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It is without a peer.

Saddlery Co.,

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## DUNCANS RESPONDS TO THE AWAKENING

Pretty Town in the Cowichan  
District Seemingly Approaches  
of Good Times

It has been stated that the present  
flurry in real estate throughout Victoria  
and immediate vicinity is purely local;  
that nothing like the same activity has  
been experienced on Vancouver Island.  
This has been used as an argument to  
the effect that the prosperous times are  
momentary and may be expected to sub-  
side in the course of a month or so with,  
perhaps, disastrous results to those who  
have been expressing their confidence  
in the community by investing in  
real estate and other ventures. But in-  
formation is at hand that the same  
spirit of elation, the same feeling of  
buoyancy, extends far beyond the com-  
munes of Victoria. It is noticeable at all  
points along the E. & N. line and particu-  
larly in the heretofore "quiet" little  
town of Duncan.

For the past decade or so Duncan  
has presented the appearance of a  
wealthy but somewhat staid and phleg-  
matic town. Its inhabitants until re-  
cently have seemed to have little more  
interest in life than to meet the trains  
on their arrival to and from the Cap-  
itol to converse with passengers and to  
post themselves on the news of the out-  
side world by the minutely copied news-  
paper—it didn't matter much to them  
whether it was the latest issue—  
one, two or three days old was just as  
interesting as another. Then they  
would return to their easy chair and  
enjoy the remainder of the day over a  
pipe and in quiet rumination. As some-  
one remarked with a smile, "The  
Victoria over again, only on a smaller  
scale." Most of the residents possessed  
ranches bringing them in comfortable  
revenue while the others had equal  
amounts of valuable north and south  
land. In the midst of an ex-  
ceedingly pleasant environment, with the  
beautiful Cowichan river rolling slowly  
on its way to the sea on the right and a  
perfect picture of verdant fields and  
pine forests, set off by a glimpse of an  
occasional mountain range, on every side  
the members of this fortunate com-  
munity were content to continue along upon  
their uneventful routine forgetful of ev-  
erything except that they had sufficient  
of what this world deems worth while,  
and were happy.

The Awakening

Now, however, things are changed.

The puff of the early morning or the

evening train doesn't create the same

sensation as of yore. Ranchmen no longer

drop their hoes, carpenters forget to set

aside their hammers and even the In-

dians are too busy to more than glance

at the distinctly as the engine draws

up at the depot for the purpose of de-

positing and taking on freight and pas-

sengers.

Principal among the small group, who

remain faithful to their tasks and

visit the station every morning and some-

times in the evening are the proprietors

of the two hotels of Duncan, the

always on hand, but it is part of their

business. While it is true that they ex-

tend just as warm a welcome to the

casual visitor whether he be stranger or

friend it is equally correct that they

find themselves too busy engaged to

spend more than two or three minutes

with each individual. With the same

breathless smiles they turn from one

to another holding forth the "glad

land" and making every body feel as

much at home as if he or she had just

landed in their native corner. But some-

how it isn't the same as before. The

atmosphere is different. The actions

of Frank Price, of the Tealeuchan

hotel, and of his worthy rival of the

Quamichan hotel, convey to the mind the

idea that there has been a material al-

teration in the general condition of af-

fairs within the past few months.

Passing from the station, the visitor

is further struck for on every hand

places where before were scenes of

peaceful quietude, there are now pic-

tures of marked animation. Upon one

corner where the children were in the

habit of playing "rounders," immedi-

ately after school hours, there is now

noted by a visitor on Sunday. An

inquiry from a passer-by, who appeared

to have scarcely time enough to reply

to the question brought from him a

look of incredulous astonishment at such

unheard of ignorance. Then came the

answer "Why, that's the bank. It's a

branch of the Victoria Building and

America. It's been here for some months

and I think there will be another in-

stitution of its kind established in the

near future.

Similar surprises were to be discov-

ered everywhere. Next to the afore-

mentioned bank, another somewhat im-

posing business enterprise, the

course of construction.

There were seen new residences in progress.

