

Weekly Colonist

From the COLONIST HOLIDAY NUMBER, Dec. 29, 1887.

cluded his beautiful "Ladder of St. Augustine" thus:

Not even the irrepressible war, as wholly wasted, wholly vain, as the Atlantic to something nobler we attain.

Therefore whosoever thou art that sufferest, try not to dissipate thy sorrow by the breath of the world, or drown its voice in thoughtless lamentation. It is a treacherous peace that is purchased by indulgence. Better take thy sorrow to thy heart and make it a part of thee, and shall nourish thee till thou art strong again.

This glorious summer we have had this year, fading even in memory, and its music begins to sound, very faint and far. Already the chill touch of winter is upon the year, and the last days of the year are being swept away like the late lingering leaves which November winds stripped from living trees.

The months have slipped away as in a dream, so clearly and sweetly have they been. It is strange to look back where we once looked forward, and to recall our hopes, our fears and resolves for the year that was now then and is old now. Well for us that we are blind to the future, that we must take what day brings, and trust for the rest.

If we could foresee, here as they are to be, with all the burden of sorrow, suffering and care—with the noblest impulses too, ten chartered and the holiest aspirations betrayed, our strange perversity in taking true for false and false for true, if we could cross—

Each winding of that mournful way.

Each inlet of that mournful way, it would be too much for human weakness; we should cease to struggle, and give up the conflict in despair. And yet in the worst of time, sustained by some divine power within us, and cheered by the faith that evil cannot prevail for the world of nature, we brave ourselves up after our worst defeats and our worst pain; and sometimes as we turn to gaze upon rugged ways along which we have toiled and stumbled with storm all around us, the very light of heaven seems to fall on the darkness, touching it here and there with sacred and solemn splendor, so that on looking back the years of our sorrow are fairer than the years of our joy, and we would not change the time of trial for that of triumph. It is only as each period of life goes past that we can read its lesson either for ourselves or for others; only then does its message sound clear, and the difficulties and dangers which the unseen future has in store. And, as with the close and the beginning of each year the world's great wheel seems to come round again, then not unawakened do we set ourselves to review the past with what skill we may. Would that to a wretched pen than ours had been allotted the task in this year of grace, 1887!

PROGRESS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

In the good old days from 1858 to '62, when the news of rich gold deposits on the Fraser river and other parts of the province, brought thousands of hardy gold seekers from California and Australia, the Hudson Bay Company, which up to that time had been a monopoly, changed its policy, and allowed the new life and vigor which introduced such marked changes, would mark the influence which made its factors masters of the position. The rapid immigration to the shores of British Columbia was at first looked upon by those who were at the time as an invasion of territorial rights, but awakening from the primitive close forts and stockades which the onward march of immigration had outgrown, they found it necessary to infuse new ideas to keep pace with the progress and advancement which directed increasing trade in new channels. Almost from the first, as an invasion of territorial rights, but awakening from the primitive close forts and stockades which the onward march of immigration had outgrown, they found it necessary to infuse new ideas to keep pace with the progress and advancement which directed increasing trade in new channels.

OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

Nothing so characteristic of the present age as its intellectual activity and progress. Knowledge is becoming the controlling power over us.

Every despotic government recognizes this. Even despotic governments recognize that the true national stability and prosperity is only by means of skilled labor, wisely and intelligently directed, that a people can become or remain prosperous and happy—it is only by means of intelligent and honest workers that liberty can be preserved and maintained.

It is only by means of a skill more complete education of all classes than hitherto has been given, that a higher type of social development, that is the underlying principle that led to the inception of what is commonly known as the Public School System.

It is quite a coincidence that two provinces of the Dominion, so widely separated as British Columbia and New Brunswick, should in the same year (1872) adopt a Free School Act, both modeled after a similar act passed in Ontario as early as the year 1846, but subsequently changed and amended, before it was brought into a satisfactory shape.

The establishment of a free school system in Vancouver Island was attempted before the union with the colony of British Columbia, but from the time of that event until 1873 school matters in this province were in a most crude and unsatisfactory state.

Under the provisions of the "Public School Act, 1872," John Jessup, Esq., was appointed Superintendent of Education, and ably discharged the duties of that important office until the date of his resignation in August, 1878. His successor was C. O. McKenna, Esq., M. A., who held the position until April, 1884, and during his term of office displayed no incommensurable energy.

