

PEERING INTO PACIFIC PROVINCE'S POSSIBILITIES

Some Demands for Imposition of Duties — Peach- growing—Obtaining a Farming Population

(Staff Correspondence.)

Vancouver, January 11th.

Schemes for harbor improvement are being discussed in Vancouver and in Point Grey, and at a public meeting this week Mr. H. H. Stevens, M.P., outlined what is proposed by the government. There has been criticism from certain quarters regarding a public dock, but notwithstanding it will meet with the cordial approval of the people and of independent shipping interests. Those who take a stand in opposition are representatives of interests who have wharves on Burrard Inlet, and it is natural if the public jumps to the conclusion that they are speaking for the corporations with which they are connected. The south shore of Burrard Inlet has long wanted some piece of waterfront where boats could dock without having to patronize established interests, whether they desired to or not. The government proposes to expropriate a frontage near the sugar refinery and erect a dock, which would accommodate the largest ship coming into this port. Moreover, this would be only the beginning, though the initial expenditure is placed at a million and a quarter dollars. More docks would be provided from time to time in addition to that in the far east end of the city, and a floating crane would also be provided. With these improvements on Burrard Inlet and False Creek dredged, much increased accommodation for shipping will be furnished. It will take time to carry out these works, and it cannot be begun too soon if Vancouver is to get into the same class as Pacific coast cities to the south.

A Vancouver merchant, who has been spending some time in Southern California, reports that Los Angeles is getting very busy in spending money to get into shape for handling all increased trade that may offer, and other coast cities are providing extensive facilities. He urges action in Vancouver, that Western Canada may secure all the benefit that is expected to accrue to this territory.

Farming, Mining and Lumbering.

Why farming in British Columbia is not as profitable as it should be, and other matters bearing on the industry, is the matter of enquiry by a Royal Commission, which began sittings on Thursday. Now that the province is being developed and people congregating in the urban centres, the government is desirous of getting a farming population. To this end the commission will enquire carefully into agricultural and market conditions in the different districts of the province. Its report should be of considerable worth, for it will doubtless take up the conditions that enter into the cost of living, such as the relations between the producer, the consumer and the middleman. Even after the information is laid before the government, it will require ingenuity to frame legislation to meet the case.

The British Columbia Mining Association has forwarded a petition to Ottawa which will ask for the renewal of the lead bounty or for some other adequate protection for the mining industry. This petition was signed by practically every owner of lead mines and claims in the Slocan district.

The lumbermen are also hoping for assistance. In Vancouver the coast and interior manufacturers have been in conference, and decided to memorialize the federal government in the matter of a duty on lumber.

Growing of Peaches.

United States competition also bothers the fruit-raiser. The provincial markets commissioner has issued his report bearing on conditions during the past year, and stated that one of the unfavorable features was the importation of fruit from south of the border. A most important point of the report was that "our peach season is too late to make peach-growing a very profitable proposition from a commercial standpoint." For some years the representatives of the province in the old country have emphasized that peach-growing was the great coming industry of British Columbia, and much money has been outlaid in planting orchards. Mr. Smith might have amplified this point, or rather the whole remarks might have been included in the published report, for all recommendations in favor of peach culture made during the last ten years could not have been entirely at fault. It may be that with the earlier season in the United States the market is flooded with peaches before the local fruit is ready.

The German-Canadian Trust Company is being organized, and it will include all the interests of Alvo von Alvensleben, Limited, which comprise also the Vancouver Timber and Trading Company, two coal companies and real estate holdings. Mr. Alvo von Alvensleben is about to start on a trip to Europe in connection with the reorganization.

The new company will have its head office in Victoria, with a large office building in Vancouver, and will do business in all the leading Canadian cities.

CANADIAN POTTERY

Is Made Principally from Imported Clay — Kaolin Deposits at Amherst

The pottery made from Canadian clays has been, hitherto, chiefly of the common grades, such as flower pots, jardinières, crocks, jars, churns, etc. A number of potters make a higher grade product of stoneware, but the majority of these use imported clays. Sanitary ware is made at St. Johns, Que., and other points; but the raw material including clays and feldspar, is nearly all imported.

The total value of the production of pottery and clay sanitary ware in 1911, according to returns received, was \$439,264, of which it is estimated that a value of \$336,771 is attributable to imported clays. The value of the production reported in 1910 was \$250,924, and in 1909, \$285,285.

Divided Into Eight Classes.

The total imports in 1911 were valued at \$2,516,536, as compared with a value of \$2,283,116 in 1910. These imports are subdivided into eight classes, and in 1911 include: brown or colored earthenware, etc., \$52,100; C.C. or cream colored ware, decorated, printed or sponged, etc., \$184,291; demijohns, churns, or crocks, \$4,933; tableware of china, porcelain, white granite, etc., \$1,718,582; china and porcelain ware, N.O.P., \$62,025; tiles or blocks of earthenware or stone prepared for mosaic flooring, \$123,203; earthenware tiles, N.O.P., \$154,351; manufactures of earthenware, N.O.P., \$217,051.

Great Britain is the principal source of the imports of this class of products, but quite large supplies are also obtained from the United States, Germany, France, Austria-Hungary, Japan, Belgium, and other countries.

Development of Deposits.

Although there has as yet been no actual commercial production of china-clay or kaolin in Canada, the development of kaolin deposits in the township of Amherst, Ottawa county, and the construction of a washing or refining plant at St. Remi d'Amherst, are worthy of note.

The present operators are the Canadian China Clay Company, with a capital of \$250,000. Mr. John C. Broderick, St. Remi d'Amherst, is mine manager, and Mr. Jas. G. Ross, B.Sc., consulting engineer.

The plant for refining the clay is situated two miles from St. Remi d'Amherst and seven miles from Huberdeau station, the terminus of the Canadian Northern Quebec Railway, 94 miles north-west of Montreal.

Development work was begun by the present operators in June, 1911, and the washing plant completed in April of 1912.

The clay is mined by digging, no drilling or blasting being necessary, trammed 600 feet to the plant, washed free from grit and allowed to settle. After the filter presses have extracted the surplus moisture, it is dried in the open air in stacks.

Possibilities of this Industry.

Dry kilns are being built for drying in the winter and wet seasons. After drying it will be pulverized and bagged for shipment. It is expected that an immediate market will be found in the demand of the Canadian paper mills.

The imports of china-clay, ground and unground, into Canada during the twelve months ending December 31st, 1911, were valued at \$125,768, as against a value of \$142,125 in 1910, and \$100,066 in 1909, thus indicating to some extent at least the present actual demand for this product. The imports of earthenware and chinaware, however, valued at \$2,516,436 in 1911, and composed chiefly of tableware of china, porcelain, etc., show the possibilities in the development of industries utilizing china-clays, suggests Mr. J. McLeish, chief of the division of mineral resources and statistics, in a recent report.

Kaolin or china-clay is also in considerable demand in the United States, the imports into that country in 1910 being valued at \$1,593,472.

The Real Estate Loan Company, Limited, will apply for authority to increase its capital stock from \$1,600,000 divided into shares of \$40 each, to \$2,000,000 divided into shares of \$100 each.

The names of the following companies have been changed:—Windsor Fair Ground and Driving Park Association, Limited, to Windsor Jockey Club, Limited; Erindale Stock Farm, Limited, to Erindale Farms, Limited; Pelham Park Improvement Company, Limited, to Pelham Company, Limited; Distilled Water Ice Company, Limited, to Crystal Ice Makers, Limited.