

GREENHOUSE CULTIVATION

Fairview-Esquamalt Co's Fine Establishment Feature City

The products of the Fairview-Esquamalt Greenhouses Ltd., are one of the important factors in rendering Victoria the beautiful city it is conceded to be. Thousands of the plants whose blossoms lend beauty to the gardens of the city were first raised to strength in the establishment on the Esquamalt road. From a small greenhouse, the enterprise has grown till, when a Colonist representative visited it the other day, there were seven and a half acres under cultivation and some two and a half under glass.

The greenhouses throughout are modern and splendidly adapted for their special uses. The two largest ones, that have just been completed, are probably the largest and best in the province, if not the northwest. These two houses measure 40x200 feet each, and are constructed of steel frame braced in every direction. They appear to have almost the strength of a bridge. This great strength is necessary to keep the sides rigid against high winds, to which the great area of glass offers a large surface. The plants are under pressure exercised during a gale will be better realized when it is said that these two houses alone contain 35,000 square feet of glass, not to mention the carload of steel which also enters into their construction. The uprights are bedded in cement till the whole structure is for its purpose as solid as a modern steel sky scraper.

There are 12 glass houses belonging to the company, of which those mentioned are the largest as well as the most modern. The first of these is set apart chiefly for violets, sweet peas and late chrysanthemums. The other contains nothing but carnations. There were 6,000 plants of this beautiful flower set out in the greenhouse the other day, of two kinds of the famous Enchantress variety. But these 6,000 plants do not by any means constitute their entire stock of carnations. The nearest of the other houses is also full of them. This house is 22x150 feet and holds 3,500 white carnation plants, chiefly Lady Bountiful and White Perfections. And then just as he was wondering what on earth they could do with so many carnations, F. Francis, manager of the concern, took the astonished reporter to the adjoining greenhouse, where there were about 3,000 more carnation plants of one species of flower, universally popular though the carnation is.

The next greenhouse one comes to is devoted to anemones, anemones, maidenhair and other ferns. This house is kept somewhat warmer than any of those visited, for the anemone and an even temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit is maintained.

One of the most interesting houses from the point of view of the inquisitive amateur is the propagating house. This is a long, narrow glass structure, 100 feet wide by 100 feet in length, and is used for the propagation of the forcing of pipes, bulbs, cuttings, and so forth. The equipment consists of a long, shallow shelf covered with a few inches of ordinary sand, not sea sand, but common fine sand from a sand pit. This is kept reasonably moist, the water being supplied from the steam pipes underneath the shelf. Here were hundreds of tiny plants in various stages of early growth. Many of them were the popular begonia, "Glorie de Lorraine," for Mr. Francis is one of the "first" men on the Pacific coast who is uniformly successful in raising a very high proportion of cuttings of this beautiful plant. He uses leaves and gets results from over 90 per cent. Many a florist has to be content with 50 per cent, but Mr. Francis seems to have got the required knack, and his plants thrive. But perhaps the most interesting of the young plants at the time of the visit was the lily-of-the-valley. There were hundreds of these beautiful flowers in full growth, evidently none the worse for having been kept frozen for a large part of their earlier career. The lily-of-the-valley plant is not produced in this country. It has to be imported. In various parts of Germany, Belgium, and Holland, the production of lilies-of-the-valley is a highly organized industry, and they export the "pipes" to all parts of the world. These pipes are to the lily-of-the-valley what the bulb is to other kinds of flowers, and possess the unusual faculty of flourishing in cold storage. They are usually kept in cold storage for a year, and they can be frozen as hard as a pebble without apparent injury. When wanted they are taken out and planted in warm wet sand and three or four weeks is required to produce the flower in all the pale purity of its beauty. The pip is not self-producing. It grows, shoots a tuft of beautiful leaves around the delicate bell-like flower, and then dies forever. Thus new supplies of pipes have to be constantly on hand. This is why lilies-of-the-valley are equally obtainable the year round. In a state of nature they bloom only in the spring, but thanks to cold storage, the florists can grow them at any time.

Right off the propagating house the orchid section of the establishment is to be found. There is a warm abode 75x75 feet. At the end again is a long narrow house 12x100 feet, given up to pot plants of various kinds. Next is the chrysanthemum house, 25x100 feet, where the favorite flower of the Japanese is to be seen to the fullest advantage. Every hue is to be found nestling and abiding in the place. From the chrysanthemum one passes to a mass of green and color. Not a very large house (it is 15x75). It is crowded with the choice begonias, "Glorie de Lorraine" and Polkaettias. This last grows in the open in California, but in this climate it must be reared under glass. It is not a summer flower, but about Christmas time it bursts into flaming red shoots. These are much used for decorative purposes, and are in great demand at