Until the passing of the act just referred to full control over educational matters was vested in a Board of Education, composed of six "fit and proper persons," appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and presided over by the Superintendent of Education. After the abolition of this board in 1878, the duties belonging to it were transferred to the Educational Department; a more complete control over local school matters was given to Boards of Trustees—notably the power of appointment and dismissal of teachers, formerly held by the Board of Education, and a system of monthly reports of the attendance, etc., of each school was instituted, the teacher being required to supply both the Education Office and the Trustees with monthly information of all matters pertaining to such school.

From the introduction of the Public School System into the province until the present time the whole cost of maintaining the school machinery has been paid directly from the Provincial Treasury, and the liberality with which education is here provided for must command the admiration of all, when it is stated that whereas thirty years ago children of between six and sixteen years of age within the radius of a few miles, a school house, well built, the salary of a teacher provided for, as well as the incidental expenses arising from the maintenance of the same.

The gradual growth of the schools, as well as the cost of maintenance, is fully shown by the following tabular statement, taken from the Annual School Report of 1885-6:

Table with columns: Year, Total number of pupils enrolled, Boys, Girls, Average daily attendance.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

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VICTORIA.

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THE LUMBER INDUSTRY.

The chief timber limits of British Columbia are to be found on the east coast of Vancouver Island, extending from Swanquam Lake to Adams River, and from Burrard Inlet to beyond Port Navel on the mainland.

The largest limits exist in the Seymour district, and especially at Duncan's Bay, Seymour Narrows. Those which have been drawn upon for the past twenty-five years, are on Burrard Inlet, Howe Sound, Jervis Inlet, and as far north as Rapid, and along the east coast of the island to the first fifteen years of their existence would probably have an output of between forty and fifty million feet annually. This has increased, especially during the past year, by the addition of other mills, until the coast mills will now total fully ninety million feet as the annual production of lumber. In the interior, the principal being that of the Shuswap Milling Company, at Kamloops. The output of these mills would be under ten million feet, a total of one hundred million feet as the output for the province. The gradual working out of the Geographical features of the province, and the timber resources of Ontario, have caused the attention of mill-men to be directed to the Pacific coast, and a number of the chief men in the milling business in the east have secured large limits on this island, and there is every prospect that during 1888 mills will be erected of sufficient capacity to increase the annual production to over two hundred million feet. The timber limits of the interior, which are very much scattered, will also be called upon. Excellent cedar and white pine exist in abundance in the Gold Range, the extreme western range of hills of the Rocky mountains principally in the neighborhood of Kamloops, while the Douglas fir is also to be found in considerable quantity on the Seymour Arm of Shuswap Lake. With the present mill capacity it would have had to construct how long the timber limits of British Columbia will meet the demand. Although there seems to be an inexhaustible quantity of the present resources, who have an intimate knowledge of the matter, are of the opinion that, with the additional demand that is certain to be made on our timber resources in the near future, the supply will be worked out in a little more than a quarter century. While this may or may not be the case, it is important that every possible effort should be made to secure a valuable resource, and the monarchs of the forest saved from wanton destruction. The action of the government last year in preventing

THE SEALING INDUSTRY.

The sealing industry of the North Pacific coast, extending from California to Behring's Sea, has during the past few years, grown into considerable prominence, and especially has been brought before the world through the unrelenting depredations of the American sealers in sealing the high seas where they were engaged in hunting seals.

It is speaking in bounds to say that these schools are held in the highest esteem by our citizens.

Even in provinces that can boast of a Normal School, the establishment of Teachers' Institutes has been considered necessary in order to secure in a high degree as possible the benefits contemplated by its school system. These useful conventions were held in this province as early as 1874, but the most successful Educational Institute, which is provincial in its character, was organized in 1885 by D. Pope, Esq., B. A., the present able Superintendent of Education, and may now be considered as an integral part of our school system. Three branch institutes were subsequently formed, and have done much to elevate the tone of the profession and bring about uniformity of method. From the large number of teachers present at every meeting of these institutes, and from the deep interest manifested by all in the proceedings of each session, there is no doubt but that these annual gatherings prove most beneficial to the educational work of the province.

While the educational wants of previous years were met in a crumbly manner, yet it must be admitted that the present government has shown great liberality towards the educational welfare of our children. The fact that at last session over \$100,000 were voted for this purpose shows that the government are fully alive to the calls of parents on behalf of their children.

Under the present regime the Provincial Secretary is at the head of the Educational Department, and the Hon. John Robson, as Minister of Education, is deserving of the highest praise for the practical manner in which he has discharged the very responsible duties of his office.

