Index of Canadian Pacific Coastal Service Growth

1. C. P. R's huge new pier at Vancouver. 2. J. J. Forster.

The appointment of J. J. Forster which has recently been announced to the position of Steamship General Passenger Agent at Vancouver marks another step in the wonderful growth of the Canadian Pacific service on the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Forster's advancement from the time he joined the Pacific Ocean service in 1913, has been coincident with the growth of the Port of Vancouver. Up until that time the Company's shipping business had come directly under the Railways department, but with Mr. Forster's appointment as General Agent at Vancouver, at the time when the Empress of Russia and the Empress of Asia were added to the Pacific fleet, a new department was formed, the Canadian Pacific Ocean Steamships.

More recently the Empress of Canada and the Empress of Australia began to run on the Pacific to meet the increasing traffic. A further indication of the tremendous growth of the port was the opening this fall of a new pier that has now put Vancouver on the level with the greatest ports of the world.

"HIS MASTER'S VOICE" A MACHINE SHOP

Another man who, like Henry Ford, was a machinist twenty-five years ago and has become a millionaire many times over, has recently appeared in the public prints. The man is Eldridge Johnson, chief owner of the Victor Company. Recently he gave some New York Bankers an option on his controlling interest in the talking machine company for $28,175,000, stipulating that the minority stock-holders, if they desired to sell, should be bought out at the same rate, namely, $15 a share. Every dollar of this money came to Mr. Johnson through his invention as well as a good many other millions which he has been able to invest from time to time. The important deal has led to some reminiscences of those early days when Johnson, like Ford and the Wrights, was considered a rather eccentric sort of person, who would earn good money if he stayed with his proper job but he would surely wind up in the poorhouse it he let himself be imposed upon by his illusions. Johnson's idea was that he could produce a talking machine that would produce tone without the scratching noises that were then the curse of the phonograph, and upon a record that would stand the abuse of the ordinary household.

Worked in Machine Shop

In 1900 there were quite a few phonographs in the world, but they were little more than toys. Looking back upon them now they seem pretty terrible. Compared with a modern orthophonic they would be like the early Ford model contrasted with a Rolls-Royce. At this time Johnson had a little machine shop in Camden, New Jersey, a one-storey structure where he kept himself and a couple of helpers moderately busy. Even as a machinist he was rather eccentric, for he did not work from blue prints. A man would come and explain what he wanted done, Johnson would listen attentively and do it. He carried a good deal in his head and was considered somewhat smarter than the next one. The event has proved that he must have had a strong inventive gift, but it was a long time before this became generally admitted. It was always known that he had remarkable resources of energy and persistence and the physical stamina to carry him through long hours of the closest concentration. He also had a conviction, amounting almost to mania, that somehow or other he could produce a phonograph that would be an improvement upon any then known and that would create a great demand.

Capital from Savings

There was a tiny compartment adjoining the machine shop in which he would shut himself every day, and often every night, for months at a stretch, and from which strange noises would emerge. Some of the noises would be caused by Johnson singing and shouting as though to encourage his reluctant machine. People said he was kind of crazy, and they foresaw that if he continued to neglect his machine shop he would soon be broke. What he made out of the shop above his bare living expenses went to the experiment he was conducting. When that money was gone he had to appeal to a few of his intimate friends for capital. It was advanced to him in small amounts, for the three or four friends who believed in him but were not capitalists. What they gave him was merely their own savings. He carried in his own head the secret, and it was not until the new machine with the long horn was ready for operation that a company was formed. It comprised Johnson and three other men, Albert T. Middleton, Charles K. Haddon of Haddonfield, N.J., and A. L. Atkinson of Merchantville, N.Y., who was brought in later because of his technical knowledge.

