

A BIG EXCURSION WILL COME NORTH

H. CUTHBERT TELLS
OF THE PLANS MADE

Victoria Tourist Representative Returned Last Night From a Tour to California.

Herbert Cuthbert, secretary of the Tourist Association of Victoria, "The Moon City of the Pacific Northwest," as he describes this city, returned from California Thursday. He went to California three weeks ago on the invitation of the commercial bodies of Washington, and while there he visited the many attractions of British Columbia, and of this city in particular. The excursion carried south from Tacoma over 100 enthusiastic businessmen and stops were made at Portland, Sacramento, San Francisco, Palo Alto, Del Monte, San Jose, Pasadena, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles, where the tour ended.

In an interview this morning Mr. Cuthbert said that one result of his trip was that he has arranged to reach 1000 visitors to California this year. At every place in Southern California where a railway ticket is taken for validation the holder will be informed of this city. As previously mentioned, Mr. Cuthbert attended a reception tendered by the Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles, and he was invited to attend a regular meeting of that body, a privilege considered a very complimentary one, and rarely extended to visitors. The chamber has a membership of 25,000 of the most influential men in California. At the meeting Mr. Cuthbert took occasion to invite the chamber to get up a return excursion from California to Victoria this year.

A visit to Portland and to the different cities in Washington represented. The project was favorably entertained. The plan is that the Los Angeles delegation shall leave home shortly before the middle of July and go to San Francisco, where it will be entertained by the commercial bodies of that city. Thence the delegations from the two cities will proceed to Sacramento, where they will be the guests of the California capital. From Sacramento the excursionists will come north in three special trains provided by the Southern Pacific, one train being set aside for Los Angeles, a second for San Francisco, and the third for Sacramento. Two days will be spent at Portland before the trains proceed to Tacoma, where another day at least will be spent. Seattle will in turn be visited, where the excursionists will take the steamer for their ultimate destination. While in Victoria the visitors from the States will be royally entertained for at least three days. Trips will be taken to all important points of interest, and the excursionists will be provided with all the comforts and conveniences of a first-class party.

Mr. Cuthbert completed arrangements for the running of the special trains before starting for Victoria. All the newspapers from Los Angeles north have taken hold of the project in an enthusiastic manner, the Portland Oregonian especially having given the project the most prominent place in its editorial columns.

The arranging of this excursion was the biggest result acknowledged by any city represented, and the publicity Victoria has gained, and the gain, in the number of visitors, could not have been covered in any other way by the expenditure of many thousands of dollars.

"With reference to the travel this year," continued Mr. Cuthbert, "my opinion is this: There is likely to be almost as good travel in volume as last year, although it will be more scattered. It won't come in a bulk at any particular time, but the people who come will be more like the steady stream of the past year. It will be as good as the actual results should be better this season. I know that there is an effort being made by all the railway companies who have connections with the Sound country to draw travel this way, and special rates are in operation now for that purpose. Besides that, there is the general desire on the part of friends of the city who were here last year to come and see the country for themselves. One evidence of the interest taken by the railway companies in this section is that whereas last year a company which is not very large, the Canadian Pacific, distributed 1,500 of the books of the Victoria Tourist Association, this year they asked for 15,000. Another company has undertaken to hang 100 of the association's new posters in prominent positions. This is one of the great values to the city of a permanent department where, when opportunities are offered by big corporations who have the power to do a city some good, all the material is available for that purpose. The tourists have commenced to come north, and notwithstanding that last year was such a good one in consequence of the Lewis and Clarke expedition, in Portland, Ore., and in California this year has exceeded all records."

EMBARGO ON CATTLE

London, April 6.—The general interest in the bill introduced by Thomas Cairns, Liberal, providing for the removal of the restrictions on the importation of Canadian cattle, was demonstrated today by the unusually large attendance at the House of Commons.

Mr. Cairns, who is a ship owner, in moving the second reading of the bill, stressed on the injury to shipping interests by the unusually large attendance of Canadian cattle, and criticized the present act as being protective and as violating the principles of free trade. He pointed out that the bill had been introduced in the House of Commons in 1894, and that it had been given other purposes at the time. He further experiments bear out the present satisfactory results, the probabilities are that while oil will be used altogether in the Extension mines.

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SERIOUS ACCIDENT.

Hugh Wade, of Central School, Wounded With Chisel While Attending Manual Class.

An unfortunate accident occurred on Wednesday, the victim of which was Hugh Wade, a ten-year-old lad and a student at the Central school. While attending to his duties in connection with the manual training institution he was stabbed with a chisel in the side, the wound inflicting a serious injury, the wound inflicting a serious injury, the wound inflicting a serious injury.

The circumstances as related by those present at the time are as follows: Members of the class were grouped about a whetstone sharpening their chisels in a friendly manner, when two of the boys commenced pushing each other about in a friendly spirit. While thus engaged Master Wade was shoved against the keen edge of a chisel, which penetrated his clothes and entered his body, inflicting a wound, as already stated, of some depth. Those responsible expressed the deepest regret, and no time was lost in summoning medical assistance. In the hospital, the wound was treated, and the boy was simply "cutting up," as they will do at every possible opportunity, and that the rumor to the effect that the act was premeditated and due to malice was absolutely erroneous.

