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Vol. I.

VICTORIA, B. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1904

No. 18.

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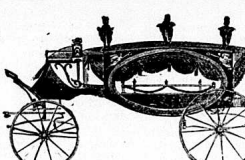
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Dominion and Mexican.

Reciprocal Trade Development May Yet Be Brought About By the Establishment of Direct Steamer Line.

During the past few months there have appeared at random intervals in the local press—and usually in its Ottawa correspondence—brief references to the contemplated establishment of a direct steamship service between this Dominion and the republic of Mexico, being pointed out that there are many products of Canada for which the land of Diaz would be a willing purchaser; while on the other hand Mexico has many articles to export that would find a welcoming market in this Dominion.

Not having any local knowledge of the maturing project, and not a hint of such action in the boards of trade, British Columbians generally had accepted it as a patent fact that the proposed establishment of a Canadian-Mexican line was something new and peculiarly concerning the Atlantic seaboard cities of the country. This would appear to have been an unwarranted assumption by the latest despatches dealing with the matter, which state distinctly that the line of Diaz would be most probably operated in Pacific waters.

It will be remembered that some eight or ten years ago, the possibilities of developing a reciprocally profitable trade with Mexico presented themselves very favorably to Mr. F. C. Davidge and Mr. James Dunsuir, of this city, and those gentlemen, after formulating a feasible and business-like scheme, sent Captain Yates to Ottawa to outline the general plan of campaign to that Dominion's government and induce the federal authorities if possible to grant such subsidy assistance as would make the initiation of the line financially possible. The ministers were not sufficiently educated as to the opportunities for a mutually advantageous trade for Canada at that time, and the project for want of state assistance languished and ultimately expired.

Then Mr. E. E. Sheppard, of Toronto, paid a visit to Mexico, and upon his return reported enthusiastically as to the trade possibilities.

A little later Mr. J. H. Greer gave a somewhat similar project much thought and expended considerable energy and money upon a proposed line which he obtained cordial governmental support, would long ere this have been the means of building up a prosperous international trade between Mexico and Canada. This plan, too, fell by the wayside in consequence of the pathetic reception accorded it at Ottawa, and since then locally there has been "nothing doing."

The Canadian commercial agent in Mexico has nevertheless been persistent and persevering in presenting in his frequent reports the possibilities for trade expansion that would be naturally fostered by the establishment of a direct connecting line from Canada to Mexico, and business men of the republic have heartily endorsed his statements. Sir William Mulock, the Postmaster General, on his recent visit to Mexico, was able to see for himself that these reports were justified by the facts; and about the same time an Eastern Canadian circle of capitalists began, it is said, to move in the same direction that Messrs. Davidge and Dunsuir had several years before.

The result may be the long-deferred connection, for if the press reports be true the government is now favorably considering the granting of an annual subsidy of \$50,000, the Mexican government to meet this liberal bonus with one of like amount, making \$100,000 per annum, with which there should be little difficulty in securing a first class line for the requirements.

Rumor has it that Annapolis and Victoria would be the terminal ports, and this has probability at least to give it color.

It is also reported that the service would be at the outset be monthly, with a steamer of fourteen knots' speed capacity and adequate accommodation for both passengers and freight. The proposed company does not appear to be

so much as known in Victoria, neither the board of trade nor any of the leading shipping houses having had any communication with respect to it. There is great variety of products which British Columbia could market with advantage in the Mexican country. Lumber, particularly the dressed article and in "knock-down" houses, is in strong demand. So also are mining props, ores of various grades, hams, flour, provisions or various sorts, clothing, etc.; indeed the list is practically unlimited.

For the return cargoes the steamers could carry ores, coffees, tropical fruits and vegetables, sugar, drug staples, and many other similar products of the equatorial zone.

It is even suggested by one large importing house on Wharf street that the goods which will be carried across Mexico by the railroads and shipped to Victoria by the new steamship line almost as quickly, certainly at less cost, and with assurance of the arrival of consignments in better condition than by the present routes across the continent.

The Story of the Week.

Since the sinking of the battleship *Petropolevsk* events have moved very slowly at the theatre of war, at least so far as the censor has permitted the public to know. Apparently the Japanese are attempting a flanking movement, by landing somewhere west of Port Arthur. They appear to have fully succeeded in bottling up the Russian fleet in the harbor of that fortress. A large number of transports are engaged in moving Japanese troops, and they are obviously molested by the enemy, who has been practically driven from the sea. There is renewed talk of sending out the Baltic fleet, but it is not strong enough to regain command of the sea.

