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That is, the advantages this particular district offers in the way of horticulture and floriculture. This is, in almost as true a sense as is Florida, "the land of flowers"; Vancouver, Victoria, and New Westminster homes are, like those of England, embowered in roses and other flowers. The same thing may be said of fruits and vegetables. When greater attention is paid to it than is the case now, gardening will prove one of the most profitable industries of the Coast; and so those who are fond of gardening—and who is not?—there can be no greater inducement to reside here than the knowledge that climate and soil have combined to make this section of the Province a paradise for those who love the gentle art.



Cordova Street—Looking West.



Hastings Street from "Province" Building, looking West. 1, 2 and 3, New Blocks in course of erection. Opposite No. 3 is the new DeLack Block, almost completed.

But as to the city itself. The first thing that strikes the visitor, after its unrivalled site, is the fact that, notwithstanding its youth, it has all the appearances and appointments of places a century old. It is almost impossible to make one's self believe that 15 years ago the site of Vancouver was simply a virgin forest. A slight idea of the labor needed to clear that site may be gained from a glance at the cedar trunks and roots one still sees in vacant lots, lying, like the bones of the buffalo upon the plains, sad mementoes to former sway. It is almost impossible, also, to make oneself believe that, but 12 years ago, the town was virtually swept out of existence. But the seemingly impossible yielded to the energy of the city pioneers; and to-day, in its civic life, Vancouver surpasses any other place of its size on the continent. The streets are well paved and lighted. It has an excellent water and fire system. Electric cars run from end to end, and extend even to New West-

minster, 12 miles away. It has direct railway communication with all points. It has direct steamship communication with Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia; with China and Japan; with San Francisco; with Seattle and the other Sound ports; with Alaska and the Northern gold fields; and with Victoria and other Island points. It has shops that would do credit to Montreal or Toronto; an abundance of good hotels—one, the Hotel Vancouver, ranking among the best in Canada; six banks (and another coming); large manufacturing establishments; three daily and various weekly papers, and a first-class Opera House. More than that, Vancouver has 16 churches and an excellent educational system, its schools being free and the High School being affiliated with McGill University. In this connection the Convent schools of New Westminster and Vancouver, and the Roman Catholic and Methodist Colleges at New Westminster must not be forgotten. It has the best volunteer organization in Canada, a fact easily verified by reference to competition recently held, and which speak volumes for the attendance and efficiency of both officers and men. There are three excellent and well equipped hospitals in the city, which for cleanliness and comfort are unsurpassed in the East. The City Hospital on Cambie Street, corner of Pender, admits patients suffering from any diseases or accidents, those without means being admitted by obtaining a certificate from the Hospital Board of Health at the City Hall, whereas those with means by payment of a moderate weekly fee. In connection with this hospital is the Isolation Ward,



Hastings Street.

situated outside the city limits, for treatment of infectious diseases. St. Luke's Home, situated on Cordova Street East, a private hospital and