THIS PROVINCE IS ATTRACTIVE TO EAST

J. A. Grant Says Many Fruit Growers
Desire to Come West to
Settle.

J. A. Grant, of this city, who was one of the delegates from the province of British Columbia to the Fruit Growers' convention held at Ottawa recently, has returned after paying a visit to New York and other cities of the East. The province was represented at the convention by A. Maxwell Smith, Martin Burrell, J. C. Metcalf, E. M. Palmer and Mr. Grant. The delegation did effective work in attracting the attention of the convention to the resources of this province in the line of fruit production.

The British Columbia representatives took with them to the convention three cases of Spitzberg apples grown at Trout Creek, near Nelson. While the delegates were in the city of Ottawa, the three cases from British Columbia were put forward. The convention was carried away by the display presented. One of the eastern delegates had said that the British Columbia fruit was of a peculiar character. From the apples from the province were distributed among the delegates present this member was asked to deliver the paper on the subject. He said he was forced to acknowledge that his information had been at fault. All pronounced the fruit of the very best quality, and there was a general desire to come west to settle. The purchase of the extension of the premises they have shown that business is rapidly growing. This is all the more marked in view of the fact that the present premises occupied by the firm were constructed within very recent time, and were built with a view to affording accommodation for the future. That the premises should so soon be found cramped speaks well alike for the firm and for the city.

On the conclusion of the exhibition of the fruit, the governor-general, Earl Grey, was presented with a case of the British Columbia apples. Among the practical advantages of the convention was the fixing of a standard box for apples. This was decided upon to conform with the box now used in this province. At the same time a standard barrel for apples was fixed, being put at 28 inches in height.

After a visit through the eastern states, Mr. Grant was more than pleased with the Dominion of Canada. The advantages in favor of the fruit grower come out of the side of the Dominion. But with respect to Canada the east was away behind the province of British Columbia. He says that there is noticeable a very strong inclination on the part of those living in the east to come out and settle in British Columbia. The advantages being realized by them to be all on the side of the west. The freedom from fruit tree pests in this province is a strong inducement to a great effect upon those who come out to the west. In addition to that there is the advantage of an equitable climate which those in the eastern parts of the Dominion fully realize as of the greatest importance.

Mr. Grant has come back thoroughly in love with the work which is done by the Tourist Association. A visit to New York satisfied him that the work was a most important one. Going to the Northern Pacific office in that city he sought information respecting the city of Victoria for the benefit of some friends. He found the little booklet "Victoria the Beautiful." This publication did a great effect upon those whom he showed it. He feels satisfied now that there is a splendid work done by this class of literature, and all he lamented was that there was not more information distributed. Other centres in Washington state were well represented by literature of a catchy character, but the little publication from Victoria seemed to have exactly the information desired. Mr. Grant is a believer now in the Tourist Association.

"Recently the colliery company miners at Extension have been testing their claims to 'pull' for the removal of the restrictions on the importation of Canadian cattle, was demonstrated today by the unusually large attendance at the House of Commons."

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SPENCER'S STORE TO BE EXTENDED

IMPORTANT DEAL IN
CITY REAL ESTATE

Williams Block Has Changed Hands—
Healthy Sign in Connection With
Victoria Property.

The enterprising firm of D. Spencer, Limited, feeling every confidence in the development of trade and a sharp advance in real estate in this city, effected the purchase Thursday afternoon of the Williams block, adjoining the Times block. The purchase of the property was through the agency of P. R. Brown, Limited, of Broad street. The block purchased has a frontage on Broad street of thirty-six feet. It is four storeys high at the front. The lot extends back 120 feet, and an addition continues in the rear of the property occupied by the Times. It thus adjoins the present Spencer block. The latter part of the property is 20 feet by 30 feet, the latter being the width of the Times block. On it there is a substantial brick building three storeys high.

Chris. Spencer, when seen on Friday with respect to the purchase, said that the immediate intention of the firm was to cut through the walls, making a connection with the three storey building adjoining their present premises. This would be in connection with the ladies' mantle and dressmaking departments. The firm intended, he said, according to the present plans, to utilize the building for manufacturing purposes in these departments. The connection with the big store now devoted to the ladies' clothing. More room was required, and this would relieve the situation for the present.

Mr. Spencer says that at present the firm has no intention of interfering with the part of the premises fronting on Broad street. If trade, which at the present time is most promising, continues to develop, the firm may find it necessary to extend their premises to occupy that part also of the recent purchase.

He thinks that the conditions in the city warrant the purchase of such a property, and indicates that the firm may dispose of the four storey part fronting on Broad street and retain the back part, which might all be utilized in connection with the big store.

The price paid by the firm of D. Spencer is not announced, but is reported to have been about \$25,000. Independent of the four storey block on Broad and the three storey building at the corner of the block, there is a very large area of the property having on it only a single storey structure. This could all be brought into connection with the present store premises. The purchase is another of the healthy signs in connection with real estate in the city of Victoria. It indicates that the business firms are well satisfied that there is to be an advance in real estate, and a result of the increasing attention which the city is attracting. No house in Victoria is in a better position to know the true conditions of trade than that of D. Spencer. In the purchase of a large block for the extension of their premises they have shown that business is rapidly growing. This is all the more marked in view of the fact that the present premises occupied by the firm were constructed within very recent time, and were built with a view to affording accommodation for the future. That the premises should so soon be found cramped speaks well alike for the firm and for the city.

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