Lost Golden Opportunity

Other neighobrs and friends had a chance to invest, but they lacked either capital or belief and so lost a golden opportunity. One man was invited to take stock, and Middleton was so enthusiastic about convincing him that he took one of the crude instruments to the man's home. Lately he was asked by a correspondent of the New York Times if he had invested. "No," he replied, "I heard that thing grinding out some sort of noise and I threw my hat at it and knocked it off the piano." Probably he knocked himself out of a couple of million dollars simultaneously. However enough money was collected to encourage the new company to quit the machine shop and take a three-storey brick factory building. But the machine was still far from satisfying Johnson, and if it had not been absolutely necessary to make some money, he probably would not have marketed it so soon. But it was soon found that imperfect as the machine was, there was a demand for it. He made a ten stroke when he selected the famous picture of the dog listening to "His Master's Voice," and in a few years this sign was familiar in every part of the civilized part of the world.

A Great Industry

The company had not got well started in its new building when fire destroyed it and with it many valuable plans. But by this time the little group had come to the conclusion that Johnson had hit upon a great money maker and another building in the same block was secured. This proved to be the nucleus of the present plant, which includes twelve buildings and extends over six city blocks. Indeed the business that Johnson founded proved hardly less vital to Camden than the Ford works to Detroit. It has brought many millions to the city, distributes many more annually in wages, and at the time of the war, when the plant was devoted in part to airplane construction, 11,000 men and women were on the pay-roll. Since then it has constantly employed between 5,000 and 8,000. Throughout the whole period of development when the phonograph has seen an improvement that perhaps Johnson never dreamed of, he has been the guiding spirit in the company. He proved himself as competent an administrator and executive as he was mechanic and inventor. Camden is now prouder of him than it ever was of the other famous man who lived there once upon a time, namely Walt Whitman. The Johnson organization will remain under the new ownership, and Mr. Johnson steps out only because of failing health.

Both Inexperienced

A woman visitor to the city entered a taxicab. No sooner was the door closed than the car leaped forward violently, and afterward went racing wildly along the street, narrowly missing collision with innumerable things. The passenger, naturally enough, was terrified. She thrust her head through the open window of the door and shouted to the chauffeur: "Please be careful, sir! I'm nervous. This is the first time I everrode in a taxi."

The driver yelled in reply, without turning his head: "That's all right, ma'am. It's the first time I ever drove one!"

ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY

That the Great Lakes and the Atlantic will be connected by a canal system navigable by ocean vessels seems now a foregone conclusion. Our neighbors have set their hearts on having such a connection, and with characteristic energy have pushed investigations into the subject and have now a report from the St. Lawrence Commission, appointed at Washington to look into the several proposals and decide as to the best. This Commission, of which Henry Hoover, United States Secretary of Commerce, is chairman, has found in favor of the St. Lawrence route.

Two other proposed routes that had very strong advocates in the State of New York were examined. One was what was called the All-American route, which would have called for the construction of a great system of canals connecting the lower end of Lake Erie with the Hudson river. The other would have tapped eastern Lake Ontario by a canal system connecting with the Hudson River. Either of these schemes would have been far more costly in construction and maintenance, than the St. Lawrence scheme. The estimated cost of the St. Lawrence improvements is $148,000,000 whereas that for the route from Lake Ontario to the Hudson River would be $506,000,000 and that for the All-American route would be $631,000,000. To meet the operating expenses on the St. Lawrence improved route a toll rate of 43 cents would be necessary, whereas on the Lake Ontario-Hudson River route the rate would be $1.64 per ton, and that on the All-American route would be $2.06 per ton. The annual maintenance cost of the St. Lawrence route would be $10,000,000 whereas that for the Hudson River route would be $36,000,000. On the St. Lawrence route there would be from 21 to 25 miles of restricted navigation—that is passing through locks—and on the All-American route there would be 137 miles. A further advantage in favor of the St. Lawrence route is that it makes the distance to European ports 625 miles shorter than that of the Lake Ontario-Hudson River route. Mr. Hoover estimates that 40,000,000 people will share in the benefits of lower navigation costs. The economics of the St. Lawrence route that are depended upon to make the cost to traffic substantially less are mainly those obtainable through the development of the water-powers.

