

census gave Vancouver Island in round numbers 37,000, the province 100,000, and Victoria city 17,000. A census taken by the city officials placed the population of Victoria at 23,000.

The other important industries in addition to coal mining, which assisted in the development of the coast, were the sealing, timber, and salmon canning business. The first cannery was built on the Fraser in 1876, and the industry rapidly extended.

VICTORIA OF TO-DAY.

As previously referred to, Victoria has always been most advantageously situated in regard to shipping interests and the trade of the coast. For many years she enjoyed the advantages of being a free port, and many to-day regret that these special privileges have passed away. This aided largely in establishing the supremacy of that port in the past.

It is more particularly from an industrial point of view that this has reference to the city, but there are peculiar attractions possessed by the city which must always lend an importance to it independent of industry and commerce. It has great natural beauty, and as a place of residence and a resort for tourists it has a future peculiarly its own. With age to impart an air of comfort and homeliness, with a climate adaptable to the growth of flowers and shrubs, with old oak trees, with picturesque surroundings and situation, and with beautiful drives, parks, etc., it strikes the visitor as a place where the fullest measure of enjoyment is possible. It has a profusion of flowers of all kinds in summer—roses, honeysuckles, ivies and all the rest of the old-fashioned flowers and plants; it has Beacon Hill park, one of the most beautiful spots on earth; it has drives to Oak Bay, where a fine new summer hotel, the Mount Baker, has just been opened; to the Gorge to Esquimalt, to Mt. Tolmie, which has a splendid view, to Cedar Hill, to Goldstream and many other places; it has its Chinese quarters, with the Joss house and Chinese theatre; it has Esquimalt, with its dry dock and harbor and men-of-war; it has the Gorge, Victoria's picnicing grounds and boating resort; the Provincial museum, where is a most interesting collection, illustrative of all parts of British Columbia; it has the cemetery, Government House, Dunsmuir castle, the agricultural grounds, and suburban fishing and shooting grounds—all places of exceeding interest largely visited by all who take in the city.

The inner and outer wharves furnish accommodation for considerable volume of shipping, the former for smaller craft and the latter for ocean-going vessels. Victoria handles the principal part of the salmon and sealing trade, and has a number of large wholesale and commission houses. Among these are R. P. Rithet & Co., merchants, shippers and insurance agents; Hudson's Bay Co., general supply and liquor merchants; Turner, Beeton & Co., liquor merchants, commission and insurance; Robt. Ward & Co., commission merchants, importers and insurance agents; Lenz & Leiser, dry goods; Simon Leiser, groceries; E. B. Marvin & Co., hardware; J. H. Todd & Son, grocers; E. G. Prior & Co., iron and agricultural implements; Thos. Earle, groceries; Nicholls & Renouf, iron and hardware; Cowan & Wilson, dry goods; McQuade & Son, ship chandlers; J. Piercy & Co., dry goods; Boucherat & Co., liquor merchants; Strouss & Co., dry goods; Sehl & Co. and Weiler Bros., furniture; J. & A. Clearihue, fruits, etc.; Langley & Son, drugs; Boscowitz & Sons, furs, etc. All of these and others do a large and prosperous business, which extends all over the Province.

R. P. Rithet & Co. (Ltd.), is probably the largest and wealthiest firm in the Province, with agencies in San Francisco and Liverpool. Their business includes wholesale merchandise, fire and marine insurance, canned salmon, in which they represent a number of canneries, and shipping agency. They represent as well the Giant Powder Co., Cadboro' Bay; the Pacific Coast Steamship Co.; the Columbia Flour Mill Co., of Enderby; and the Moodyville Saw Mill Co.

Industrially Victoria has made great progress. The Albion Iron Works is probably the largest and oldest of the industrial concerns in the city, and the largest of the kind north of San Francisco. Large marine contracts and a general foundry and machinist business is carried on. The Victoria Iron Works Co. (Ltd.), has recently been established, and is running night and day. This company has control of Williams' celebrated patents, particular among which is Williams' gas producing engines.

The Victoria Rice and Flour Mills, operated by Hall, Ross & Co., is an extensive manufacturing enterprise, which is a branch of the Mount Royal Milling and Manufacturing Co., of Montreal. A variety of rice and rice manufactures is made with a market from Victoria to Winnipeg. Something like 3,000 tons of rice are imported in the fast sailing ship "Thermopylae," owned by the firm. A considerable business is also done in grass mats, split rattan and Chinese cord. The manufacture of wheat flour was undertaken two years ago in conjunction. Wheat from Manitoba, Okanagan, Nicola, Fraser and Willamette valleys is milled for general family use. The mill has a capacity of 250 bbls. a day. Trial shipments have been made to the Orient.

The National Mills, owned by Messrs. Brackman & Ker, is another large concern, producing oatmeal, rolled oats, split peas, pearl barley, Graham flour, chopped feed, etc. This business was formerly carried on in Saanich and was moved here two years ago. The firm imports feed oats and barley, from Manitoba principally, but the oats manufactured for oatmeal and rolled oats are all obtained from the Province, the home article being peculiarly adapted for producing superior brands. The imported oats have not been found of a suitable quality and are not used.

Chemical works have been established and are in full blast, supplying the wants of the province in basic acids and other chemical products. The Canada Paint Works have established a branch paint factory, which will soon be in operation, and it is understood a company has undertaken a project to utilize bone refuse in making charbon ash, fertilizers, etc., etc.

Sehl & Co. and Weiler Bros. have large and old established furniture factories. There are several sash, door, planing and lumber mills and ship yards.

Two years ago, Messrs. O'Kell & Morris started a fruit canning industry which has had a most successful career and last year was turned into a joint stock concern and paid after the first year a dividend of 20 per cent. They are manufacturing jams, jellies, canned fruits, etc., and are extending their market to England and the Territories.

The Victoria Vinegar Works, under the management of J. H. Falconer, has been established for some time and turns out a fine line of vinegars, syrups, sauces, ciders, flavors, extracts, and catsups, which are sold extensively in the Province.

Stemler & Earle manufacture coffee, spices, cocoa, cream tartar, mustard and baking powder. This industry was established in 1875 and has made solid progress ever since.