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AUTUMN SPORT

Englishmen Urged to Make a Holiday Trip to the Dominion

A correspondent of the London Times writes as follows: "Now that there are 30-knot boats on the St. Lawrence route, it is strange that so few English sportsmen spend an autumn holiday in one or other of Canada's many hunting grounds. For one Englishman who visits them in quest of big game or wildfowl there are at least 50 Americans, some of whom come up every year from the Southern States or the still more remote Southwest. No doubt it is the dread of an undue expenditure of time and money which keeps the former away. But the few days spent aboard a Canadian liner (which is always more of a ship than an hotel) are by no means wasted, al-

though this wild world of rock and cataract. If it was to Scotsmen mainly that the C.P.R. owed its origin, it is in great part to Scotsmen that the burden of responsibility for the prosperity of the concern still rests. Among the present directors are Lord Strathcona, Sir George Drummond, Mr. Angus, after whom the company's construction shops at Montreal are named, Sir Sandford Fleming, Mr. R. G. Reid, and Mr. D. McNeill—all Scotsmen. And again in the executive, whose eye the actual everyday work of the company is carried on, Scotsmen take a notably prominent part. Mr. McNeill, first vice-president and general manager, a man of altogether remarkable power and ability; Mr. William Whyte, second vice-president; Mr. W. S. McNeill, Taylor, treasurer; Mr. McNeill, traffic manager; Mr. Robert Kerr, passenger traffic manager—these, the very hand-

PRAISES C. P. R.

Writer Says it Touches Dominion on Every Phase of Life

T. B. MacLachlan, writing in the Edinburgh Scotsman, says: "To think of the industrial enterprise of Canada is to have one's mind filled with the exclusion of almost everything else, with the Canadian Pacific railway. The traveler does not go far afield before he begins to realize that Canada is the C. P. R. and the C. P. R. is Canada. It has carried him in a sumptuous liner from Liverpool to Quebec. It whisks him thence across the continent for three thousand miles, through forest, prairie, and mountain; and if he be so minded, he may continue his journey on reaching the Pacific to far China or Japan in the C. P. R. Orient fleet. The company owns millions of acres of land,

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A SMILING LAND

Meet for the Summer Tourist and Rich Financier

Harold Begbie, of the London Daily Chronicle, tells of questioning a Londoner in the Rockies about his experience in Canada.

I met a lugubrious Cockney in the midst of the Rocky Mountains, at a little wayside railway station, where a Chinaman was sprinkling sandy flower-beds with a garden hose. My Cockney was sauntering through the cool sunshine of an early morning at the end of a stick. From the centre of the stick was suspended a pot of paint, and the other end of the stick was in a second man. The two laborers set down their load, and the Cockney, looking on one leg, inquired how I fared.

He was decently pleased that I felt admiration for the tall mountains and the broad waters of his adopted country. He heard with a restrained pride that I had enjoyed my trip across the continent. He agreed with a good grace that Canada is a fine territory, and asked how long he had been in the country.

"Couple of years," he replied, mournfully. "And you like it?" I inquired.

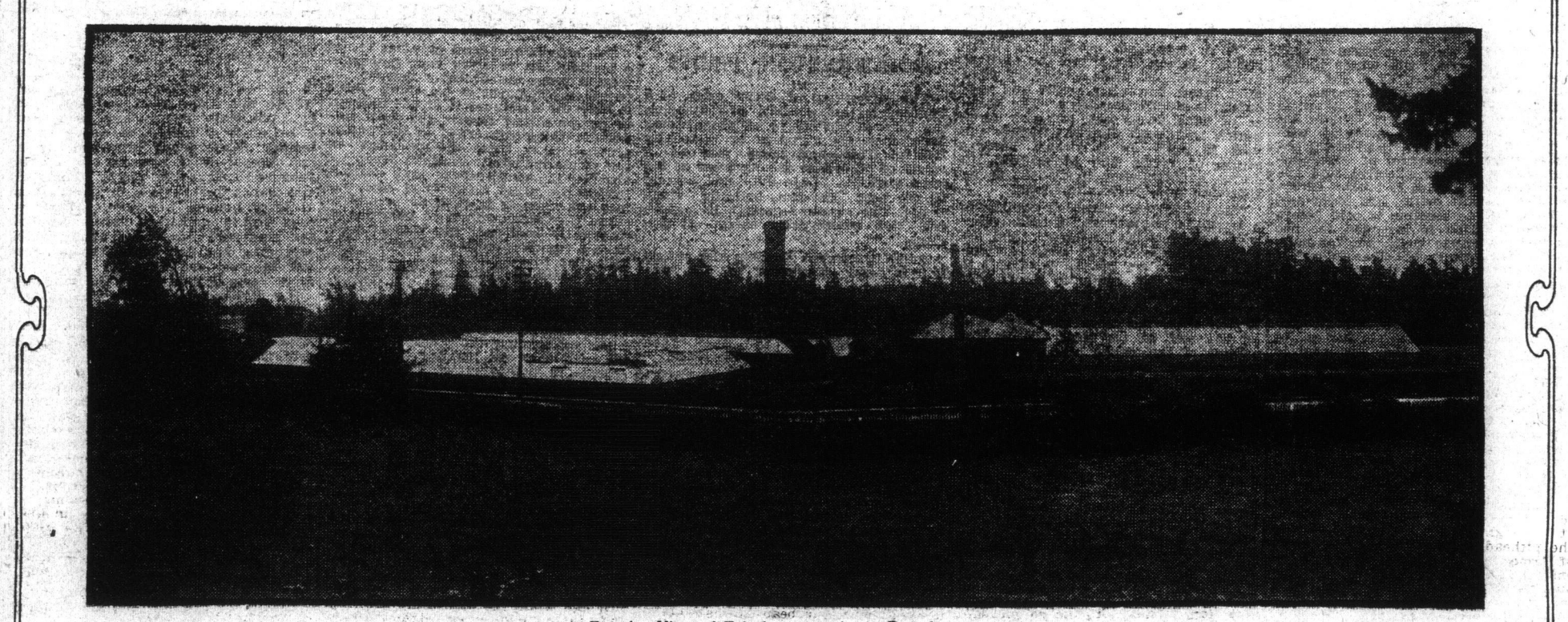
"Oh," he replied, resuming the natural gloom of his countenance, "it's not so bad, take it all round, if a man don't mind roughing it a bit."

