

PACIFIC SECTION

NOTES FROM THE PACIFIC.

Newcomers in the West—Moving Pictures to Advertise Province—Salmon Fishing Industry.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Vancouver, B.C., August 29th.

At this time, when British Columbia is making special efforts to attract the emigrant from Great Britain, the remarks of "Harry Williams" in The People's Magazine, of London Eng., come as a "jar." This man writes from Nelson, B.C., and nothing escapes his criticism. He says he finds the Canadian people even worse than the American in offering insults to those from England; that harvesting on the prairie is an occupation with plenty of work and little to eat; that the country is overflowing with people looking for work; and that, in short, there is no country worse than this for the emigrant.

In direct contrast might be placed the letter of Gaston Johnson, of the staff of the supreme court at Regina, Saskatchewan. Mr. Johnson came to this country a London shorthand clerk, used to the ways of journalism, and finding his particular class crowded, turned in and worked at anything. He dug wells, mixed mortar, anything that meant money, and that gave him a chance to show what he could do. In writing home, Mr. Johnson gives the advice that he learned during his two years' residence in Canada, that Englishmen should not attempt to ram their methods down the throats of Canadians, but should take things as they found them and adapt themselves to the conditions. This in a nutshell is the text for a sermon that could be delivered to the Harry Williams type. There are plenty of Canadians of that kind, and any additions from other countries are not desirable. Men who will work, adapting themselves to the local conditions, will get ahead, be they Englishmen or any other nationality. But men have to show what they are, for this is a democratic West, and once they have made good, they will confess, like Mr. Johnson, that "the prospects are of the brightest." Willingness to work with ability brings affluence and importance.

Increase in Fruit Acreage.

R. M. Palmer, provincial commissioner of horticulture, who has returned from the interior of the province, reports that the fruit acreage this year is half as large again as last year. The market is still increasing with an unlimited demand for high-grade fruit, and the price is such as to give very satisfactory returns to the grower.

British Columbia Government will advertise the resources of the province in Great Britain by means of moving pictures, and James Ferens, a representative of a firm of film makers, is now here in connection with the contract. Panoramic scenic views will be given, city street scenes, pictures of operating industries, and a series showing the great fruit valleys. As these will be realistic views, they should appeal to the class who ask to be shown what is in a country.

British Columbia's big game brings many visitors to the province each year, and the coming and going of these creates an activity among outfitting merchants in both Victoria and Vancouver. The Government recognizes the value of the big game asset, and is taking adequate steps to prevent indiscriminate slaughter, although allowing sufficient sport to bring some of the world-renowned hunters from the older parts of the globe. Just now there are quite a number in the northern wilds. Other parties are expected in the Cariboo shortly, and will outfit at Ashcroft, Lillooet, or Kamloops.

Huge Magnesite Deposit.

On the same steamer that took hunters to the wilds of Cassiar, were representatives of an Old Country firm on the way to Atlin to inspect a monster deposit of magnesite. This material is used for many purposes, for the making of bricks for high heat furnaces, for cement, etc., and nowhere is it found in such a fine condition as in Atlin. It is pure white and powdered ready for use, and Nature has already accomplished what is done with the use of chemicals in leading English manufactories. It is likely that a large industry will shortly be established close to this city, with English capital at the back of it, for the manufacture of this valuable article into commercial requisites.

While the exact totals of the salmon pack are not yet to hand, it is estimated that the pack this year will be in the vicinity of 338,000 cases in this province, as compared with 314,000 last year. The figures are:—Fraser River, 74,000; Naas River, 27,000; Skeena, 134,000; Rivers Inlet, 60,000;

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outlying canneries, 43,000. The Fraser River and Skeena show slight increases, but there is a disappointing decrease at Rivers Inlet. On Puget Sound, the pack has been 151,000 cases, which can be compared with the Fraser River, as it is the fish en route to the Fraser that the Puget Sound traps catch. The figures show that while Canada pays all the expense in connection with hatcheries and the preservation of the salmon fishing industry, the Americans reap double the benefit. It is a point that the International Fishery Commission might well take into serious consideration, to see if it is not possible to have the United States take some co-operative and reciprocal action in assisting the Canadian Government in the preservation of this important industry. The States have done little or nothing, and it is well known that the so-called weekly close season at the traps has been simply a farce, except in localities where gill-net fishermen were likely to make trouble. It is the old story of laws being sacrificed to enable men to make more money.

Gold Finds on the Igenika.

M. Marks, who is associated with the original discoverer of the new gold diggings on the Igenika River, in the far interior, gives one an idea of just what the new place is. He was here to accompany a shipment of machinery to the district, which is being shipped by the Igenika Placer Mining Company. Mr. Marks states that it will not be poor man's camp, but that good values should be recovered. Water is encountered comparatively close to the surface, and to get down to bedrock machinery is necessary. Good surface returns of from \$10 to \$12 per man can be obtained. There are about 120 men in the district, and 20 miles of country are staked. Mr. Marks states that the reason why no gold has come out yet is that the men who went in there in the spring had only enough provisions for the return trip and a little prospecting, and none to give them time for digging. Provisions are scarce even now, and will be throughout the winter.

The expansion in the coast cities is indicated by the fact that tenders are being called for the construction of the thirteen-story building of the Imperial Trust Company, in the heart of Vancouver. This structure will be all steel, and will cost close to half a million dollars. This will keep building operations busy on Hastings Street, for the fine stone and iron buildings of the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Dominion Government will be soon so far completed that the occupation of a portion of the street will not longer be necessary. That there is room for a building to contain 261 offices, without mentioning a safety vault accommodation of 45 x 50 feet, shows not only present requirements but what is expected in the future.

Replies are now coming to the Comptroller of the Currency at Washington from the national banks in Oklahoma, to whom directions were sent that they must retire from the deposit guaranty system in that State. It is the intention of Acting Comptroller Kane to prepare and make public an analysis of the replies when they are all in.

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CREHAN, MOUAT & CO.

Chartered Accountants and Auditors

Offices { 27 Imperial Building and } VANCOUVER, B. C.
337 Pender Street East

Powers of Attorney to be issued to M.J. CREHAN, F.C.A.
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