

VICTORIA, B.C.—The Convention City

The war is responsible for the delay in holding the Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities at Victoria, B.C. If it had not been started by the Berlin Hun, the U.C.M. would have not been looking backwards, instead of forwards to this function. However, after delays, the invitation of the City of Victoria has been accepted, and next month, the 18th Annual Convention will be held there.

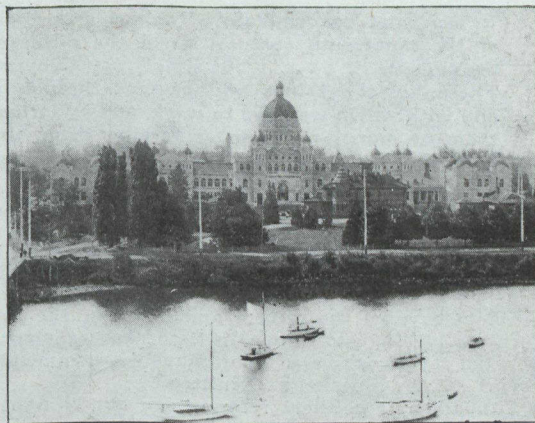
What is the City of Victoria like? This can be answered in several ways.

"We have no real winter here," said a resident to the writer on his first visit, but he did not need to give that information to anyone who knew anything about gardens, and who had observed auricarias and other similar trees in the lawns before the lovely homes.

"This place is like a little bit of England," said another of those loyal Englishmen whose progressiveness is now acknowledged after the war has tested out some ideas about quietness being possible along with progress. And he was right in some ways. The wild plants, introduced by a former Governor, and the patterning of the gardens do suggest Old England.

The situation of Victoria is superb. The landlocked harbor; the hills overlooking the curious blue waters of the Straits of San Juan de Fuca; the rolling hills; and, as a magnificent background, the snowcapped peak of Mount Baker, distinctly piercing the blue sky, though ninety miles away; all make an ideal setting for a city of homes and gardens.

The citizens have been wise. They have tried to find out the advantages peculiar to their own city, and have built largely upon these. Because of the equable mild climate—the variation is very small between summer and winter—out-of-door sports can be enjoyed all the year round. Motoring along the picturesque roads which extend from the city into the wonderful scenery of Vancouver Island; golfing on courses whose beautiful surroundings take the players' interest from the game; fishing in the waters of the Pacific, or in the numerous lakes within



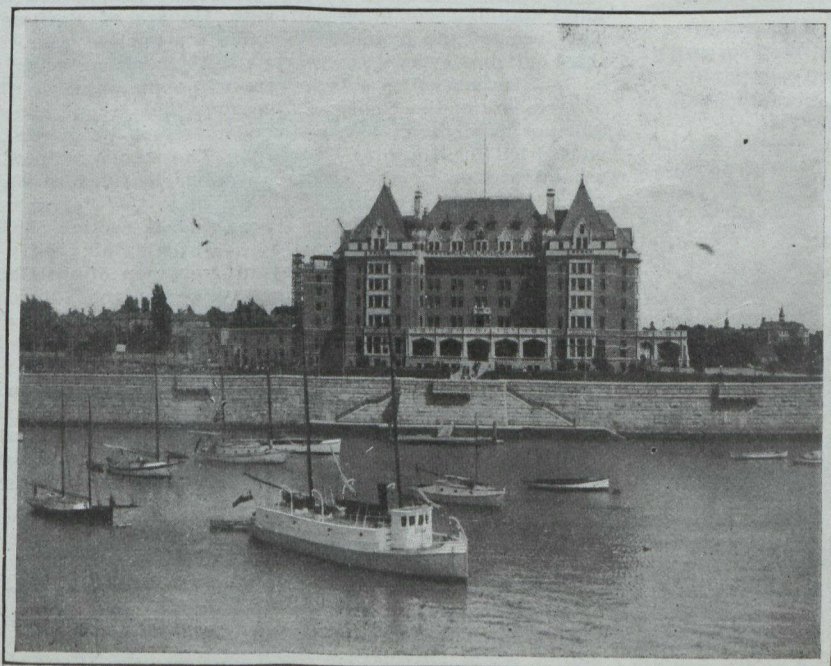
Parliament Buildings, Victoria.

easy reach; shooting birds or big game—these are a few of the inducements not merely to visit Victoria, but to make a prolonged stay there.

In hotel accommodation Victoria is particularly fortunate, including the famous C. P. R. Empress Hotel which faces the magnificent Parliament buildings and the harbor.

As a convention city, Victoria stands in a class by itself, and annually takes care of many large and small conventions. The delegates attending always return to their homes enthusiastic regarding Victoria and Vancouver Island, and looking forward with pleasant anticipation to the time when they will again return. And those attending the U. C. M. Convention will be particularly fortunate for Mayor Todd and his council are making arrangements to make each delegate and his lady more than welcome. Every moment of each day and evening will be taken up with some pleasant surprise. As an education in Municipal Government a visit to the capital city of British Columbia is worth a visit alone at any time of the year, but at such a time when the Convention meets no municipal man can afford to stay away.—H. B.

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Empress Hotel and Part of Harbour, Victoria.

In 1901 the present King and Queen of England, in speaking of Victoria, said: "It is the most beautiful city we have seen in our trip around the world."

The Marquis of Lorne, in 1882, in his interesting book, "Canadian Pictures," wrote: "It is fitting that we should keep to the last a notice of Vancouver Island, if it be fitting to reserve for the last what is most delicious, for that beautiful country, with a climate resembling that of the South Coast of England, possess attractions which will make it the favorite place of residence of Canada."

Rudyard Kipling, in speaking of British Columbia's climate, said: "It is the most perfect in the world, and the best of it is experienced in Victoria."