On all occasions the gentleman has been present to lift up an eloquent voice in the discussion of all matters connected with that subject, which is so intimately associated with the progress and prosperity of a people.

Any sketch of our school system would be incomplete without a mention of the gentleman who has for the last four years occupied the important position of Superintendent of Education— we refer to S. D. Pope, Esq., B. A. The province was fortunate in securing the services of such a ripe scholar and thorough educationist. Since his appointment every year in the year, the first fifteen years of their existence would probably have an output of between forty and fifty million feet annually. This has increased, especially during the past year, by the addition of other mills, until the coast mills will now total fully ninety million feet as the annual production of lumber. In the interior, the principal being that of the Shuswap Milling Company, at Kamloops. The output of these mills would be under ten million feet, a total of one hundred million feet as the output for the province. The gradual working out of the Geographical features of the province, and the timber resources of Ontario, have caused the attention of mill-men to be directed to the Pacific coast, and a number of the chief men in the milling business in the east have secured large limits on this island, and there is every prospect that during 1888 mills will be erected of sufficient capacity to increase the annual production to over two hundred million feet. The timber limits of the interior, which are very much scattered, will also be called upon. Excellent cedar and white pine exist in abundance in the Gold Range, the extreme western range of hills of the Rocky mountains principally in the neighborhood of Kamloops, while the Douglas fir is also to be found in considerable quantity on the Seymour Arm of Shuswap Lake. With the present mill capacity it would have had to construct how long the timber limits of British Columbia will meet the demand. Although there seems to be an inexhaustible quantity of the present resources, who have an intimate knowledge of the matter, are of the opinion that, with the additional demand that is certain to be made on our timber resources in the near future, the supply will be worked out in a little more than a quarter century. While this may or may not be the case, it is important that every possible effort should be made to secure a valuable resource, and the monarchs of the forest saved from wanton destruction. The action of the government last year in preventing

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY ARE HUNTED—RETURN OF THE CATCH OF 1887.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERIES.

The following exhaustive tabular return of the product of our salmon fisheries for the year 1887, will repay a close inspection. The particulars given below are much more minute than any hitherto published outside of the annual reports of the Department of Fisheries. There are now twenty-one canneries established in different parts of the province, but the coming season will doubtless see a still greater number in operation. Twelve of these establishments are located along the banks of the Fraser River; five on the Skeena river; two at Rivers Inlet. The latter, however, confined its attention this year to salting salmon. Of the total catch of 205,098 cases for the season of 1887, 131,123 cases are credited to the twelve Fraser River establishments, being an average of 10,927 per cannery. The five companies on the Skeena river, on the other hand, were very successful, and their catch was somewhat better showing, their catch being 68,562 cases or an average of 11,712 each. The fishing season at Rivers Inlet was also most unpropitiously short; the fish disappeared entirely as a period which at other seasons marked the lapse of only half the run, as a result of the late start of the season. This was in consequence of the two institutions of this inlet, which but 11,203 cases, a little over 5,000 each. The Alert Bay Canning Co., report 4,200 cases.

Employment is given in the salmon canneries to 2,948 fishermen and 2,445 shoremen, a total of 5,393. Besides this number there are total of 4,692. Besides this number there are total of 4,692. Besides this number there are total of 4,692.

The season opens in March, when the seals turn their faces northward from the southern waters where they have been spending the winter months. The sealers first visit the California coast, where they in all probability meet the vanquished army, and they find the sealers of Vancouver, when it is time to return to Victoria, store the skins, and reft for the hunting grounds in Behring's Sea. For this point a start is generally made in June and a return in August or September. The number of seals captured off the coast in 1887 was 19,054, the rest from Behring's sea, 21,716, the latter included those in the possession of the Americans, for which undoubtedly ample reparation will be made.

It is in Behring's sea that the great sealing grounds are located, and which have attracted the Russian, American, and Canadian alike, since their discovery by Pribylov in 1786, and the Americans on the transfer of Alaska to the United States in May, 1867, and the latter within the past few years. After the discovery of the sealers of Vancouver, when it is time to return to Victoria, store the skins, and reft for the hunting grounds in Behring's Sea. For this point a start is generally made in June and a return in August or September. The number of seals captured off the coast in 1887 was 19,054, the rest from Behring's sea, 21,716, the latter included those in the possession of the Americans, for which undoubtedly ample reparation will be made.

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