

VANCOUVER AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

It is impossible for me to tell Vancouverites anything of British Columbia. You know the story well, and it seems to me you try to live up to it in all the undertakings with which you are connected. You look on British Columbia as the wonderland of Canada, a land of tremendous possibilities, and it seems to me that all your undertakings are ear-marked more or less with some evidence of the place and of the magnitude and potentialities of British Columbia.

There is one thing that no one can gainsay, and that is, that in its history of twenty-five years, the records clearly show that whatever the Vancouver people have tried to do, they have for the most part succeeded in accomplishing—whether it was in the season of prosperity or in the season of adversity.

The history of the development of the city clearly shows there was always the courage and abiding faith of the people of this town that seemed to make for success, and did in the end make for success.

BRITISH COLUMBIA TO-DAY.

I have selected the topic of "British Columbia To-day" on which to address you for a few moments, and possibly because of the position I occupy in the government of the country I may be pardoned for referring to such a time-worn topic. However, time-worn as it is, as the days go by the subject, British Columbia, seems always to appear in different and in more refreshing light.

The papers—some of them—in recent days have had considerable mention of business conditions, and say there is a quietness over the country that, by comparison with twelve months ago, seems to indicate a good deal of general depression. I never for one moment would subscribe myself to a statement of that kind, nor would I lend any testimony that would strengthen it. It may be that, because of the general depression that obtains all over the world, there is not the quick demand for real estate, and there is not the business that you had a few months ago in that connection, and it may be that in some municipalities there is not that energetic progress being made in public works that we have experienced for some years past, but this is by no means evidence that there is any distressing condition in this country, or any such change in our commercial and industrial affairs as would induce people to become impatient, to lose heart and to feel that, after all, this is not the great country that the Creator has designed it to be. To my mind, as I view Vancouver to-day, I believe I am in a position to state with more assurance than ever before that the future that lies before your centre cannot be questioned, that it speaks for a large national centre—a mighty population and a great aggregation of profitable industries.

MR. HORNE-PAYNE.

To strengthen the assertion I have just given you, you will pardon me if I specially direct your attention to some of the commercial statistics that are on record and that ought to go to prove that behind the expansion and development of British Columbia which we have witnessed in the last five years, there has been a substantial increase in commercial strength and one that ought to