

corporation. It is now the capital of British Columbia. Its legislative buildings are remarkable for architectural beauty. I was informed by a member of the government that the buildings cost \$1,000,000. The city has a population of twenty-five thousand. It is built on an arm of the sea in a commanding position, affording a fine view of the Olympia mountains, the Straits of San Juan de Fuca and surrounding mountain ranges. The people are wealthy, very English and leisurely. They are exceedingly kind and hospitable to strangers. The harbor is visited by ocean steamers from all parts of the world and trading ships ply between the cities of the inclosed basin on both sides of the boundary line.

Vancouver is really a charming young city, built at the western limit of the Canadian Pacific railway. The city is twelve years old, but while yet so young has all the proportions and advantages of maturity. There is no modern facility for health, comfort or happiness withheld from the 25,000 inhabitants residing at Vancouver.

The gigantic Canadian Pacific railway, commencing on the eastern verge of the continent and terminating at Vancouver, with a score of branches and feeders, has in actual operation over 4,000 miles of trackage, with an efficiency of management equal if not superior to any other railway in America.

The terminus of this immense system at the growing side of the continent would alone guarantee the greatness of Vancouver. The situation of the city is delightful, the elevation being abundant for excellent drainage, with a gradual slope down to the docks, railway stations and other like buildings on the seashore.

In its capacious, well-protected harbor may be seen ships from the inland waters of Puget Sound and the Gulf of Georgia, as well as from Asia and the islands of the sea ; indeed, from every quarter of the globe.

On the American side of the straits southward for one hundred miles stretch out the blue waters of Puget Sound, adorned with the cities of Whatcom, Tacoma and Olympia, but above all, the stately metropolitan city of Seattle, rising like Tunis on the Mediterranean sea, street above street, block above block, till from the summit a view of surpassing loveliness breaks upon the bewildered stranger.

At his feet, to the eastward, Lake Washington comes in view, a delightful body of pure, transparent, fresh water, thirty miles in length, navigated by pleasure craft of all shapes and dimensions, from the Indian dug out to the large passenger steamer, the undulating banks being dotted with pleasure resorts, residences, fruit orchards and an abundance of flowers. Numerous cable lines and electric lines furnish rapid transit from the business center of the