

Royal City of the West.

come. This is to be done at once by a large suction dredge of the newest kind and it will be the first one of the sort in Canada. This river enjoys the distinction of being the greatest river for salmon fishing in the world. In the fat years 48,000,000 cans of this fish are put up. The money side of it amounts to from \$2,500,000 to \$5,000,000 according to the market's condition. Within sixteen miles of the City forty-eight canneries are at work. An automatic can factory in the City puts out 250,000 cans per day to supply these big canneries. The exporting of fresh salmon is a large business and three cold storage warehouses are busily employed by it. New Westminster has also large saw mills with great outputs in lumber and shingles. When a man grows tired of lumbering and thinks salmon fishing laborious he can go up the stream a short distance and wash the sand of the Fraser and earn enough from the yellow dust he gets "to keep the wolf from the door" and "the pot boiling within." No man need starve except for laziness, in this part of Canada—or in any other part of Canada for that matter.

New Westminster is a rose garden like the other places on this Coast. I saw gay Paris at Easter clad with flowers but the wonderfully abundant roses of our Western Canada are the finest I have ever seen and the rare and light atmosphere especially of Victoria breathes better than that of sunny France. People who dread thunder and lightning should sell out and come here. I am informed that they will very seldom experience such storms. The encircling hills arrange that.

The real estate craze you find in so many places here in the West is not epidemic in New Westminster just now and rents are low. The population is 8,000 so there is no such problem of housing as you find in some of the places I have tried to write about.

This is the County Town of the Province and has the Provincial Penitentiary and other buildings belonging to the County Government. Westminster has one of those latest causes of civic contention—a Carnegie Library. They had not heard here of the donor's mistake when he talked about Sydney until after this building was up and open and anyway they have men who want to help Mr. Carnegie in his effort to get clear of some of his wealth in a wise way so the folk of the Royal City did not tear down the building but kept quiet and read books like "How to be Happy though married"—and found it "worth while."

New Westminster is quiet these days and pity too. The fishermen are on strike and the canneries are silent. The sails of the fishing fleet are reefed and the boats strain at their moorings. All