Report of the Minister of the Public Works BC 1909-10

REPORT

OF THE

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

OF THE PROVINCE OF

BRITISH COLUMBIA

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR 1909-10.



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Junior Inspector's Report, District D.

VANCOUVER, B. C., January 1st, 1911.

John Peck, Esq.,
Chief Inspector of Boilers, New Westminster, B. C.

SIR,—I beg herewith to submit my report for the year ending December 31st, 1910.

During January I visited with and assisted Mr. Madigan to inspect several plants as an introduction into the service. I also attended, during the latter part of that month, the Board meetings held at New Westminster.

In the latter end of March and beginning of April I assisted at the examination of candidates for certificates at New Westminster, the reports of which are in your office.

I inspected during the year 319 boilers (not including those I inspected with Mr. Madigan), the horse-power aggregating 14,133.2, and the fees earned amounted to $2,210.50. Of these boilers, 112 were new, a great many of which are still in stock at the various machinery and boiler agencies.

Four boilers were condemned and eighteen had the pressure reduced on them. The condemned boilers were all of the vertical type and were badly corroded away below the fire-grates, caused in all four cases by allowing the damp ashes to lie in the ashpits.

One boiler was overheated at the Sugar Refinery, but, fortunately, was not beyond repair. At the time of the accident the boiler was emptied for cleaning. A furnace used outside for the purpose of burning the raw sugar-bags was fired up without informing the engineer in charge at the time. The fact that the boiler and outside furnace had a common combustion chamber accounts for the damage. Since the accident they have been separated.

A great deal of the Inspector's time is taken up with clerical work, answering letters, etc. I would humbly suggest that a clerk be appointed to this office, to take care of this part of the work. This would give the Inspectors more time to attend to the inspection of boilers, etc. Owing to being shorthanded in the staff, it was found impossible to attend to the many heating boilers in this district.

During the year several new plants have been installed, notable among them being that of the Hanbury Timber Company. This firm has installed a 500-kilowatt generator, driven by a steam turbine of the Allis-Chalmers-Parsons type. Steam is supplied by three return tubular boilers. Everything in this mill is driven by electricity, with the exception of the steam feed and niggers. This mill, I am sure, will be watched with interest by all those who are concerned in the lumber industry.

The British Columbia Electric Railway Company has installed three 1,500-kilowatt generators, driven by the turbines of the same type as that of the Hanbury Lumber Co. The plant is a surface-condensing one. Steam is supplied by six Babcock & Wilcox boilers, with steam at 200 lbs. pressure. These boilers are fired by means of automatic chain-grate stokers, and the efficiency of these stokers may be partially judged by the almost entire absence of escaping black smoke from the smoke-stack.

At Powell River great progress has been made this year by the Powell River Paper Co., and this plant will probably be one of the largest paper-mills on the continent when completed.

In conclusion, I desire to acknowledge my appreciation of the courtesies extended to me by the officials and engineers of the various plants it has been my lot to inspect.

Trusting this report will prove satisfactory.

I have, etc.,
PERCY A. GOEPEL,
Junior Inspector, District D.

REMARKS.

I assisted at examinations in New Westminster for three weeks during March and April.

During my first three weeks in the service I went around with and assisted Mr. Madigan to inspect several plants. Some of these boilers do not show in this report.