

THE COMMERCIAL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE ROYAL CITY.

New Westminster, known as the "Royal City," is situated on the Fraser river, some 16 miles from the Gulf of Georgia. The two principal business streets extend along the river front and contain many fine brick and stone buildings, while at different spots may yet be seen ruins of large blocks destroyed by the great fire of September, 1898. Back of the business portion, and extending over the brow of the hill, are situated the dwellings and evidences are everywhere seen of the care taken in the arranging of the grounds surrounding these houses, from many of which glimpses are obtained of beautiful river and valley scenery.

up and a beginning had also been made in the development of the fishing and lumber interests, which have since assumed such vast proportions. From this time a steady growth has been experienced and at present the city contains some 7,000 inhabitants.

The principal industry carried on here is the salmon fisheries on the Fraser river, in which a large army of men are employed and from which New Westminster receives no small amount of business. Last year the pack amounted to 495,600 cases as against 256,101 for the previous year. This does not mean that there was a growth in the industry equal to the increased pack, which was principally owing to there having been a much

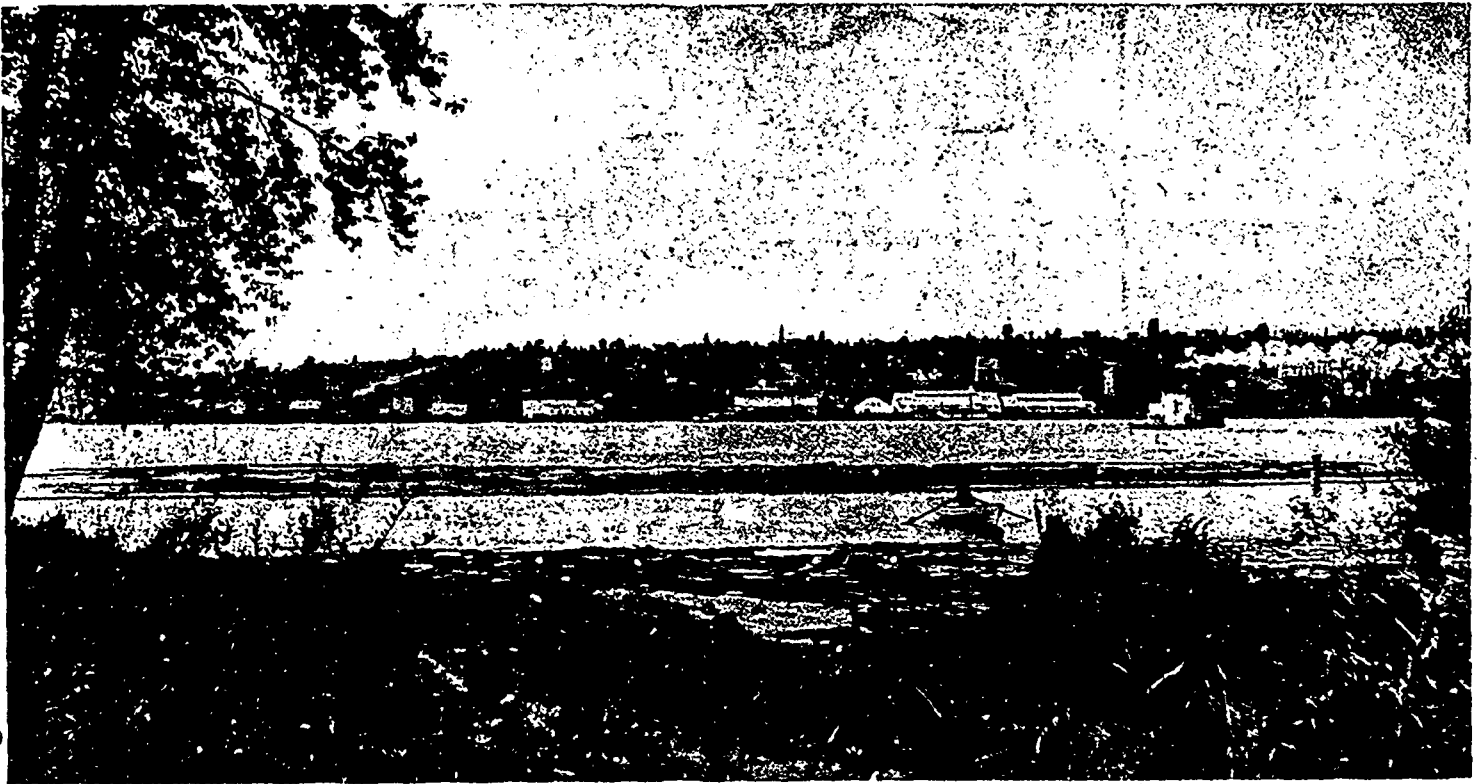
ness done with Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

There are several other local manufacturing industries, such as a creamery, cigar factory, tannery, etc., as well as cold storage houses for freezing fish, etc.

This is also the market town for a large portion of the Fraser river valley farm produce, and on market day some busy scenes are witnessed.

An annual British Columbia fall fair is held here which is yearly growing in size and importance, so much so that on different occasions the buildings have had to be enlarged. The exhibits are full of interest, as showing the resources of the province. The accompanying picture will give an idea as to its present dimensions.

On the night of the 11th of September, 1898, the city was visited by a disastrous fire, which in a few hours wiped out practically the entire business portion, and a large number of dwellings, resulting in a loss of nearly \$3,000,000. Arrangements were immediately made to replace the most of these buildings, and it is an open question whether the fire has not



New Westminster as Rebuilt, from South Side of Fraser River.

Courtesy Kamloops Sentinel.

This is one of the oldest settlements in British Columbia, having been established some forty years ago. It was at first the capital of British Columbia and for a few years bid fair to become the trade centre also of the coast, but the falling off in the Cariboo trade, and the removal of the seat of government to Victoria upon the union of the colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island put a check to its further growth for a time. A revival was felt, however, after confederation, as it was expected that this point would be chosen as the terminus of the Canadian Pacific trans-continental railway. Although it was doomed to disappointment in this also, this set-back was not so severe as the first, as meantime the district had been settling

greater run of fish than in 1898, although each season sees an addition to the number of canneries in operation.

In connection with this industry a can factory was built a short distance above New Westminster in 1896 which is said to be the largest in Canada and is an important addition to the industries of this city. Sea-going vessels, excepting some of the largest class, can come right up to this place where they are loaded with salmon or lumber.

Lumbering has also become an important factor here. There are now three large sawmills, two at New Westminster, and the third at Saperston, a mile further up the river. These mills do an immense business, shipping largely to the Orient, to South America and Europe, besides the busi-

ness on the whole benefited the city, as the buildings which have been erected are more suited to the needs and conditions of the business done than those previously standing.

The city owns its own waterworks and electric lights. The water is taken from a lake in the mountains, and the force of gravity gives in the business section a pressure of over 170 pounds. It has fire brigade, street cars, two hospitals and good schools and churches, besides containing the court house, provincial jail, provincial asylum for the insane, provincial penitentiary and the Dominion government offices. It is connected with Vancouver, about twelve miles distant, by an electric tram line handling freight and passengers, an hourly passenger service being main-