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INTERESTING TRIP ABROAD

Anton H. Edlefsen Gives An Entertaining Account of His Travels in Various Foreign Countries

To the Editor of the St. Johns Review: Since I returned from my long journey you requested me to tell you something of the impressions I had while traveling through various foreign countries.

On "St. Patrick's day in the evening" I boarded the train for Vancouver, B. C., where I had engaged a cabin on the Canadian Pacific R. R. express boat Empress of India for Yokohama, Japan.

When I arrived at Vancouver I found that the boat would not leave as scheduled, on the following day in the morning; but would have to await the arrival of a transcontinental train, which was delayed by heavy snow in the mountains. It appeared that this train carried mail and passengers for the orient, which had been taken aboard from an Atlantic liner at the port of Montreal and that the delay on the land would, if possible, have to be made good by our boat in speedily crossing the great Pacific Ocean, on account of a mail contract between the British government and the Canadian Pacific R. R. Co., which provides for the delivery of mails at certain intervals from England to the orient by way of Canada. With a delay of about 24 hours the mail train arrived and in the extremely short time of about two hours all of the parcels had been taken aboard the steamer under the careful direction of two officers, by one of whom a count was kept of the packages, which a large force of hard working men directed into the hold with a rapidity difficult to realize.

With the decks still covered with baggage the steamer left the dock, and before we went through the narrows I looked back on the moonlit bay, which together with the wooded hills and the many lights of the town offered a most beautiful sight. Early the next morning we stopped at Victoria, B. C., but the small list of passengers was not increased thereby. After Cape Flattery had been passed we kept south of Vancouver Island for some time and then our Empress put her nose into the great Pacific Ocean.

From what I have heard and seen of this water I am inclined to believe that it was a mistake to call it "pacific" or quiet. The Empress liners have been built by the British government at the royal arsenal. They are about 15 years old and of pretty slender lines. In consideration of the subsidy received by the Canadian Pacific R. R. Co. these boats are at the disposal of the British government in case of war. Many of these facts tended to give a feeling of safety, when the fearful roaring storms and mountainous waves put a severe test on the material from which the hull was made. Never have I been on a vessel which rolled and worked so hard as did the Empress of India on this voyage which seemed to be accompanied by a series of snowstorms and hurricanes. Probably the elements would not have seemed so wild had not our captain been urged to hasten the ship's speed as much as possible on account of the big penalty to be paid by his company to the British government for each day's delay in delivering the mails taken for transportation in England.

We passed near the Aleutian Islands but did not see them and the temperature aboard remained very cold until we reached the "kuro hivo" which is the Japanese warm current, the waters of which are of the darkest blue I have ever seen on the ocean. On nearing the coast we came into a warm rain, but the sea was still rolling high, so that waves would sweep the promenade deck. When we were nearing Yokohama it was late and we had to anchor at the quarantine station until the next morning, when the Japanese doctors came aboard, and on finding everybody on board in good health, permitted us to proceed to the roadstead. I had risen early in the morning in order to watch the "fire ball" emerge from the ocean and to be sure that nothing of interest would escape us. Our vessel was soon surrounded by small boats, from which men of different callings climbed aboard to at once begin soliciting business. I wondered at their peculiar clothing and was informed that the characters sewed on the back of the "kimonos" described the establishments for which the runners were soliciting. Later I learned that each laborer or mechanic is furnished a kimono by his employer showing in characters fastened on the same, the occupation as well as the employer.

In the orient the harbors are not equipped with wharves for large boats and the steamers are laying in the roadsteads fastened to anchor buoys which are chained to rocks. The loading and unloading of vessels is facilitated by means of small barges moved by oars or sails, and which surround the ocean going vessel, receiving or discharging the cargo with a rapidity hardly realized in ports with the most modern equipment. (Continued next week.)

A RAMBLE ABOUT THE TOWN

Ye Editor Visits a Number of the Leading Business Houses of the City and Gathers Some Interesting Information.

