

NINTH REPORT
OF THE
OFFICE OF THE AGENT-GENERAL FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SALISBURY HOUSE, LONDON, 15th January, 1912.

*The Hon. Richard McBride, K.C., M.P.P.,
Premier of British Columbia, Victoria.*

DEAR SIR,—Owing to the very large amount of work at this office at the end of 1910 and the early months of 1911, it was found impossible to prepare a report of the work in time to be presented at the 1911 session of the Legislature.

During November and December, 1910, some twenty-five shows of British Columbia fruit were made at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, London, and at agricultural and horticultural exhibitions at the most important cities and towns of Great Britain and Ireland. At several of these shows the Hon. Price Ellison, Minister of Agriculture, was present, and took a very active part in their arrangement and lecturing to the visitors. In the early months of 1911 smaller shows were made at railway offices and passenger agencies in London, Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield, Bristol, and many other places. These exhibitions of British Columbia fruits cause a very large amount of correspondence from inquirers who contemplate emigrating, and also a constant stream of callers at the offices, and a very considerable number of both the correspondents and callers decide to go out to British Columbia and become settlers there. It is quite apparent that the exhibitions of British Columbia fruits and other products is one of the very best ways of diffusing correct information in Europe about the Province.

During the whole of 1911 the interest in British Columbia has been kept up, though undoubtedly the great ceremonies connected with the Coronation had the effect of diverting for a time the thoughts of the people generally from emigration matters, but in the autumn and at the present time there is again a greatly increased interest in British Columbia among all classes of people in Great Britain, as is evidenced by the large number of inquiries, and also by the constant daily notices in the newspaper press and articles in magazines and other periodicals relating to the industries, the life, and progress of British Columbia.

During the year we were favoured with a visit from the Hon. the Premier and the Hon. the Attorney-General, accompanied by their wives, as well as by several members of the Provincial Legislature, and the presence in Europe of these representatives of the country had the effect of bringing our beautiful Province vividly before the people of the Mother-land. The prosperity of the Province is indeed well demonstrated here by the very large number of British Columbians who have visited Europe for pleasure as well as business. Ten years ago it was a rare thing to have a call from a British Columbian; now it is a daily occurrence, and often there are many in a day. A great number no doubt have visited London with a view to obtaining capital for financial and other companies in the Province, and undoubtedly this class of business has been somewhat overdone, and I fear that many did not succeed in carrying out successfully what they came about.

The people in the rural districts of Great Britain are now becoming fairly well informed about the advantages our Province offers as a home for them, and many hundreds of a most desirable class of farm-hands, with their wives and families, are anxious to go out, but the cost of the journey is prohibitive in their case. A large number are consequently, though I believe reluctantly, turning their attention to Australia and New Zealand instead, to which countries they can get out at less than half of the cost of the journey to British Columbia; and, in addition to this, both Australia and New Zealand advance part, and in some cases the whole, of the passage-money, to be repaid by the emigrant after his settlement in the colony. A similar plan is being carried out in Australia for the emigration of domestic servants.

A very large number of officers of both Navy and Army, who have retired or are about to do so, call at the office or write for information about the Province, and I have reason to believe that many have gone out and many more intend to do so. The attention, too, of men possessed of capital, some few thousand pounds up to many thousands, is constantly being drawn to the Province, and they are continually coming for particulars as to the prospects of investment in the land or otherwise in our Province, and a great deal of capital has already been sent out by them.

Many inquiries have been received of late for specimens of agricultural and other products of the Province for exhibition purposes; though it is quite possible that we might not be able to supply all that inquire for them, it would be a great advantage if we had more of such products for exhibition in the office, not only agricultural, but particularly more specimens of animals for the sportsman. I think, too, that it would be very desirable to have a system of telegraphing information regularly once a month any matters Provincial that would be of interest to people here.

The business generally of the office during the year 1911 has steadily increased. There were sent out, principally to inquirers in Great Britain and Ireland, and smaller numbers to various parts of the Continent, to Africa, India, South America, Australia, and New Zealand, some 567,000 pamphlets. During the year there were received about 9,600 letters and about 9,000 were sent out, and the callers at the office numbered about 6,000. Lectures on the Province that have been given in many places have been aided by the loan of slides and kinematograph views of the Province and a liberal supply of pamphlets.