We talked for a little longer, and then he took up his end of the dual burden, and the two laborers stroiled laboriously away to the garden of a lordly hotel. I stood and watched them roughing it until they were out of sight, which was a tedium of the eye.

I believe with all my heart that this good fellow, earning his twelve to sixteen shillings a day, living in a comfortable house lighted by electricity, surrounded on all sides by the purest of the purest air, and the healthiest with a free school for his children as much fishing and shooting for himself as any man could wish, and the nearest close to his hand, truly and earnestly is persuaded, just because he is some five thousand miles from the Three Nuns at Aldgate, that he is roughing it. And if he is so persuaded, how may I hope, most patient and gentle reader, to illumine the dark minds of my fellow-countrymen in England? How can I hope to convince the intelligentsia of England that the heroic work of the pioneers is done, and that Canada is the land of the future for the summer tourist and meet for the rich financier?

On the other hand, and significant character in the life-story of these captains of industry is that many of them have risen to eminence and affluence from very humble origins. Mr. McNeill and Mr. Whyte, now the first and second vice-presidents, began railway careers in Fife-shire, and both emigrated to Canada at an early age. Mr. Whyte was only nineteen when he came over, and Mr. McNeill was only twenty. He started as a brakeman on the Grand Trunk railway at a wage equal to about thirty shillings a week. He worked his way up step by step, moving from one railway to another, and joining the Canadian Pacific railway almost at the beginning of the enterprise, was ultimately elevated to his present onerous position.

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Exterior View of Fairview-Esquamalt Greenhouses.

kinds. The outsider would think the rose season was over, but this is not so with the Fairview nurseries. Here good discipline is kept, and they are only just beginning to be allowed to bloom. In the summer when the outdoor roses are in luxuriance the buds of the indoor variety are cut off and the plants kept back ready for the time when their outdoor rivals bloom no more, although the ladies want flowers as badly as ever. The roses were just coming on on the occasion of this visit, and they will bloom all through the winter till the spring. They are marvelous of scientific culture and careful tending. Last spring those 1,600 magnificent plants were puny little shoots rising a bare two inches above their pots. Now set out and transplanted they are from two to four feet high with every sign of fully developed beauty. Many kinds of roses are there. A short examination revealed the red Richmond, yellow Perle des Jardins, Sunrise, Killarney, Madame Chatney, Bridesmaid, and Uncle John. Other kinds are also there, but the list given will afford an idea of the wide range of choice afforded the rosiest lover. The plants are not for sale, but are cultivated solely for the cut flower trade.

This extensive plant requires a deal of tending, and Mr. Francis and eight men are kept busy looking after the welfare of their delicate charges. One of these works at night, for the temperature in the various houses must be kept up, and the new 70 horse-power boiler which supplies the needed warmth must be kept going. The heating plant is another of the recent improvements, and besides the boiler referred to a new brick smoke-stack 80 feet high, towers conspicuously among the glass.

Unceasing care and long experience seem to be the chief secrets of the great success of the enterprise. Visitors are welcomed at all times and freely shown all there is to see. Asked what soil is used in his hot houses, Mr. Francis said the last lot used was the sod off an old pasture, about one-third manure. This has been allowed to remain piled up all winter and had proved most satisfactory. He did not appear to be much of a believer in the steady use of chemical manure in greenhouse work. His experience was that the plants grew rankly, to the detriment of the flowers and that eventually the plants were apt to be altogether ruined.