Last week we stopped when we got to the whisker studio of Artists Mansfield & Kaemlein. We went in there and Dr. Smith placed us in the operating chair where he performed the surgical stunt to our satisfaction. Just then the composers said for us to "ring off." This week we start on our journey at the cigar and tobacco emporium of George W. Simmons where you will find the finest of cigars and tobaccos besides fresh fruits, foreign and domestic always on hand. George also carries a fine line of candies, and has ice cream, sodas, milk shakes in season. Then we came back home and found between our shop and the whisker hospital three live real estate firms. There is Mr. Wood and the Shepards domiciled in the same room with a most attractive list of realities for sale and exchange and under our own roof Sam Downey with more business than a cranberry merchant at Thanksgiving time flying around like a young turkey fresh from the block on that popular day. He had such a run of business Saturday evening that he locked his door open, went away and left the key in the lock. Just ask Sam, he's it.

In our own shop is the king bee of the bunch, H. G. Ogden, who has everything in realty from a town lot to a township and will sell you property so that it will seem just like finding it. Across the street next to Walker's cigar store is the tontorial parlor of George Hall, the genial city treasurer. Here he divides his time between drawing checks to cover city debts and drawing his cleaver over the chins of his victims. He always has two or three good looking young men acting as assistant surgeons. We do not know if they are married or not, but our young ladies can ascertain when they go there to have their hair dressed.

The next one in the row is the Boston bakery and candy kitchen where are all kinds of pies and cakes, home made candies, bread like mother used to make; doughnuts, cookies, puffs and buns, and other dainties too, great guns! But here we had to dodge a scale weight from the pretty blackeyed girl behind the counter and run into the butcher shop next door where C. W. Bennett is busy as the proverbial honey-maker from morning to night assisted by two or three others serving the public with the finest of juicy steaks and cutlets, boils and roasts, in fact anything that one could wish from the shambles. The next victim is a member of royalty and of course we used our court manners and met our genial alderman with "Hail to the King." He said, yes, and in addition to all the real estate and other things he handled here he had some stocks in some of the best mines in Southern Oregon which might be a good investment for some of the loose change in the country, and there is lots of it.

This made us hungry. It always does when we get next to Dan's Grill. Do you know that Dan's Grill is equal in quality, if not in size to any grill in the city of Portland? Well, if you went there to get a good dinner any day, you would, particularly if you were good to your wife, and took her there Sundays to save the little woman some disagreeable work while the cook is taking a day out. Dan's Sunday dinners are simply immense. The service is the best, the china, silverware, cutlery, every day just like you have for Sundays, weddings and all special occasions; and the menu, gee! we've just got to stop or our little chaperone will make us take her there next Sunday; and as the kids are all home it would cost us a V.

Then we wanted a "Hires' Root Beer" and we went into Mrs. Pennington's place where she keeps the neatest and best supplied "delicatessen" in the city. Candies, nuts, root beer, cider, the finest of ices, and milk shakes in summer, and hot beef tea and other hot drinks in winter, and if you want a fine cigar there are no better than Mrs. Pennington serves to her customers. But we wanted to see our old tillicum, Goodell, at the bank and of course we couldn't stop there without getting a good cigar and he keeps the best of them, also all kinds of tobaccos, pipes and other smokers' supplies. Across from Goodell's cigar store on the corner is the hardware store of Potter & Goodell. These enterprising merchants are not as hard as their business would indicate, and while they are pottering around they are taking in a good share of "Goodell" the kind our daddies make their dollars out of. They carry a full line of all kinds of hardware stock and there is nothing used inside of your house or in the making of it they cannot furnish that can be found in any hardware store.

Then as we go west from Potter & Goodell's establishment on the corner we find St. John's one bank, The Peninsula, and while they do no bragging, no boasting or boosting of their business, they are there with the goods at all times. The bank is operated by a genial, accommodating corps of employees who thoroughly understand their business and attend to it to a "T." It is always a pleasure to go into that institution, no matter whether it is to pay up for a "dun" or to draw the yellow metal from their coffers, you will be treated in the same genial prompt manner. The bank's business is handled in a conservative, careful manner and the only kick we have coming is that we haven't a few thousands handy to drop in there for safe keeping. That is what we are working for and we are going to have it some day if we live long enough.

