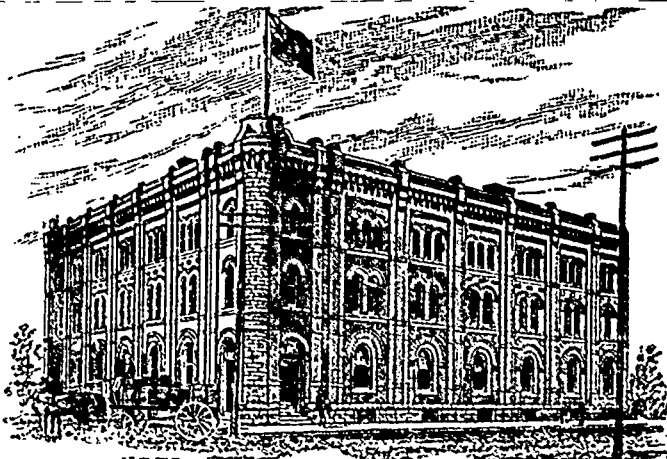


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Victoria's Progress.

The *Colonist* of Victoria, B.C., gives the following glowing account of the progress of that city during the year just closed:—

If human happiness can be gauged by the measure of prosperity, the year that has just gone out must be regarded as the happiest Victoria has known since the day when the good brig *Cadboro* landed her party of Hudson's Bay Company's adventurers on the shores of the lovely harbor to which she afterwards gave a name. The prosperity of this people during the past twelve months was not special. It was general. A single branch of trade or industry was not quickened with the throb of a new life. All interests have felt the gladsome effects which restored confidence and increasing population with growing wants have created. When, a twelvemonth ago, we met our readers with the sincere wish that 1889 would prove prosperous and joyous, we hardly dared hope that the young year held in its hands so much that was good for this people. But the ink had scarcely dried on the page when an improvement became manifest. In the middle of the first month of the new year a change came for the better, and the improvement was continued in ever-increasing proportions to the present moment. Looking back over the year we are now persuaded that nothing short of a great national calamity—say a wasting war, a deadly pestilence or a sweeping panic—could have held Victoria back. Given a national order of things, and free from injurious internal or external influences, there could be no retrocession. The trade of the port, which embraces three-fourths in volume of that of the whole province, the pluck, enterprise, wealth and faith of the people, were the factors which inspired those who predicted a sudden and rapid change for the better. We were prepared for an advance, but not for a leap that every interest represented here has taken. For years Victoria had progressed slowly. Capital was timid. Rival towns had drawn away investors. Confidence in real estate had fallen to a low ebb. Improvements were few and far between. We now see that timidity and doubt were the offspring of thoughtlessness; for if men had paused to reflect they would have understood that no city

could continue to transact a business so large and profitable that all its merchants and manufacturers grew rich, without a favorable reaction. It is now recognized that Victoria has elements of prosperity that few cities on the coast possess. She is the centre of the social, political, and mercantile life of the British Pacific. Her climate ranks with the finest and healthiest. Her geographical position commands the commerce of an extensive coast line, as well as of the interior of the Mainland. Her mercantile establishments are amongst the soundest in the Dominion. Her harbor is the rendez-vous of an extensive sealing and fishing fleet. Her manufactories are numerous and varied. Her homes are attractive and costly, and the Imperial Government has shown confidence in her permanency and appreciation of her position by establishing a naval station with a dock yard and dry dock at Esquimalt. It is, then, matter for wonderment that a rapid and radical change has suddenly taken place—a change so rapid that the town is advancing by "leaps and bounds," as Mr. Gladstone once remarked of the British revenue, and so radical that a large portion of the town is being completely transformed. When we say that the growth of the town for the twelve month has been more than gratifying, we but utter a patent fact. The most sanguine would scarcely have ventured to predict that 350 dwellings would have been erected and one million dollars expended within the city limits in 1889. Yet carefully prepared statistics show that such was the case, and the supply has not met the demand. There is scarcely a presentable dwelling or an eligible shop or warehouse without an occupant. New premises are leased before the workmen have applied the finishing touches, and the many new faces met on the streets cause the pioneer to feel like a stranger in a strange land.

What is the outlook of 1890, across the threshold of which we stepped at midnight? We have not the slightest hesitation in predicting that it will be the busiest Victoria has ever experienced; that commerce will be increased; that buildings of every description will be in demand; that labor will find a ready market at remunerative rates, and that prosperity will be general, if not universal.

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Kamloops, British Columbia.

As prophesied in our new year issue of 1889, the building operations in the town of Kamloops have far exceeded those of any previous year, and we are safe in placing the total amount at between \$60,000 and \$75,000. Principal among the buildings represented in this estimate are the Industrial School, referred to elsewhere, the business premises of R. F. Smith, and the work done for the St. Andrew's & Caledonian Society. In addition to these there have been a large number of handsome yet tasty residences erected, all going to prove that Kamloops is progressing steadily and surely to the status of a live city and a promising trade centre.

In addition to building operations, there have been other marked improvements made in the appearance of the town. The provincial government have not failed to recognize the importance of the place, and have opened up and graded streets, completed sidewalks, and ornamented some of the streets with shade trees. The road leading to Nicola where it leaves the town, has also been greatly improved, and in many other places have permanent improvements been made. The Dominion Government have to some extent, also recognized the importance of the place, and now there is established a Dominion Lands office, with E. M. Bowville as officer in charge. This will be a matter of much convenience to many in the inland country.

The shipment of stock from Kamloops during the past year are slightly increased over those of 1889. In cattle there were 5,200 head, 20 cars of horses, besides sheep and hogs.

In trade the town has suffered from the general depression prevalent all over the country. However, the business men are cheerful and happy and feel confident they have each one received his share of what was going. It is a difficult matter to forecast trade, but the indications for 1890 are favorable for a large increase over the present year. The building of the S. & O. railway, with the prospect of railway building in the Kootenai district, are factors that will doubtless greatly increase the volume of trade next year, and Kamloops will certainly participate in the boom that will follow the construction of those lines.—Kamloops Sentinel.