

# THE COMMERCIAL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

## VANCOUVER, THE TERMINAL CITY.

Probably nowhere in North America, which is noted for the rapidity of the growth of its towns and cities, can an instance be found of a city attaining to such importance in so short a space of time as did Vancouver. It was incorporated in April, 1886, with a population of about 600, which has since swelled to 25,000. Its site is well suited to the requirements of a large city. It is built on a peninsula formed by Burrard Inlet, and False Creek, arms of the Strait of Georgia. The ground slopes back gradually from the water attaining a height of about 200 feet, which has been found of great advantage in arranging the drainage of the city. The citizens take a justifiable pride in the

laud close, which has given very satisfactory results, much more so, in fact, than the rock or asphalt pavement which has not turned out as well as was expected. In the matter of sewerage a sum amounting to nearly \$300,000 has been expended, and the septic tanks, so much in favor in England, are now being introduced.

The important question of the water supply has been satisfactorily settled by the present system, which is owned by the city and which assures an unfailing supply of the very best water. The supply is obtained from a stream at a high elevation in the mountains across the inlet, and the task of bringing it into the city has

been equipped with all necessary appliances, including chemical and steam engines.

Although a great deal of expense has had to be incurred in constructing the different works the rate of taxation has remained at 16 mills on the dollar for the last seven years.

Vancouver faces Burrard Inlet which, with the mountains and small villages on the opposite shore, make a very pretty view, and the boats and ships of all sizes and patterns floating in this harbor help to enliven the scene. This body of water also gives excellent opportunities for boating, although English Bay, on the opposite side of the peninsula, is the favorite spot for this sport, as well as for bathing, and during the fine summer afternoons this beach is lined with people intent on bathing or boating, or who have come to enjoy the fresh salt breeze and to watch the children playing in the sand. But the chief point of interest to the tourist is Stanley park, a natural park the like of which could not be found anywhere excepting on the Pacific coast



Vancouver.

appearance of their city, the principal streets of which are paved and are kept clean by a small army of men. Then, too, the business blocks are much larger and better than one would naturally expect to find, considering the age of the place. Granville, Hastings and Cordova streets especially, being lined with very handsome three and four story brick and stone buildings. The large stocks of goods contained in these buildings also, are very tastily and attractively displayed. The streets are all either graded or paved. The grading comprises in all 83 miles, and the paving as follows: Gravelled, 10 miles, macadamized 23.86 miles, paved with bituminous rock 1.82 miles, and with wood blocks 1.51 miles; the paving costing in all \$327,697.37. The wood used for the block paving is cedar, sawn square, dipped in tar and

been both difficult and expensive, but the excellent service and supply secured fully compensate for the outlay. The dam, where the water enters the pipes, is 6½ miles from Burrard Inlet, across which the water is brought at the narrowest point in four 12-inch cast iron pipes. The pipes crossing the narrows have been broken several times and as a precaution against a water famine the four pipes have been laid and a large reservoir, costing over \$28,000, also built in Stanley Park, and which is kept full of fresh water. The cost of constructing and maintaining this system has amounted to date to nearly \$1,000,000. 260 hydrants have been placed at different points throughout the city for fire protection purposes, and in addition a regular fire brigade has been maintained since 1890, and there are now three halls, which are

of America. This is a Dominion militia reserve, taking in the extreme end of the peninsula on which Vancouver is built, and is within easy walking distance of the centre of the city, or it can be reached in a very few minutes by street car. It contains 960 acres covered with forest, in which there are so many giant trees that the visitor almost fails to get a proper conception of their immense proportions. The city fathers are quite alive to the fact that in this reserve they have a park which has other attractions besides those of recreation and fresh air, and no small amount of time and money has been expended in opening up roads and paths and in other ways bringing out the natural beauties of the spot. A carriage road encircles it, giving a nine mile drive from the Hotel Vancouver on Granville street. From this