The next stopping place is the Home Bakery. If you ever want some good bread, cakes or pies, or anything else baked just like your mother used to bake them in the old kitchen back home stop and get some of the good things that Mrs. Sparschuh bakes, then when you eat them just shut your eyes and you will imagine you are back home again, and before you think you will yell: "Mother gimme some more doughnuts." The next place is "Billie's Repair Shop." There is where you take your umbrella when it gets sick, has a rib broken or loses its head. Billy can fix it. There are lots of other things Billy can do just as well as dad, or any other man. Try him on a saw when it needs some dental work done. He is in a class by himself as a saw dentist. Then while you are going down that way you just can't stop until you get to Couch & Co.'s general merchandise store. Here you can live a year without getting off the block. He keeps everything from a cambric needle to a box of bacon, and if he had been a better marksman, according to Dionysius, he might have had some Jersey venison also. Then next door west of Couch's store is another establishment filled with a fine stock of some kind of goods for ladies, but they have never advertised and we do not know what they have nor who operates the place. It looks nice though, and as soon as we have an opportunity we will go in and get acquainted. They are St. Johns people and we hope our patrons will call there whether they advertise or not.

Right across from there is the joint that is run by the city fathers. It is the one place in our city where more good things are hatched out and where more "cussings" go to roost than any other in the city. The presiding genius is "hizer" Albert M. Esson, city recorder and municipal judge, who is always on hands like a sore thumb, and his genial smile always welcomes you when you come in at the door, unless you happen to be drunk and disorderly; then it is \$10 and an admonition that it will be 30 days at Kelley's Butte for the next dose. In another part of the building is the abiding place of the Pinkertons, Sherlock Holmes and Gritzmachers of St. Johns. Upstairs the fire ladders, the best yet, have their tepee, as also have the city fathers who look after the welfare of their numerous progeny. But there goes the linotypist with a yell, "cut it out."

COMMERCIAL CLUB

Enthusiastic Meeting Held on Last Thursday Evening.

A meeting of the Commercial Club was held in the palatial rooms of that body on Thursday evening last, and while the attendance was nothing what it should have been, enough enthusiasm was manifested to make up in part the lack of attendance. President Autzen was unable to be present, and the chair was ably filled by J. F. Hendricks. After the minutes of a previous meeting were read and approved, and a couple bills ordered paid, speeches were made by Chairman Hendricks and Messrs. Perkins, Prall and Taylor. The burden of their remarks was that more interest should be taken in the club, that the old residents of the city were apparently indifferent to the progress of the city and would take no part in any organization tending to its advancement, and it, therefore, devolved upon the younger generation and the new blood coming in to push the club forward and make it a mighty factor in heralding St. Johns' wonderful resources and natural advantages to the world at large. The majority of the business men here, either through selfishness, indifference or neglect, do not attend the meetings. Why so many business and professional men are so wrapped up in their own affairs and seemingly care not at all

whether the city advances or retrogrades so far as putting forth any personal energy is concerned, is a puzzling problem to many who come here from towns that were built up almost entirely by the enterprise and public spirit of its citizens. As an instance of what push and enterprise can do for a locality, Mr. Taylor cited the cases of Detroit and Chicago. The former was a finely located city with all the natural advantages possible for the making of an immense city when the latter was only a swamp or a hole in the ground. But men of ability, push, ambition, enterprise and progressiveness gathered there, and in spite of its unhealthy and undesirable location, with a surprising amount of zeal pushed it rapidly to the front, and today Detroit compared to Chicago is similar to Salem compared with Portland. Thus while St. Johns slumbers peacefully on it is possible for another city of greater magnitude to spring up on the west bank of the Willamette where it connects with the Columbia, or in some other favored location in close proximity. It is, therefore, up to our citizens to shake off their lethargy, rouse their spirit of ambition, and live not for self alone. The time is ripe and the hour is at hand when a united and concerted effort is required to keep St. Johns where she belongs—in the vanguard of progress and industrial activity.