In short, it was evident that the little

town of Duncan, which had been prop-

riately termed "quiet" or dull, its

inhabitants had become imbued with the

same spirit that has stirred up the

elementary in Victoria, and that

other Vancouver Island centres in the

March along the highway of prosperity.

C. H. Dickie's Views

One of the most prominent residents

of Duncan is C. H. Dickie, formerly a

member of the provincial legislature.

He is typical of the revived town

which he has made his home, being most

interprising and having thorough con-

fidence in the future of the town as a

whole, and the Cowichan district in

particular. A talk with Mr. Dickie

reveals in some measure the mysterious

change which has taken place in the

conditions in Duncan. He was most

enthusiastic in commenting upon the

possibilities. With other residents of

the town he is firmly convinced that

the action of the C. P. R. in deciding upon

the expenditure of \$15,000,000 for the

clearance of the route, and the

opening of the route, will prove

beneficial to the entire Island. He thinks

possible to find a country richer in nat-  
ural resources, that when something  
more is known of the timber, the min-  
ing and its other possibilities, there will  
be such a development in trade as the  
most sanguine would not care to pre-  
dict at the present time. Dickie  
thinks that before long the growth of  
business generally will render imperative  
the bridging of Seymour Narrows; and  
surely that he is correct, while it  
might result in the establishment of one,  
or perhaps several, new towns, would  
not interfere with the progress and the  
prosperity of those already in existence.  
Whichever way the future is viewed,  
Mr. Dickie thinks, it cannot but have  
good things in store for the little town  
of Duncan—the centre of the Cowichan valley.

E. & N. Railway Extension

While the announcement by the C. P.

R. has created considerable discussion

among the residents of Duncan, the

projected extension of the E. & N. line is

a matter of the first importance in their

eyes. They are all anxious for further

information. The reason for this is not

difficult to find because they are open in

the assertion that no better starting

point for a new line could be found

than at Duncan. They argue that it

could be run along the shores of Cowichan

lake and thence to Alberni or any

course, for the pretty little town of Dun-

cans—the centre of the Cowichan valley.

Another well-known Duncan resident

who has confidence in the future growth

of the community is Harry Smith, the

proprietor of that bright little weekly

newspaper, the Cowichan Leader. He is,

perhaps, more optimistic than the aver-

age individual. Loyalty to Cowichan is

one of his chief characteristics. He is

convinced that Duncan will some day

become one of the most important indus-

trial centres of Vancouver Island. Mr.

Smith is decidedly in favour of growing

and has expressed his assurance practi-

cally by purchasing a new press and ar-

ranging to move into larger quarters.

With the prospect of a railway exten-

sion, the promise of more settlers through

the clearing of large areas of land, and

the rumors of other enterprises for the

development of Vancouver Island, the

limitable resources, Duncan people are

assuming more activity and becoming

busier than ever before. The ranchers

are looking forward to an early settle-

ment of the labor problem and, there-

fore, anticipate a successful season for

1907. "Everyone is confident." From a

visit to the town, it is evident that the

attained a realization of the necessity of

seizing and taking full advantage of the

opportunities, which are now, and will

be, in the future. The town of Duncan

is taken as assured that Duncan will

expand, commercially and otherwise,

with equal rapidity as other Vancouver

Island centres.

China, now awakening, is also having

four mills added to the never indus-

trial ventures, particularly at coast ports,

and mills are also being constructed in

Manchuria and Harbin. The new ones

are now no less than fourteen. Recent-

ly also, A. H. Rennie completed a large

mill at Hongkong and the steamer "Baz-

el" which recently called at Harbin, re-

ported a cargo of 800 barrels of flour a

day. It is estimated that the new

mill at Hongkong will be completed in

the near future. It is estimated that the

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## FLLOUR FOR JAPAN GOES ON EMPRESSES

Japanese Importer Buys Large  
Shipments at Canadian Mills  
in Northwest

The next two Empress steamers  
bound to Japan will carry large ship-  
ments of flour; for an order has just  
been given to the Lake of the Woods  
Milling company by S. Tamura, a promi-  
nent Japanese importer