It is now conceded by the Russian authorities that the sinking of the battleship and the disabling of the *Robidea* were due to mines placed by the Japanese. The tactics adopted by Admiral Popov, in laying the mines and then enticing out the Russian squadron, are beyond all praise. On the Russian side the splendid action of the cruiser *Bayan* which went to the rescue of a sunken destroyer is one of the brightest episodes in recent naval annals.

The bombardment of Newchwang by the Japanese is reported but not confirmed.

A brief despatch in the daily papers announced that Mr. Harriman's application to be allowed to intervene in the case of the United States vs. The Northern Securities Company had been refused by the Circuit court. The active defendant in the case is J. J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway Company. This decision marks one stage in what is perhaps the most important lawsuit ever instituted, so far as the value of the interests involved and the possible effect of the decision upon business are concerned. The fight really between two great railway combinations, embracing over 35,000 miles of line.

The Hill Group.
Mileage, 19,611.
Capital stock, \$380,000,000.
Bonded debt, \$642,828,754.

The Harriman Group.
Mileage, 15,791.
Capital stock, \$466,169,927.
Bonded debt, \$659,524,170.

Each side to the controversy represents over a billion dollars of securities, and it is really correct to say that such immense interests were never before arrayed against each other in a court of justice. In addition to the vast sums represented by the contending interests, the capital stock of the Northern Securities Company is also at stake. This amounts to \$400,000,000, and swells the face value of the securities involved to something over \$2,500,000,000, a sum so vast as to be absolutely inconceivable. What the actual value is can hardly be determined or defined, because it fluctuates from day to day, but it can hardly be much less than that.

(Continued on page 4.)

An Era of New Buildings

City Architects Discuss the Prospects of the Spring—Improvement in Local Architectural Tastes.

No one who has lived in or even visited Victoria requires to be told that it is a city of beautiful homes. Not so, at least, of beautiful lawns and gardens, for wherever in the country is the full value of the settings and surroundings of a home—the wide stretches of smooth, green lawn, the roses, and the detail of hedge or trees, more adequately appreciated than in this garden city of the Canadian west. It is apparent to anyone who takes the trouble to compare the residential structures of recent advent, with those of earlier days that the art of residential architecture is improving; while the most casual inspection of the building operations now in progress from east to west and from north to south of the city's boundaries, must denote the most conspicuous fact of the present is to be in very truth a very active year for building. What the architects have to say of the prospect and in consideration of the problem generally, is contained in the appended interviews.

MR. F. M. RATTENBURY.
"I should very much like to give you an interview," said Mr. F. M. Rattenbury, "but I really have nothing to say on the subject of the present work of the city. We have no big work on hand. There is a general renovation of old houses and some of the business blocks, everything indicating a prosperous state of affairs, but there is little new work of importance. The plans for the foundation of the new hotel are in the hands of the engineers in Montreal awaiting their decision. As soon as the decision is given as to the kind of foundation, work will commence at once, and the building should be completed. There is no doubt whatever as to the work being done this year. The company is as anxious to push the work as anybody."
"Have you any suggestions to make as to architecture in general in this city?" Mr. Rattenbury was asked.

"There is one suggestion I should like to make—that is that in the business part of the town we should keep up the English style which we have now, rather than adopt the square block of the second-rate American cities. Take for instance the Bank of Montreal, that style of architecture is unique on the continent. It would be a pity to spoil our city by copying the American style."

MR. HOOPER.
"Of course," said Mr. Thomas Hooper, "the Carnegie library is the largest piece of work we have on hand in Victoria, but that is really last season's work. The prospects for this year are very good, not only for us, but for all the architects of the city, so far as I know. We have on hand already over \$100,000 worth of work besides the library building; in fact we are so busy we can hardly attend to all of it. The Roman Catholic Boys' Protectorate, a new home for boys on Esquimalt road, is the largest piece of work. It will be a brick building 120 feet by 56 feet, three stories high. Then there are to be a number of brick building in the business portion of the city, and several existing blocks will be raised a story or two. So far as I can judge four hundred would be a low estimate of the number of new houses to be erected this season throughout the city. These will be of a better class than have ever been built here, and there would seem to indicate a state of prosperity and stability. The colonial style is becoming prominent, while the old English style is dying out. There has been a great change in this respect in the past few years. People are being educated along these lines with the result that our cities are becoming more beautiful."
"Undoubtedly this will be a splendid season in the building trade if there are no labor troubles or difficulties with the lumbermen. The former seems to be the most likely difficulty."

"I should like to make a suggestion," said Mr. Hooper, "and that is that the business people should improve the appearance of the streets by planting their premises. This is especially needed on Government street, where many buildings are being erected."
(Continued on page 2.)

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Concerning Sport and Sportsmen.

Lacrosse Championship Arrangements—To Decide Dead Year's Honors.—Fishing Indifferent.