The club rooms have been elegantly furnished, a janitor has been employed to keep it in order, the rooms are cozy, commodious and comfortable, magazines, newspapers are there in abundance, and everything that tends to the comfort and enjoyment of mankind is to be found there. But you, Mr. Business Man, why don't you attend? The Commercial Club of Portland has done much for that city; the business men of the metropolis deem it an honor to belong to that organization. Why should not the same state of affairs exist here? Don't be a drone, be a man. If the management or the manner in which the club is conducted don't suit you, why stay at home and sulk? Instead, attend the meetings and state your views. Don't say one man is running the club when he is simply trying to keep it alive. Don't look to see if some one else is doing right, but ask yourself if you are doing your whole duty as a citizen and business man of St. Johns. Why not be an active member instead of a disgruntled one, finding fault with every one and everything? It doesn't cost any more and your acquaintances will think more of you. It was decided to appoint an entertainment committee to devise social entertainments in an attempt to arouse more interest in the club. The committee appointed consists of Willis Moxon, John Edlefsen and G. J. Perkins. The entertainments as decided upon by the committee will be announced from time to time.

If you know any news tell us.

THE NEW ASBESTOS PLANT

An Institution That Bids Fair to Become One of the Most Important on the Pacific Coast

One of the largest recent industries to be introduced into St. Johns is the asbestos plant at the foot of Pittsburg street. This establishment has a fine building, two stories and basement, 56x216 feet area, each of the three floors.

In the basement they are now installing the grinding machines and mixers. The magnesite, asbestos and other material is shipped in in car lots and manufactured into the different materials put out by this company. There is the least possible waste in the manufacture of these products, because of the nature of the materials. For instance, the pieces left over from fitting the different pipes and boiler coverings can all be gathered up, put through the grinders and manufactured into other materials requiring shorter fiber, thus utilizing all the scraps which would otherwise be a waste. In this way the company is enabled to manufacture some 15 different kinds of materials for builders, machinists, etc.

On the basement floor there is now in operation one grinder and one mixer with another set of the machines on hand in the k. d. There is also in the room, but not yet set up a compressor, with which the company manufactures asbestos packing for steam pipes and connections wherever steam is used. They also make lining for ice plants, refrigerating houses, cold storage plants and kindred structures, besides all kinds of coverings for boilers, steam pipes, etc. There are other different kinds of materials of asbestos that they do not manufacture as yet, because of the great expense of installing the necessary machines and small demand for the line of goods, it being more profitable to ship this class of goods from the east than to buy the machines and operate them here. Later, when some good asbestos mine has been opened up—a number of discoveries having been made in the west some one of which may yet develop into a profitable one—and the demand for these articles which are now shipped in is great enough, this company will install these expensive machines and manufacture here such products as fire curtains for theaters and other classes of asbestos cloth.

In addition to the machines mentioned there are on the basement floor the batteries for heating the different drying tanks of the institution, the latter situated on the floor above. Through these tanks the materials to be used are passed during the wet season before grinding, when necessary, and at different stages of manufacture during all the seasons of the year. These tanks are immense receptacles larger than two or three ordinary parlors and are fitted with steam pipes in such a manner that the desired heat may be kept up at all times. The entire building is steam heated and kept at about summer heat day and night. The machine shop, fitted with drill press, pipe cutting and threading tools, vices, etc., for doing their own repairing, construction and other work is also located on the basement floor, as are the offices of the manager, bookkeeper and necessary clerks. In the southwest corner of the basement is located the dining room for the employees so that they may have warm meals at their work, thus avoiding the necessity of changing their clothes before going to lunch as they would be obliged to do if they went home; for no flour mill ever whitewashes its employees so thoroughly as does this institution the operatives employed there. On this floor, too, is located the electric motor for running the machinery, a fine 30-cycle, alternating current motor of about 40-horse power. Mr. Chambers, superintendent and manager of the plant speaks very highly of the efficiency of the electric service and the working of his motor in particular.

The two upper stories for the present are used for storage and drying of the materials. It is the intention of the company to move their plant from Portland to St. Johns as fast as possible and eventually the entire building will be filled with their machinery and run in full force. There are now about a half dozen employees at work, among them a skilled machinist and engineer to care for the machinery. This force will be doubled several times by the time the entire plant is installed.

The company own the land to the water's edge and will put in a dock for their convenience in transporting material and stock between the plant in Portland and the one here. Altogether, this plant presents one of the most attractive of all our big industries. We are under many obligations to Superintendent W. H. Chambers for favors shown. We found him a very interesting and enthusiastic gentleman, thoroughly conversant with all the details of his business from the raw material of the asbestos mines to the finished products in the market and we spent a very pleasant hour on our visit to his plant.

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