

PACIFIC SECTION

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ORIENTAL LABOR.

**Twelve Hundred Japanese for British Columbia from
Honolulu—Prospects of Another Coal Shortage—
Four Thousand Dollars from Four Acres.**

Monetary Times Office,

Vancouver, July 27th.

This has been a week of excitement among the Vancouver labor unions on account of the arrival of the 1,200 Japs from Honolulu. The steamer "Kumeric," with her cargo, arrived in port on Thursday night, and it was not until yesterday morning that the Dominion Immigration Inspector got through with his work of examining the horde. Care was taken by the company bringing the men here to have them fit and supplied with the necessary \$25, which amount they must have to obtain admittance to the country: practically all were passed.

Keir Hardie to Visit Jap and China Town.

On Wednesday, a committee of the Trades and Labor Council, after a conference with Mr. R. G. Macpherson, M.P., had the latter send a telegram to Ottawa urgently calling attention to the matter, but no notice has been taken of this. The Japanese consul wired to Honolulu, advising the Japs not to come, but this advice was ignored.

The labor men are taking the matter up very strongly, and purpose having a public demonstration in Vancouver when Mr. J. Keir Hardie, the noted British labor leader, arrives here next week. They will also take him on a tour through the Chinese and Japanese quarters, and show him the un-British conditions which exist there, so that he may be personally informed when it comes to a discussion in the Imperial House.

It was declared at the meeting of the committee that the C.P.R. was responsible for this influx, but Mr. R. Marpole, Western Executive of the company, lost no time in denying this statement. It matters little who are instrumental in bringing these men here; the fact remains that the Province is being flooded with an alien element which will have at least the effect of increasing the friction which exists to a more or less degree between labor and capital in British Columbia.

Coast cities are beginning to look with alarm on the prospect of a shortage of coal next winter. This subject has been mentioned before, but new light is brought to bear by the action of the Vancouver Gas Company, which has asked permission to store fuel oil, stating that it would not be able to get a coal supply. Then, too, all the vessels are leaving the coast shipping and loading for Australia, from where coal is being brought to the Pacific coast.

Supply Domestic Coal Needs First.

In British Columbia the millionaire owners of coal mines are protected by a duty, which prohibits coal coming here from Washington State. The result is that not only is a very high price charged, an increase of \$1 per ton having been made and maintained because of the scarcity, but people are put to great inconvenience. Last winter it went as far as suffering, while at the same time large cargoes of coal were being shipped daily out of the country. It is extremely probable that the Government will be appealed to in the matter, and either asked to repeal the duty or prohibit the export until the domestic supply is satisfied.

In the mining country a shortage of coal is not imminent unless another strike occurs. Not only are the present companies operating on a larger scale, but new concerns are getting into the field. The Maple Leaf Mining Company has been organized at Spokane to develop lands in Western Alberta, and A. C. Flumerfelt, president of the International Coal and Coke Company, has, with others, purchased 7,000 acres of coal lands adjoining the lands of the Galt Coal Company at Lethbridge. All these will be producing for the interior and Western market.

On the coast, the mines of the Nicola are expected to give an increased supply, but until these are shipping to coast cities it will not be known just what effect they will have on the market.

To People the Province.

The appointment of a special committee of the Western Canada Immigration Association to arrange a plan with British Columbia so that co-operation may be arrived at, will bring this Province into the scope of an organization which has done good work in enlisting capital and securing immigrants for the West. Mr. Herbert Cuthbert, secretary of the Victoria Tourist Association, was made a member of the Executive at the meeting at which this action was decided

upon, and expressed his appreciation of the work that had been done.

Mr. D. McNicholl, first vice-president of the C.P.R., spent a couple of days on Vancouver Island looking over the proposed routes of the company's extensions there, and on his return to Victoria spoke very encouragingly of the prospects. Like all railway officials, he spoke very generally, and what the company has in view is not definitely known. It is stated that not only will the line go to Alberni, but will also reach Quatsino, where a large sawmill now is, and where pulp works are proposed.

One Hundred Thousand Bottles per Day.

This company has been extending its lines on the mainland into the rural sections with great success. The line to Chilliwack is now being constructed, and an announcement of a change in route is about to be made. It was first planned to run it close to the Fraser River, but now it will go a considerable distance inland and give transportation to a district which has never hoped for it.

The furnaces of the new crystal glass factory at New Westminster were blown in this week, and in a few days the plant will be in producing operation. The capacity will be 100,000 bottles per day, and a hundred hands will be employed. A specialty will be made of fruit and pickle jars, contracts having already been made.

With the setting out of so many fruit trees in British Columbia the remark has been made that the market will be over-supplied. At present the demand is far greater than the supply, and the indications are that it will remain so. Not only is the home market growing, but Australian importers, failing in their efforts to secure apples in this Province, have placed large orders with firms in Eastern Washington. These amount to 22,000 boxes, and they will be shipped via Vancouver next fall.

Four Acres of Land Produce \$4,000 Fruit.

The fruit industry is becoming very important. Not only in the Okanagan, but in the Kootenay and Boundary, in districts devoted exclusively to mining and lumbering heretofore, orchards are being set out. Besides, small fruits are being grown. O. J. Wiggins, of Creston, Kootenay, got over \$4,000 worth of strawberries off four acres of land, and his is only one experience.

The establishment of fruit canneries will assist in the disposal of any fruit left over from shipments. The object has been to ship only the best, and with canneries in operation there will be no surplus product. Two or three of these establishments are ready to operate this season, and should find a good market in this country, where so much canned goods are used in mining and lumbering camps.

Contracts have been let in the construction of the pulp mills at Swanson Bay, and from now on the work will take a more definite shape. Preliminary surveys, etc., have consumed considerable time, but with the growth of the buildings above the ground it will be seen that this new industry is going ahead. The success of this will mean the starting of other pulp works on the coast; in fact, the one at Quatsino is going ahead anyway.

The Vancouver Stock Exchange will commence active operations on Thursday, August 1st, in the quarters which have been obtained at the corner of Pender and Hornby Streets. Call will be made at 10.30 in the morning, and the public is invited.

Vancouver Stock Exchange.

A meeting of the members was held yesterday morning, when it was unanimously resolved that the admission fee be \$500. The official list of stocks will not be decided upon until the Exchange is in full working order, and trading will be done on a temporary list in the meantime. The stocks which will be called may or may not be continued after the official list is selected.

The membership has been limited to twenty-one, and twelve have already been received. Three seats will be reserved, so that only six more will be selected at present. The secretary is now advertising for members. Applications for listing of a number of local stocks have been received, the fee for which is placed at \$50.

The Exchange has been formed along the lines of similar institutions in Toronto and Montreal, and, judging from the interest already taken, success should follow the inauguration of such a move in Vancouver.

RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION AND ORIENTAL LABOR.

The Monetary Times has made inquiries as to the report that the C.P.R. has made arrangements to import Japanese laborers. Mr. William Whyte, the second vice-president, writes in reply:—

"In respect of the report that it is intended to import several thousand Japanese for construction work I desire to say that we have not in the past, nor are we at present, making it a practice of importing, wholesale, for our construction work, laborers from Japan. We have derived excellent results from the employment of Japanese in our section and construction gangs, and we have no hesitation whatever in employing them when required."