews, J. E. Elliott, Joseph Harvey and William Allen. As soon as the workmen are on the grounds active development of the property will be undertaken. A. W. McCurdy is president of the company; Otto Weiler, vice-president; Noah Shakespeare, treasurer, and B. G. Goward, secretary.

Amherst, N.S., May 8.—Edward Ripley was smothered to death by a fall of coal from the chutes in the Springhill mines.

LAPORTE FIEND SAID TO BE ALIVE

Remains Found in House Ruins Not Those of Mrs. Guinness

A SUSPECT IS DETAINED

Woman Thought to Answer Her Description Taken From a Train

Laporte, Ind., May 8.—One more body was added to the death roll of the Belle Guinness farm today, making a total of ten corpses and skeletons exhumed in the yard, besides the four bodies found in the ruins of the farmhouse that was burned on April 28.

Coroner Mack at first announced that the grave opened this morning contained one complete cadaver and several bones of a second skeleton, but this evening he said that what he had at first believed to be an additional thigh and arm bone in reality belonged to the first body recovered today. The body unearthed today was by far the least preserved of any of the ten relics. In addition to the usual traces of time, the body showed that a less skillful hand had dismembered it. The legs had been, as usual, severed above the knee joint, the bones were splintered, the shoulder blade shattered in cleaving the head from the body. The skull was lying near the pelvis. Nothing but a jumbled heap of decayed flesh and crumbling bones was left to indicate the identity of the person. It was thought, however, that the body was that of a woman, as a pair of women's oxford shoes and the metal frame of a woman's purse were found in the grave.

During the afternoon Sheriff Smutzer abandoned the pit explored today and transferred operations to a likely spot near the burned building, some distance removed from the burial ground, thus far explored, but no results were obtained. Digging will continue tomorrow.

Mrs. Guinness Alive.

Chicago, Ills., May 8.—A dispatch to the Inter Ocean, from Laporte, Ind., says: Mrs. Bella Guinness, high priestess of murder, who at the back door of her farm house, kept a private graveyard, from which nine bodies have been unearthed, is alive. This was established beyond a reasonable doubt yesterday. An ordinary tape measure proved the agent which may solve the perplexing mystery of the long series of startling crimes, careful measurements were taken of the headless trunk of the woman found in the ruins of the burned home, which was thought to be the body of Mrs. Guinness. This resulted in the astounding revelation that the dead woman was not more than half the size or weight of the sixty who is supposed to have lured a score of men to their deaths. In addition to the convincing testimony of the tape, half a dozen of the intimate friends of Mrs. Guinness asserted with positiveness of absolute conviction that the dead body was not that of the mistress of the castle of death on the McLung road.

Woman Detained on Suspicion

Utica, N.Y., May 9.—The Syracuse police officers took a woman from an eastbound train reaching here this morning at 1:20 on suspicion that she might be Mrs. Belle Guinness, the alleged murderess of Laporte, Ind.

The officers were informed from Rochester that the woman answered the description of Mrs. Guinness, and they boarded the train at Syracuse. The woman was asleep, and the train pulled out while she was dressing and the officers came on here. Arriving at this station, the woman said that she was Mrs. L. A. Herron, and that she was a widow from Chicago, on the way to New York to visit her sister. She said that she had been visiting her old home in Franklin, Penn., and that she took the train at Ashtabula, Ohio. She resembles in many particulars the picture published of Mrs. Guinness, but the officers are in doubt as to her being the woman wanted. She is stylishly dressed in black, and her costume is that of a widow. She declared herself the widow of a Chicago manufacturer, who died last January. When she was brought into the station here she partially broke down. She was accompanied by a benevolent looking, well dressed old lady, who she said was her mother. When questioned by the officers, she manifested indignation and produced letters connecting her with a place in Philadelphia. She had a large heavy case, which she said contained maple sugar and which she told the officers to handle with care.

The officers continued the examination of the woman in the station agent's office for some time. She protested that they had made a mistake, and that she could give addresses in Chicago, where information concerning her could be secured. It is not understood that she was under arrest here, but was detained on suspicion. Asked by one of the officers if she would return to Syracuse, paying her own fare, she indignantly said she would not. When the next westbound train reached here shortly after 2 o'clock, the officers took her back to Syracuse.

Long Absence From Home

William Scowcroft, assistant city assessor, will leave in a short time on an extended trip to the Old Country, the first time in seventeen years that he has revisited the place of his birth. Before his departure from the Old Land, Mr. Scowcroft's brother left for Brazil. Only a short time ago the brother notified Mr. Scowcroft of his intention to return to England and the two brothers will meet in the old home in Lancashire. During his visit to England, Mr. Scowcroft will attend the International Congregational conference which this year will be held in Edinburgh. He will be a delegate from the local Congregational church.

Stanstead Election Trial.

Sherbrooke, Que., May 8.—At the opening of the Stanstead election trial today against the return of Charles Lovell, Liberal, Mr. Foley, clerk of the crown in chancery at Ottawa, discovered that he had brought down the ballots for the election of 1904 instead of for the election of 1908. The case, consequently, was postponed till next month.