

Vancouver.

This beautiful town has a population of over 20,000, and bids well to become one of the most famous cities in America. As recently as 1886 the site on which it stands was covered with dense forests. In June of the same year a terrible and destructive fire swept every house in the old town, with one exception, out of existence. The buildings were all of wood, but ere the embers of the conflagration died out materials for the reconstruction of the buildings were on their way, and the old erections were replaced by grand and substantial blocks of stone, brick, and iron. The large transportation interests, which were established at Vancouver in 1887, gave the town such a tremendous impetus that most of the timber was cleared away, broad streets were formed, and electric cars placed upon them. The Hotel Vancouver for comfort, luxury, and excellence of service is among the best on the continent, while the Opera House is unsurpassed by any outside New York. There are churches, schools, hospitals, and all the other public buildings that are the precursors of a great commercial centre. The whole town is laid out on a magnificent scale. It is surrounded by a country of rare beauty, enjoying a climate milder and less varying than that of the south of England. To the north, close at hand, are the Cascade Mountains; to the west over the channel are the mountains of Vancouver Island; to the south-west the Olympics, and towards the south-east the majestic Mount Baker. The town is thus protected on every side, while the fresh sea breeze from the Straits of Georgia is most enjoyable. The situation as regards picturesqueness, harbour facilities, commercial advantages, and natural drainage is perfect. It has splendid and inexhaustible water supply brought in pipes laid under the inlet from a mountain stream on the opposite side. There are very extensive wharves, warehouses, and a commodious harbour. But in addition to the great transportation of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company by land, the same enterprising Company has established a line of steamers between Vancouver, Japan, and China. These are magnificent steel ships designed for the trade, and fitted up in a most luxurious