The suggestion that the scope of the British Columbia Amateur Lacrosse Association would this year be extended, and that this sporting organization would abandon the provincial for an international character, taking Seattle into the championship league, seems to have been in the nature of a false alarm.

The feature of this season's reorganization meeting was the authoritative disposal of the 1903 championship quarrel between Vancouver and New Westminster—a petty, sportsmanlike squabble that has disgusted true admirers of the game.

Regarding the playing of exhibition matches with American teams, it was decided that if professionals should be found upon opposing teams, protests are to be lodged against such players with the referee, nor can the play proceed until their services are dispensed with.

The season's schedule has been drawn as follows: May 14—Drawn game, Vancouver vs. Westminster. May 24—Decision in favor of 1903 game. June 11—Vancouver at Westminster. June 18—Westminster at Vancouver. June 25—Westminster at Vancouver. July 1—Victoria at Vancouver. July 8—Westminster at Victoria. July 16—Vancouver at Victoria. July 30—Victoria at Vancouver. August 6—Vancouver at Westminster. August 20—Westminster at Vancouver. September 3—Victoria at Westminster. September 10—Vancouver at Victoria.

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The Cowichan river has been exceptionally high for the past week and in consequence the catches there were meagre, although in several cases one or two good fish were secured. This river will not get to a normal depth for at least two weeks, and nothing very big in the ways of bags may be expected until the next week in May.

In Slawinagan lake very fair bags having been secured last week. Mr. W. H. Cullin got a beauty weighing 2 1/2 pounds, yet even this was eclipsed by another gentleman who caught a fish in excellent condition which tipped the scale at three pounds and a half.

As to the other resorts in this locality there is nothing particular to report, but so soon as the season opens in Cowichan lake, which will hardly be before the end of May, large catches may be expected.

The burning question as to whether the Ripplinger dog from Seattle or Mr. C. W. Minor's Lola Montez is the better animal, judged from the fancier's standpoint, still remains a bone of contention, for Mr. Minor has not seen fit to accept the challenge in this regard.

The Indians of the lower Vancouver Island reservations, unlike their Eastern brethren who are entitled to honor and all reservation privileges in perpetuity for having created the noble game of baseball, are not to any other athletic sport in which the white man excels.

At an important meeting of the Victoria Yacht Club last week it was decided to divide the yachts flying the club flag into two distinct classes—the cruisers and the racers.

August 6th and 20th. The club regatta is fixed for July 2nd, when it is expected that yachts from all other seaboard points in the province, the Sound and California, will be here to participate.

Secretary-Treasurer McConnell submitted an exceedingly favorable report of the receipts and expenditures in connection with the recent close at meeting of the Victoria Kennel Club this week. It showed a balance on hand of over \$100. Resignations were received from Secretary McConnell and Vice-President J. J. Bostock.

This from the Colonist seems to illustrate that sport as well as journalism has its left-handed amenities: A game has been proposed to be played between the Vancouver and Victoria ladies' club and some of the Vancouver papers have referred to the matter as if the home ladies play as childish, etc.

Fishing in the streams of the neighboring Mainland is better than it has been for years thus early in the season. The Caplano, always a late streamer, is of course not worthy of attention, for what fish are there are almost sure to fall victims to the nets stretched a short way above the mouth.

A lacrosse club was organized by the local Y. M. C. A. on Tuesday evening last, much interest being taken in the game by the Y's, and it being expected that a strong team will be put in the field, although whether as competitors for junior or intermediate honors has not yet been determined.

The Nanaimo and Ladysmith football teams are to play their final game for the championship of the North. The final series for the British Columbia cup at the Caledonia grounds here this afternoon. They will bring large contingents of admirers with them, it is expected, and enable Victoria lovers of the soccer game to witness an interesting exhibition.

The Victoria Lacrosse Club is endeavoring to arrange terms with Mr. C. F. Todd for a lease of the Caledonia grounds, in which event they will proceed to enlarge the grandstand and otherwise improve the park from the spectators' standpoint.

Here are a few of the baseball bookings for the season that Manager Willis thus early in the running is able to announce: 30th April Lopez; 7th May, Everett; 14th May, Mount Angel College; 20th and 21st May, Bellingham; games will also be made for the 23rd, 24th, 27th and 28th proximo.

The golf tournament men's foursomes tie between Major A. W. Jones and Mr. W. F. Burton. Mr. C. B. Stahlschmidt and Capt. Davidson, and Mr. Harvey Combe and Mr. C. J. Prior, each of these couples having turned in a score of 87 nett, was played off on Wednesday afternoon, resulting in Major Jones and Mr. Burton taking first place, and Messrs. Combe and Prior second.

Greenwood has organized a very promising baseball team.

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