

PACIFIC SECTION

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FRUIT GROWING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

New Westminster Notes—Mining News—Oriental Labor.

Monetary Times Office,
Vancouver, B.C., December 21st.

The Oriental labor problem has been given more prominence by the letter to the London Times from its correspondent, H. W. Crippen, copies having just reached here. With the Japanese excitement on the Pacific Coast, the Times transferred Mr. Crippen from New York to San Francisco, so that he might be more in the centre of things. The morning after he arrived here, in conversation with the Monetary Times he stated he understood the question pretty well. He was one of those who studied it from a distance. His three days in Vancouver only accentuated his wrong ideas on the subject.

Should Have Stayed Longer.

Mr. Crippen was in such a hurry to get away from Vancouver that he did not write his letter here. That may account for the gross inaccuracy in stating that domestic servants received from £12 (\$60) to £15 (\$75) per month and privileges unheard of in Europe. If that were successful in bringing domestics to British Columbia, it would serve a purpose, but although they are very scarce the wages in the highest instances do not run over \$40, and this only in cases of dire necessity. An average is \$20, perhaps \$25, and when this is paid the work includes everything.

Expert Chinese cooks are in a class by themselves, and if they are paid from \$50 to \$100 per month it is because they understand the culinary art even better than a white housewife. Mr. Crippen's local criticisms bear on the face of them unacquaintance with the subject, though he writes well on the general phases of the Asiatic problem. This being the case, it is all the more strange that he does not appreciate the effect it will have and is having on conditions, industrial, social and economic on the Coast.

Fruit Growers Should Specialize.

Mr. Thomas Cunningham, provincial fruit inspector, points out to fruit growers a lesson which may be learned from the recent successes of British Columbia fruit in the Old Country. It is that growers should specialize. Different valleys and districts in the province are more suitable for the growing of certain varieties, such as the Gravenstein in and around Kaslo, the Grimes Golden at Spence's bridge, Spies and Spitzenbergs in the Okanagan and the Kootenay, pears on Vancouver Island, etc. Cultivation along this line, he maintains, will enable the fruit men of British Columbia to outclass the product of what has been considered the more favored valleys of the Pacific Coast on the American side.

Not only is the fruit from this section of Canada attaining prominent mention, but nursery stock grown here is being shipped to far away parts of the world. Mr. M. J. Henry, the pioneer nurseryman of Vancouver, shipped an order for \$600 worth of young trees to a customer in Shanghai, China, last week. The purchaser had gone through the catalogue in detail and the order included a very large number of varieties.

New Westminster Is Hopeful.

New Westminster people are quite sanguine as to the future. In addition to the mills which started there during the past year, there are other signs of activity. For instance, the Vulcan Iron Works is enlarging its plant; Reid's Novelty Iron Works is moving into larger premises, which will give double the capacity; the Dominion Wood Pipe Works has an extra large force at work. Such as these, in a small city, means a contemporary expansion in other lines.

The news from the Nicola that the Diamond Vale has reached a five-foot vein of coal at a depth of seventy feet, and that by next week at least 20 tons a day will be hoisted, is a reminder of the coal mining operations going on there. Little has been heard of the Nicola of late, but one of the first companies to operate there has been shipping steadily. On Vancouver Island, too, coal-boring operations on new ground are progressing.

That there is a steady movement in mines is indicated by the purchase of the Venus gold and silver property near White Horse by Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann, of the Canadian Northern. The price is reported to be \$60,000.

In the colonization schemes which are being started in British Columbia, especially in the newer lands, Americans are to the fore. In the Bulkley, Nechaco and other northern

valleys, the placing of people on lands through or near which the railway will soon run, has already been begun. Last week Mr. Hopkins, of Kansas City, left Ashcroft with an option on 20,000 acres of good orchard land in the vicinity of that town. If his deal goes through he will place colonists there, who will be chiefly from Maryland and North Dakota.

That British Columbia fruit is in great demand in Australia is shown by the large order received by James Johnstone, of Nelson, B.C., president of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Exchange. It is for 32,000 boxes of apples for next season, the Australian importers being The Duffy Company. Such an order will tax the present supply.

PERSONAL.

Mr. G. W. Blaikie has been elected a member of the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Mr. R. W. Perks, M.P., will probably again visit Canada in February.

Mr. W. Conn has been transferred from the Union Bank at Wolsley to the branch at Craik.

Mr. Gemmill of the Dominion Bank at Regina, Sask., has been transferred to Vancouver.

Mr. F. Orr Lewis succeeds Mr. J. Bryce Allan as director of the Merchants Bank of Canada.

Mr. C. W. G. Browning, of Fort Saskatchewan, is now resident of Edmonton, having become inspector for the Credit Foncier.

Mr. John Crane gave a most interesting address on "Banking" to the St. Paul's Young Men's Guild at Peterboro' last week.

Mr. J. P. Carlyle, accountant at the Sovereign Bank, Windsor, has been promoted to the position of manager of the Sandwich branch.

Mr. W. A. Harcourt, of the Imperial Bank at Brandon, Man., has been transferred to the bank's branch at Calgary, where he will act as teller.

Mr. E. H. S. Flood, of St. John, N.B., has been appointed Canadian Trade Commissioner for Bermuda, British West Indies and British Guiana.

Mr. A. H. Skey, manager of the Kamloops, B.C., branch of the Bank of Hamilton has returned to Kamloops from the East where he was holidaying.

Mr. W. A. Fisher, of Thorndale, teller at the Sovereign Bank in London, Ont., has been moved to Windsor. Mr. F. A. Stapells, of Toronto, will take Mr. Fisher's place.

Mr. E. S. Martin, manager of the Bank of Montreal, and Mr. B. Geo. Hansuld, of the Merchants Bank of Canada, Medicine Hat, Alta., are spending several days in Toronto.

Mr. Maine, of Humboldt, Sask., has taken the position of accountant in the Canadian Bank of Commerce, recently vacated by R. G. Taylor, who has been transferred to Prince Albert.

Mr. J. W. Anderson, accountant of Hudson Bay Co.'s Land Department at Winnipeg, will succeed Mr. Montague Aldous, who is retiring from the company's employ, after twenty-six years' service.

Mr. C. M. Manning, manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, at London, Ont., has been elected secretary of the London clearing house in succession to Mr. M. E. Holden, former manager of the Dominion Bank.

Mr. J. Rounsefell, who recently resigned his position on the staff of the Chilliwick branch of the Royal Bank, was recently in Vancouver, B.C., on his way to Ketchikan, Alaska, where his parents reside.

Mr. A. H. Skey has returned to his duties as manager of the Kamloops, B.C., branch of the Bank of Hamilton. Mr. F. Haines, who has been relieving there for the past two months, has returned to Vancouver.

An arrival on the Coast this week was Mr. T. Drysdale-Veitch, who will succeed Mr. A. Whitley as manager of the branch of the Royal Bank of Canada in Victoria. Mr. Whitley will leave about the beginning of January to take charge in Winnipeg. Mr. Drysdale-Veitch was manager of the Ilkley, Yorkshire, branch of the Halifax, Joint Stock Banking Company, of Halifax, England.



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