To the United States, with its vast financial resources, a few hundred million dollars is a small thing. Our neighbors want the water-way improvement, and will not rest until they have it. But they cannot have it without Canada's concurrence. To Canada the cost of her share of the St. Lawrence Improvement will appear considerable. Rather than have the scheme held up, the United States would probably bear the whole cost. That, of course, would mean that it would want undivided control, which on no account must Canada permit. Already Canada has laid out scores of millions of dollars upon the construction of the new Welland Canal, which will not be completed this year.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

She Kept It

"Do you keep fountain pens?" the timid-looking man inquired.

"No," she snapped, "we sell them."

"Anyway," he said, as he strolled toward the door, "you'll keep the one you were going to sell to me. Good morning."—Girls' Weekly.

The Melody Boys' Orchestra

MUSIC FOR ALL OCCASIONS

Let Us Furnish the Talent for YOUR GARDEN PARTY

H. E. PHIPPS, Manager

Phone 119 Durham, Ont.

DOUBLE MURDER THAT REMAINS A MYSTERY

Victor E. Innes would be a better known scoundrel but for the fact that his name was broadcast about the time the World War was starting and only in connection with a couple of private murders. He has been in prison since 1914 and is about to emerge, a broken shuffling old man, not the debonair lawyer and lady killer who was immured fourteen years ago. The murders of which he and his wife were jointly accused, have never been solved. The bodies of the two victims, Miss Beatrice Nelms and Mrs. Elois Nelms Dennis, have never been found. It was indeed the fact that they could not be produced that enabled Innes and his wife to escape. They were convicted of larceny, while Innes got an additional sentence for using the mails to defraud, both crimes growing out of the Nelms-Dennis case. Mrs. Innes was released some years ago because it was believed she was dying with tuberculosis. Innes has served a longer term and now he is about to come forth, still protesting that he knows nothing about the Nelms sisters, no trace of whose bodies, no clue to whose whereabouts has ever come to light since they vanished in the Summer of 1914.

Curious Features

There are many features about this strange case that make it memorable in the annalse of American crime. One of them was the curious way it was brought to the attention of the police. In July, 1914, a young man presented himself to the Chief of Police of San Francisco and showed a telegram which he had just received from his mother in Atlanta, Georgia:—

"Look out for Eloise . She has killed B."

The youth said he was Marshall Nelms and that he came of a well-known family in the Southern city. The police investigated and found that this was true. They learned that Mrs. Nelms had received a letter from San Francisco ostensibly from her daughter, Eloise, which read in part:

"After sending the telegram from New Orleans I got rid of Bee there and came out here to find Marshall and send him to follow her. I have sealed her fate forever. She is now in the unknown land and I am glad that I did it. I left Bee to go the unknown path away from all where no one will find her or myself. I only hope the animals of the waters will have eaten us before you get these letters." This was a typewritten letter and there was much more that never was made public. Mrs. Nelms declared that it was obviously not written by her daughter, though her alarm on receiving it led to her telegram to her son.

A Defaulting Lawyer

New Orleans was communicated with but there was no record of a murder such as the letter hinted at. Then the search for the missing women was taken up in earnest. It appeared that in 1911 Mrs. Dennis had been granted a divorce in Reno and that her lawyer had been Victor E. Innes, an assistant United States attorney in the city. He had also received some $20,000 from her to invest. Mrs. Dennis had been unable to receive an accounting and so, accompanied by her sister, she had gone West for the purpose of interviewing Innes, who then resided at Portland, Oregon, though, before police investigation began he had moved to San Antonio, Texas. He was interviewed and gave an account of his dealings with Mrs. Dennis. He remembered her well; and said that it was because she seemed an unusual kind of woman with the strongest grounds for divorce that he had abandoned his usual rule not to appear in such cases, and had acted for her. He denied that he had ever received any money from her to invest, or that he had heard of her after she had left Reno with her decree. He said that she had seemed eccentric and despondent, and plainly hinted that she had committed suicide.

