

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

INTERESTING STATISTICS SHOWING RAPID PROGRESS MADE.

A School Population of over 15,000—
New School Buildings Erected Yearly—A Popular General System—
Whetham College.

The public school system of British Columbia is equal probably to any other in Canada, with the educational standard about the same as that of Ontario. The main difference consists in the fact that here the schools are under the direct control of the Government, the maintenance of which is provided for by a direct vote of the Provincial Legislature.

By the amended School Act, recently passed by the Legislature, a change has taken place in the system of electing school trustees. Hereafter each municipality will elect four out of the seven trustees, and the Government of the Province the other three. The period for which each trustee is elected varies from one to three years.

THE VANCOUVER SCHOOLS.

No better criterion of the growth and prosperity of Vancouver can be cited than is found in the advancement of public school matters. Less than three years ago there was only one school building, which was situated in the East End, with three teachers and an attendance of 250 pupils. At that time there were comparatively few families in the city, the population, consisting largely of unmarried men or those who had left their families in the east, preparatory to building homes here, before sending for the latter to share life with them. Facilities even at that time were inadequate to the school population and the trustees and parents were constantly pressing the Government for better accommodations. Their demands were acceded to as fast as Government found itself able to move. At the beginning of the year 1889 two new schools were opened, one across False Creek on Mount Pleasant, and one in the West End, and the staff of teachers increased to nine, with a school attendance of between 500 and 600. As soon as the schools were opened they were filled up and the agitation continued without any cessation for increased accommodation. This resulted during 1889 in a temporary building being obtained as a Central school, while a large brick structure 68x74 feet in dimensions, containing eight large rooms, was being erected. The new central school, of which an illustration appears in this number, accommodates 500 pupils. There are now four schools and one High school in the city, with the number of teachers and attendance as follows:—

Mount Pleasant school, three teachers with 181 pupils; East End School, six teachers and 470 pupils; Central School, seven teachers and 430 pupils; West End School, five teachers and 310 pupils; High School, one teacher and 435 pupils.

In 1889 there were 12 teachers, with an attendance of 1000 pupils while in 1890 we find 21 teachers and the attendance nearly 1,500.

In addition to the public schools of the city numerous private institutions flourish here, giving parents the opportunity of obtaining for their children as good an education as any city in Canada affords.

WHETHAM COLLEGE.

Though so young a city, Vancouver has already a flourishing educational institution which in many of its essential features is probably without a peer on the continent. Whetham College, under the distinguished patronage of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, is designed especially for the secondary education of gentlemen's sons. Its strongest features may be best described as a happy combination of the principle of private tuition, with all the advantages of college life. Experience has shown that it is impossible to exclude evils even of the most disastrous kind from large boarding schools formed on the English model. Aside from the moral influences of such schools the tendency is necessarily to reduce all to the same mental level. Classes and subjects are arranged to suit the average boy while the individual drops out of sight. The promoters of Whetham College have recognized that while the numbers of boys must be sufficiently large to admit of a healthy rivalry in studies and sports the limit must be fixed some where. Classes must be so small that every boy's wants may receive careful and constant attention. Masters must be sufficiently numerous to admit of such subdivision of work that no master shall attempt to present a subject in which he is not an acknowledged specialist. The minimum number of masters necessary to deal with ordinary academic subjects was fixed at four, exclusive of directors in workshop, garden and gymnasium. The maximum number of boys in each class was next fixed, thus giving a maximum limit of sixty as a full school. Another special feature of the college is the recognition of the value of mechanical and physical training from a physiological point of view. The workshop, garden and well equipped gymnasium are important adjuncts of the school. Swimming, fencing, military drill and the study of industrial processes are amply provided for.

Every boy is carefully examined from time to time, by the regular medical adviser of the college, and excessive work or play is guarded against, while bad habits are observed and corrected. Boys are prepared for civil service examinations for the army and navy; for entrance to army, technical school or university, and for first and second year examinations in art leading to the degree of B. A. in any university. Arrangements are being made by which boys may write on examination papers for entrance to the leading institutions of Canada and the United States without leaving the city. Boys will thus be spared a long and otherwise unavoidable, to say nothing about the expensive, journey.

No expense has been spared in securing a staff of masters eminently qualified not only as scholars, but as experienced and successful teachers. The principal, Mr. Chas. Whetham, is a Master of Arts of Toronto University, late Fellow of Toronto, and also in Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and for two years master in Upper Canada College, and examiner in Toronto University.

Mr. H. Rushton Fairclough, classical master, is also an honor graduate of Toronto University and a late fellow there and in Johns Hopkins University; he is still a regular member of the faculty and an examiner in the University of Trinity College, Toronto. Mr. Alfred T. DeLury, mathe-

matical and physical master, is also an honor graduate and medallist of Toronto University, and late fellow in Clark University—the wealthy New England rival of Johns Hopkins University in post graduate work. He is also an examiner in Toronto University. The other members of the staff are equally eminent in their departments.

The building (an illustration of which appears in this publication) is situated on the highest point of the Vancouver town-site, and is admirably adapted to the purpose. The patrons of the college are among the most prominent and influential men of the Province. We bespeak for the institution the most brilliant success. A detailed calendar may be had on application.

A CITY OF CHURCHES.

VANCOUVER'S SACRED EDIFICES—A CHURCH GOING PEOPLE.

The Various Denominations in the City and their Places for Public Worship—Creditable Edifices.

Vancouver has every reason to be proud of her places of worship. Toronto is called the city of churches. Vancouver is certainly a rival to that city in her claim to that title. It can be asserted in brief, that nowhere else in Canada is the Lord's day better observed than in Vancouver. The attendance at all places is large, so much so that each church is filled to its utmost capacity. The sacred edifices are all creditable to the city, and in harmony with its general advancement. Their internal workings, agencies, aids and all other adjuncts in the line of societies, guilds, etc., are thoroughly in accord with the demands of modern church organizations.

EPISCOPALIAN.

St. James' Church was the first church built in Granville, and was situated about half way between Carrall street and the Hastings mill, facing the water, where Keefer's Hall, on Alexander street, now is. After the fire of 1886, services were held in Keefer's Hall until January 1st, 1888, when the neat little church now situated on the corner of Oppenheimer street and Gore Avenue, was consecrated. It cost about \$5,000, and has seats enough to accommodate 300 people, the approximate number of communicants being 250.

Christ Church—Until December, 1888, the parish of St. James included the whole of the City of Vancouver, but at the time, owing to the growth of the city, a new church was opened in deference to the wishes of a number of parishioners. At first the congregation worshipped in the Lord Durhan block, Granville street, where services were conducted until October 6th, 1889; upon which date the premises were vacated in favor of premises prepared in what was so far built of a new church. This church is located on the corner of Georgia and Burrard streets, and is destined, when completed, to be one of the finest buildings in the city. It is to be of stone, in the earlier style of architecture. The estimated cost of the building alone, without the tower, which is to be 140 feet high, will be \$23,000.