

# The Importance of Vancouver

THE industrial importance of Vancouver is illustrated by a series of facts and figures which have been compiled by the Vancouver Tourist Association.

Vancouver, it is pointed out, is the financial and outfitting centre of one of the richest and most extensive mining areas in the world. Since the early sixties gold-mining has been prosecuted in British Columbia, and copper, silver, lead and zinc mines have also been operated. Coal mines have been worked ever since the days of the Hudson's Bay Company's ownership of Vancouver Island, and in all these enterprises Vancouver men and capital are largely interested. Hither, miners from the north bring their gold to the assay office, and here they purchase their supplies and machinery. The head offices of most of the operating companies are situated in this city.

There are many other avenues of industrial and manufacturing activity. Up to the present the chief product of manufacture had been lumber, sashes, doors, etc. The output has been very large, and last year one mill alone exported to foreign countries 38 million feet of lumber. There are now, however, many other commodities produced in Vancouver, as the following list of industries and products will indicate : Abattoirs, aerated waters, asbestos goods, auto and buggy tops, bakeries, bamboo furniture, boats, bookbinderies, boots and shoes, boxes (paper and wood), brass foundries, breweries, biscuits, bottling works, brick (clay, cement, etc.), brooms, cigars, concrete blocks, confectionery, cooperages, cornices, coffee-grinding, dairy products, drugs, engraving, feed and flour mills, fences, fish-packing, fire-proof walls, fishermen's supplies, furniture, furriers, gas, gasoline lamps and engines, gas and electric fixtures, glass-blowing, granite work, harness, trunks and leather goods, ice, ironworking, jewellers,

jams and spices, etc., ladies' garments, lithographing, logging engines and tools, lumber, shingles, sash and doors, mantels and show cases, marine machinery, office files and furniture, pianos, portable houses, poultry supplies, car fenders, rice mills, roofing, sawmill supplies, soap, sugar, stoves and furnaces, umbrellas, wagons and carriages, wire and nails, wooden pipes, etc.

The industrial future of Vancouver is, indeed, fully assured, for here will be the factors required for the upbuilding of a great manufacturing centre. The raw materials, plentiful supply of hydro-electric power, immense coal deposits and ideal transportation facilities by land and sea mark Vancouver the logical place for an industrial hub.

From a financial point of view the importance attributed to Vancouver by far-seeing financiers cannot be doubted when it is stated that there are seventeen chartered banks in this city, having, besides their local head offices, thirty-three branch offices scattered throughout Vancouver. The progress of Vancouver is strikingly illustrated by the growth of bank clearings:

1899....\$37,000,000	1905....\$ 88,000,000
1900.... 46,000,000	1906.... 132,000,000
1901.... 47,000,000	1907.... 191,000,000
1902.... 54,000,000	1908.... 183,000,000
1903.... 66,000,000	1909.... 287,000,000
1904.... 74,000,000	1910.... 445,000,000

The total for 1910, it will be observed, is greater than the combined totals for the first seven years (1899-1905), and that the clearings in the last three years exceed those of the preceding nine years by \$180,000,000. For the first six months of the present year the total was \$252,986,126, an increase of more than \$48,000,000 over the corresponding period of 1910, nearly as much as that for the twelve months of 1909, and \$60,000,000 greater than the total of the record year prior to 1909.—*From Canada, London, September 9, 1911.*