

PACIFIC SECTION

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ORIENTAL LABOR.

Commission Will Probe the Subject at Vancouver— Industrial Notes.

Monetary Times Office,
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With the preceding of the investigation into the claims for damages during the riot, presented by Japanese, hidden factors in the immigration problem are coming to light. Some very important features have been unearthed by Mr. Mackenzie King, and he stated yesterday that he would recommend to the government at Ottawa that a special commission be appointed to inquire into Japanese immigration societies operating in Vancouver. For he brought out the fact through a principal witness that they are responsible for the influx of Japanese, and not only that, but the companies here and in Japan operating in conjunction, taxed the laborer at both ends and reaped large profits.

This question is a serious one to British Columbia, and the exhaustive questioning of Mr. King, when Japanese are presenting their claims, has elicited favorable comment. The witness, whose cross-examination brought out the information respecting the operations of immigration companies, was Katzie Ishikawaga, president of the Japanese Boarding House Keepers' Union, and head of the Canada Kangyo Company, the shareholders of the two organizations being the same.

Japanese Labor Engaged Under Contract.

It was found out that Japanese laborers are engaged under contract, and when a large order is received, a cable is sent to Japan. A company there sends out the men, charging so much to each man for the opportunity. On arrival here, the boarding house keepers take them in charge and let them out. Wages are paid to the companies, and from each man is deducted five, ten and fifteen cents per day, according to scale, on wages averaging \$1.75 per day. Clerks were kept among the men to see to this, and also for the furnishing of supplies, for this was one of the clauses of the agreement with the people who needed the cheap Orientals. Thus, it was seen that the immigration and supply companies, virtually the same, were doing a large business and had the men almost at their mercy. On domestic servants, about ten per cent. of wages was charged. Mr. King said it was quite plain that these operations were responsible for the large number of Japanese coming into Canada.

He unofficially places the number for this year at 9,000. Dr. Monro, Dominion Immigration Officer, gives the figures of 7,500. Yet the representative of the London Times, cabling from Vancouver says that only 750 came in, the others being en route to the States, and that the anti-Asiatic movement was "hysterical." Your correspondent is in a position to state that only 1,000 Japs went through into the States, leaving at least 4,500 for Canada, or practically this Province, for they find employment on Vancouver and coast islands and on the mainland.

Undesirable Co-Mingling of Races.

These are apart from Chinese and Hindus, of whom many have arrived in recent months. It is the Japanese, aggressive to the point of arrogance, keen, business-like and intelligent, that is the menace to the whites, and their gradual wedging into trade competition will mean their amalgamation with the interests of the country from which they cannot be ousted. Twenty years, hence, will see a partial co-mingling of the races, for there are not enough females of his country here for the dressy Japanese male, and the pretty Japanese girls cannot help but attract white young men.

Hon. Mr. Lemieux, Minister of Labor and Postmaster-General, when here the other day on his way to Japan to confer with the government of that country on this perplexing subject, remarked that he expected a happy solution to it all. It is hoped he is a prophet.

With the spreading of the bubonic plague from San Francisco to Seattle, British Columbia health authorities are rightly alarmed at the close proximity of this great dread of the Orient. Here it is, too, that the undesirability of uncleanly Asiatics is seen, for the disease particularly attacks them, living unsanitariously as they do. From them the scourge passes into the community at large. The provincial government has sent Dr. Fagan, provincial medical health officer, to Seattle, who with Dr. Watt, Dominion quarantine official, made a close inspection of methods of prevention. Dr. Montizambert, Dominion medical health officer, has also come West, and is now in Victoria to see that all possible steps are taken against the breaking out of the plague. In the pro-

vincial Gazette has been published a notice that any one failing to report a case of sickness among the Asiatics is liable to a fine of \$100 or six months' imprisonment.

Commercial and Industrial Notes.

Arrangements have been completed for the settling of about two thousand Russians in Kootenay, where four thousand acres have been purchased for the purpose. Colonel Oran Clyde Cullen, travelling manager and diplomatic agent of the People's Guard, is acting for the immigrants, and the first are expected to arrive from the Orient in December. From all accounts they are a desirable class of immigrant.

So much success has attended the operations of the tomato cannery of Messrs. Fraser Bros. and Whitehead, of Kelowna, this season, that they will start at once to put in a much larger plant for next year's crop. The product was much appreciated locally.

With the growth of shipping, the B.C. Marine Railway Company will establish a salvage steamer at Vancouver.

New steamers are announced to replace the Miowera and Aorangi on the Australian service.

The Grand Trunk Pacific is looking after more coal lands in Cariboo. They secured 15,000 acres in the Bulkley Valley and last week, L. G. Gunn, assistant divisional engineer of the Pacific division, examined deposits on Jos. Wendle's land near Lower Pear Lake.

Names of local men interested in the British Columbia Power & Electric Company, which will install plant to develop power of Cheakamus River, 61 miles from Vancouver, are C. Gardiner Johnson, chairman; Wm. Manson, M.P.P.; D. G. Marshall, H. G. Bissett, W. D. Burdis, F. W. Tiffin, C. Fox, and J. W. Prescott, secretary. Seventy-five thousand horse-power will be brought in.

CANADIAN BOARDS OF TRADE.

Gratifying response has been made to the October circular of the Monetary Times to Canadian Boards of Trade, asking for the names of present officers and suggesting that this journal is, as always, pleased to receive information concerning the doings of the Boards and the business of the districts they represent.

Ontario and the Prairie Provinces have been less prompt in responding thus far than the Maritime Provinces. It is hoped that those secretaries, who have thus far not responded will forward their replies to the Monetary Times this month, and so assist in the compilation of the Board of Trade Register which we are preparing.

As specimens of the spirit in which the efforts of the Monetary Times in this direction have been met, these extracts from letters received are interesting. The secretary of a New Brunswick board writes:—

"I am particularly pleased with that paragraph in your circular stating your desire that Boards may (by means of a list to be sent them) keep in touch with one another. So that if it were at any time thought necessary to acquaint Governments, either Provincial or other, with the trend of commercial opinion, it would be easier to elicit the views of leading men in different districts upon subjects of immediate interest."

A Nova Scotia secretary says:—"Your endeavour to promote the best interests of the various Boards of Trade throughout Canada, by bringing them in touch with each other through the register you are preparing, is certainly one that should meet with the hearty approval of every such Board. I assume you intend opening your columns to all Boards wishing to take advantage of the desire expressed in your circular 'to spread abroad news of the needs and aspirations of the various localities in our great and growing country.' Success to you."

Nova Scotia is thankful for a good apple crop this year, even although violent wind-storms have wasted many. Some estimates place the crop at 600,000, some at 700,000 barrels. The prices are good, for in many American States the yield is less than average. Growers in the Annapolis Valley are getting \$2 to \$2.50 per barrel, and in some cases \$3.



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