A Gruesome Find

Meantime the hue and cry for the missing women was proceeding, stimulated by a reward offered by their mother. Various reports flowed in all of them misleading until one day in August, when the police heard that two women answering the description had been seen in a house in San Antonio, Texas. Toilet articles belonging to them had been found and identified. It developed that Mr. and Mrs. Innes had also occupied the house. The police found bones and fragments of bones declared to be human, and in October a grand jury indicted the Innes-es for murder. They were found in Oregon and extradicted. The case against them was ghastly in the extreme, but lacking in solid facts. Nobody could prove that the missing women had ever been in the house, although it was proved that certain articles found there had belonged to them. Fragments of bone were discovered, but it was obviously impossible to prove that they were part of the missing sisters. The prosecution put in witnesses to prove that Innes had bought a huge meat grinder, and that he had asked for quotations on a carboy of sulphuric acid.

A Complete Mystery

The theory of the prosecution was that the women had found Innes, threatened to have him arrested for misappropriation of funds, and that he had murdered them both. Then he had ground up the flesh in the meat chopper, and dissolved the bones with acid. But there was no body produced, and as Texas law required this, both defendants were acquitted. The two were immediately taken to Georgia and tried for larceny arising out of the same case, and were convicted, while Innes got a further five years for using the mails to defraud. Thus the prosecution proved the motive, but was unable to legally establish the obvious inference. From that day to this not a single fact has come to light to suggest that the sisters are living, and nobody supposes that they are. Not a great deal is known of the record of Innes previous to his arrest, except that he was once or twice tried for bigamy, and seems to be a man with the gift of living off women with whom he easily ingratiated himself. When anyone remarks in his presence that murder will out, he can permit himself a discreet smile.

ANNUAL MEETING

Of Durham Live Stock Association will be held in the A. Y. P. A. Rooms over McLachlan's Store, Saturday, January 22, at 1.45 p.m.

John McGirr, President — Herbert Edge, Secretary.

1 13 2

FOR SALE

FIRST-CLASS WALNUT PIANO, beautiful tone; oak sectional bookcase, oak office desk, instrument and medicine oak show case, size 5 1-2 X1 1-2 X 2 feet, for medical man or dentist; platform scale as good as new. Bargain for quick sale.—Hector H. Mearns, Hanover, Ont.

The regular monthly meeting of the Durham Club of Toronto will take place on Monday evening, January 17th, at the Peacock Tea-rooms 112 Yonge Street, Toronto.

M. F. LAUDER, Secretary.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of

South Grey Agricultural Society

will be held in the PUBLIC LIBRARY on

Wed., Jan. 19th

at 1.30 o'clock P. M.

All those who are interested are cordially invited. Every member should make an effort to be present.

Geo. Ritchie, President. Geo. Binnie, Secretary.

Crusoe Knew What He Wanted And He Got It

One of the most persistent advertisers in the history of success was Robinson Crusoe. He knew what he wanted—a ship—so he put up an ad. for one. He flung up a shirt on a pole, at the top of his island. That, in the language of the sea, was plain to every seafaring man.

The circulation was small, there was no other medium but Crusoe kept at it despite the fact that he got no enquirers for a long time. He changed his copy as one garment after another was frayed out, and in the end got what he wanted.

Crusoe used the best medium at his disposal. The best medium in Durham, Mr. Advertiser, is The Chronicle. It goes direct to the people to whom you wish to tell your story. Use these columns persistently and you are bound to obtain results.

The Job Department

Our Job Department is equipped for your every need.

If you want Letter Heads, Bill Heads, Envelopes, Financial Statements, Office Forms of all kinds, Visiting Cards, Wedding Stationery, Pamphlets, Posters, etc., see us and we will assist you in making your selection from our large stock of papers and various type faces. It will be a pleasure to estimate on any Job Printing you may have. Call and see us or phone and we will call and see you.

THE CHRONICLE

Garafraxa St., Durham Phone 37

January Special

Underwear and Hosiery

Men's Heavy Ribbed Woollen Underwear:

All sizes, reg. $1.50 to $2.00 for $1.25

Fleece Lined, extra heavy:

Men's 34 to 44, reg. $1.00 for 79c.

Boys' 22 to 34, reg. 75c. for 59c.

Ladies' Silk and Wool Hose, popular colors, reg. $1.00 for 79c.

J. & J. Hunter

Durham - Ontario