The following is a list of awards for British fruit at the show of the Royal Horticultural Society on the 1st December, 1910:—

- Gold Hogg Memorial Medal.—To the Province of British Columbia for apples, December 1st, 1910. This was the first Hogg Medal ever struck.
- Silver Gilt Knightian.—To the Salmon Arm District, British Columbia, for apples.
- Silver Gilt Banksian.—To the Grand Forks District, B.C., for apples.
- Silver Gilt Banksian.—To the Vancouver Island District, B.C., for apples.
- Silver Gilt Banksian.—To Mrs. John Smith, Spence's Bridge, B.C., for apples.
- Silver Knightian.—To the West Kootenay District, B.C., for apples.
- Silver Knightian.—To the Okanagan District, B.C., for apples.
- Silver Knightian.—To the Kamloops District, B.C., for apples.
- Silver Knightian.—To the Keremeos District, B.C., for apples.
- Silver Banksian.—To G. H. Laws, Esq., B.C., for apples.

And a further list of shows and awards at various cities and towns throughout Great Britain in 1910 is as follows :—

- November 2nd to 4th.—National Chrysanthemum Society, Crystal Palace, Sydenham (kinematograph in Electric Theatre), silver gilt medal.
- " 8th and 9th.—Southampton Royal Horticultural Society, Artillery Drill Hall, Southampton, gold medal.
- " 8th and 9th.—Ulster Horticultural Society, St. George Market, Belfast (kinematograph in outside Hall, Cromac Square, National School).
- " 8th to 10th.—Birmingham and Midland Counties Chrysanthemum Society, Bingley Hall, Birmingham (kinematograph in Annex), silver gilt medal.
- " 9th and 10th.—Bath Gardeners' Debating Society, Assembly Rooms, Bath (kinematograph in Hall), gold medal.
- " 9th and 10th.—Liverpool Horticultural Association, Corn Exchange, Liverpool.
- " 11th and 12th.—Bradford and District Chrysanthemum Society, St. George's Hall, Bradford, gold medal.
- " 11th and 12th.—Leeds Paxton Society, Town Hall, Leeds, gold medal.
- " 11th and 12th.—Sheffield Chrysanthemum Society, Corn Exchange, Sheffield, gold medal.
- " 14th to 19th.—Trades and Crafts Exhibition, Town Hall, Oxford.
- " 16th and 17th.—Bristol Chrysanthemum Society, Victoria Rooms, Bristol, gold medal.
- " 16th and 17th.—Chester Paxton Society, Town Hall, Chester, gold medal.
- " 16th to 19th.—Scottish Horticultural Association, Waverley Market, Edinburgh (kinematograph in Bible Society's Hall on 19th only), large gold medal.
- " 17th to 19th.—Norfolk and Norwich Xmas Show Association, Agricultural Hall, Norwich.
- " 18th and 19th.—Bolton Horticultural and Chrysanthemum Society, Albert Hall, Bolton (kinematograph in Hall at Dale Rooms), gold medal.
- " 25th and 26th.—Hawick Horticultural Society, Town Hall, Hawick (kinematograph in Exchange Small Hall), gold medal.
- " 25th and 26th.—Aberdeen Chrysanthemum Society, The Music Hall, Aberdeen (kinematograph in Hall), gold medal.
- " 26th, 28th, 29th, 30th, and December 1st.—Birmingham Agricultural Exhibition Society, Bingley Hall, Birmingham.
- December 1st to 3rd.—Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W. (kinematograph in Hall), gold Hogg memorial, four silver gilt, and five silver medals.
- " 5th to 9th.—Smithfield Club, Agricultural Hall, Islington.
- " 6th to 9th.—Leeds Smithfield Club, Victoria Cattle Market, Leeds.
- " 12th and 13th.—Ashford Cattle-show, Ashford.

December 12th to 14th.—Suffolk Fat-cattle Club, Ipswich (kinematograph in outside Hall).

" 13th to 15th.—Yorkshire Society for Xmas Exhibition Stock, etc., Cattle Market, York.

" 27th to January 7th, 1911.—Travel and Sports Exhibition, Royal Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts (kinematograph).

I might add here that from all parts of the Mother-country I have letters expressing the hope that the British Columbia fruit-shows should be revived this year, and if it is so decided, it is important, in order to secure the most favourable places for such shows, that this office should have early information thereof.

Your obedient servant,

J. H. TURNER,

Agent-General for British Columbia.

VICTORIA, B.C.:

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