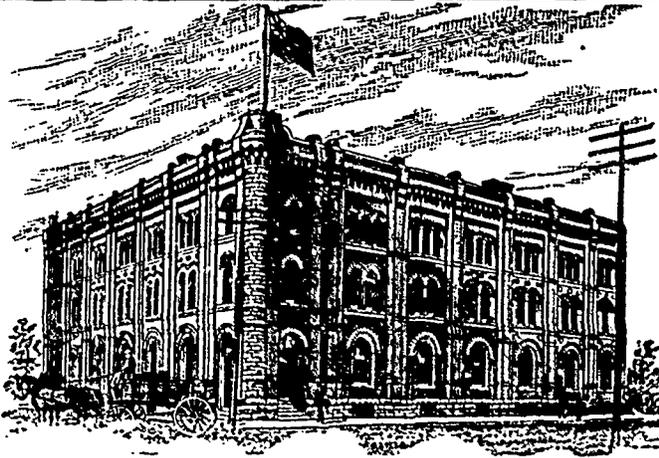


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Raisins.

The raisin season has nearly closed at Denia in Spain. For weeks past droves of mules, laden with kilo baskets of dried fruit have thronged the streets in front of the buyers large warehouses. The excitement of the sellers or farmers has been intense, and while making their bargains they swore at their mules like good Spaniards, and smoked cigarettes made by their own hands a few seconds before consumption. Their fashions in dress border on the mountaineers — including the indispensable shawl-belt, each end of which, tucked in, has compartments for gold, silver, bronze, and sundries, and the trousers' pockets accommodate knife, tobacco, cigarette paper and matches, or fire lighter.

Many people are under an impression that the city of Valentia is the seat of trade for Valencia fruit, but that city has very little to do with the market, the town of Denia being the great mart and shipping port for the province of Valentia, in which the brown grapes are cultivated and converted into raisins.

Denia was founded over a thousand years before the birth of Christ, and her white buildings of stone with tile roofs form a pleasing contrast with the blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea, that washed against a delapidated wall of great antiquity that skirts the town. The mighty Cæsar and many great men of battle have graced the renowned castle of Denia, and many a grandee has driven in a charriot on the town wall in ancient times. Races were run on it and it served the purposes of a park for lovers' walks and general assemblies on fete days. The blood of Phœnicians, Romans, Cathagenians, Goths, Vandels, Moors and Spaniards has baptised every inch of ground within that wall, and a hole in it that would admit the Great Eastern steamship to go through broadside accommodated our special correspondent with admission to the hallowed ground, now mainly used by warehouses and raisin buyers and sellers.

The honesty of a Spanish milk dealer milking a goat in the presence of his customer and delivering a pure article is one of the pleasant surprises associated with Denia, but that surprise is tame compared with the honest and in-

dustry of the pretty girls that pick the raisins in the warehouses. There are over 100 raisin buyers in the town, many of them have warehouses and some of them employ from 100 to 200 girls. The Kentish hop fields of merry England and the corn husking bees of the wild west furnish good samples of merry girls fun and possessed of many songs and stories, but they cannot hold a candle to the raisin pickers of Spain, who laugh and sing and tell stories (that accumulated in the province from the previous raisin harvest) with a buoyancy of spirits that have no equal, and a hundred of those lively girls in rows seated on the ground in a warehouse picking and cleaning raisins causes noise, stories, songs and laughter unlimited while they simultaneously pick 100 boxes of raisins, all finishing at the same moment with military precision. The boxes are then removed by men and replaced by more raisins to be picked and boxed, after which the box lids are nailed on and the boxes stored in the warehouse loft and subsequently they are carried down to the lighters or boats that take them out to the steamships riding at anchor on the open sea, and finally the raisins reach our own market, and we hope to see our merchants advertising now that they will have the first of this season's crop from Denia within a few weeks. Look out for them. — Port Arthur *Sentinel*, September 20.

The Dog Fish Oil Industry.

Dog fish oil, for lubricating and other purposes, is in good demand either in the local or foreign markets. That the manufacture of this oil, when properly managed, is a profitable industry, has been proved by the operations of the Skidegate Oil company. Mr. Rezy, in the interests of the Crofters, we understand, intends to form a joint stock company for the purpose of extending this oil manufacture and other fisheries along the west coast of Vancouver Island, so that the Crofter colonists when they arrive may find employment at good paying wages. At present the supply is regulated by the Indian population, who are not energetic in applying themselves to con-

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tinuous work. The oil is made by them in the most primitive way. They boil the livers separately in a large pot, or put hot stones among them in a canoe and so extract the oil. The Indians also boil the dog fish bodies, apart from the livers, wrapping them after having been thoroughly boiled, in a cloth or bag which is placed under a perforated board and trampled until the oil is all pressed out. They dispose of their oil in a very crude state to traders along the coast, or to the oil factory at Ekool, which extracts the oil by the application of steam, and which is the only establishment of the sort on Vancouver Island. When properly rectified the oil brings as much as 50 cents per gallon. We hope Mr. Begg will succeed in organizing the joint stock company referred to, as it must prove of the greatest importance not only to the Crofters but to the province by developing the industries mentioned and opening up new fields of enterprise, which can, under prudent management be profitably extended to almost any extent. — *Victoria, B.C. Times*.

Banking in Canada.

In an address on banking in Canada, delivered before the British American College in Toronto, and lately issued in a brochure, D. R. Wilkie showed how banking had grown in the Dominion in the interval since 1868. The deposits of the public in chartered banks have grown from \$33,000,000 to \$120,000,000. Discounts have increased from \$50,000,000 to \$170,000,000. Savings bank deposits, including deposits in government and postoffice savings banks, have grown from \$4,200,000 to \$52,000,000. The circulation of government notes has grown from \$3,800,000 to \$16,000,000. The circulation of bank notes has grown from \$8,300,000 to \$32,000,000. In discussing the demand made in some quarters for a government note circulation to replace the notes of chartered banks, the writer argues that the bank note circulation offers both greater security and greater convenience.