For a lover of flowers it would be hard to spend a more pleasing and instructive hour than in a visit to the Fairview greenhouses. The ample grounds are open to all visitors by Mr. Francis, the courteous manager, and the sight of the flowers will well repay the time taken. There can be seen all the favorite flowers and not a few of the less common kinds growing in full luxuriance. Their career can be traced from the shoot to the full grown plant, and the visitor can see the plants themselves are beautiful, with their masses of varying shades of green, enlivened by countless blossoms of every hue. They are interesting to the horticulturist and delightful to the lover of nature.

Besides the glass there are several acres of open-air culture. Strawberry, raspberry, and various other fruit plants are grown with the same success which characterizes the greenhouse cultivation.

ways provided the smoking room is avoided. Shooting or "hunting," as the Canadians call it, in the backwoods or on the high prairies, is always a more arduous pursuit than the sport of the stay-at-home Englishman, who shoots grouse or partridges or pheasants, and for all that the lighter and brisker atmosphere of the Dominion raises all one's physical faculties to a higher plane of efficiency, a week or so of life in the open air is an admirable training for the serious business of the tour.

The return voyage serves to obliterate the fatigue of several weeks of strenuous hunting, and the hunter returns in the possession of robust health to face the horrors of an English winter fearlessly and indefatigably. Those who have the time to spare need not fear that any of it will be wasted in crossing and recrossing the Atlantic. As regards the expenditure of money, it may be said that the whole cost of the sport itself need not exceed the cost of a single traveling expense if, as is his duty to himself, he decides to imitate the English example by hiring a Canadian guidebook. Nearly every American fellow-sportsman (who will be only too pleased to help him by advice and by their companionship) and limits his staff to a single competent guide, who will expect about \$2.00 (that a guinea) a day, together with his food, of course, and will be as well as well as gamekeeper. Now and again the Canadian hunting

grounds are visited by an Englishman—a! that it should always be an Englishman—who engages a whole retinue of camp servants to relieve him of every vexatious exertion—except that of missing his shots. Such a person loses a great opportunity of learning something about the science and art of camping comfortably in the wilderness, an object-lesson in which is alone worth the time and money expended on a sporting holiday in Canada. Rightly considered, the art and science of setting and non-ducing a camp is the A B C of practical warfare. It is impossible to learn it in a thickly-settled country such as England. The English sportsman in Canada, if he is wise and practical-minded, will learn all that he can about it and cheerfully act as "chose boy" or performer of odd jobs, carefully carrying out the instructions of his hunting companion, who, seeing that his employer is willing to ac-

quire the habit of all-round usefulness, will bring out of the treasury of his remembrance things both new and old and make the camp fire a veritable hearth of romance. The visitor should take particular pains to learn how to cook a plain meal in the open air economically, efficiently, decently, and with dispatch. Let him remember how many lives were lost in South Africa for want of a rudimentary knowledge of plain open cooking.

If he decides to hunt in Canada as the Canadians hunt, the total outlay on his expedition need not exceed £120 for three weeks in the woods. The necessary camp equipment can always be bought or hired on reasonable terms. Trustworthy information as to the various big game districts, the best way of reaching them, suitable hostels for sportsmen, names of persons who will provide guides, etc., is given in the guidebook. Nearly every Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk, and other railway companies, and in the provincial guidebooks. The sportsman who has the time and the courage and perseverance to carry through that stupendous feat of engineering, the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway. Admiration for their faith and fearlessness in the face of every discouragement is the uppermost feeling in passing over the dizzy precipices, and while rushing and one gases awe-struck upon the nature's lost in amazement at the splendid audacity of the men who dared even to think of howing a way

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CURRENT

The news that comes this week tells a sad story of a number of men who have been long and learned that the mail out a large part of the miners had found this field of Tanana. A small and escaped with. After wasting much time they were arrested and the shame and disgust killed himself. If the R. company will not do as hard to earn an they did to scheme without work how many have been and sorrow would be to those who love though they are.

We mentioned last week the case of Thomas Shaughnessy. One of the officials who were sent from the old station after being brought by the authorities have stood it that they will all be sent to the street for running the street on conditions of the company. It is therefore some freight sheds, or perhaps will be built, and get goods coming by as promptly as they can.

The Methodist church and God man when passed away on Oct. 28. He was known all over the province and his eloquence and his labors for the cause of the church were well known. He has been the education for the A. He is one of those who came to Canada as a seen Canada and the powerful and united stretches from the A.

It is not often that a man has been great and changed the laws of his country. It has been many ways. In our time Roosevelt seems to have been the only one who has been so great.

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