

Vancouver is rapidly becoming the great distributing center of the Coast. The growth of its wholesale business is demonstrated by the steady increase in the number of commercial travelers that are sent out of the city. Twenty-three years ago Vancouver was made a port of entry. It first became a distributing center in 1886, although it was not until ten years later that it gained any considerable recognition as a wholesaling depot. Now more than 800 commercial travelers are carrying samples out of Vancouver, and the wholesale houses have upwards of 5,000 employees on their payrolls.

It is important to realize the vast area and the absolute certainty of a rapidly increasing population in that portion of the Province watered by the Lower Fraser, which for practical purposes is called the Lower Mainland. From Lytton to the Coast on the North bank and from Chilliwack to the Delta on the South bank, there is a distance of one hundred and fifty miles of wonderfully fertile land, capable of providing occupation for hundreds of thousands of agriculturalists. New Westminster district contains 4,900,000 acres, of which one million or more are as good fruit and farm lands as can be found in the world. The climate, the character of the soil and the demands of the market will probably mean that the greater part of this area will be given over to fruit raising, market gardening and dairying. From the fact that an average of from fifteen to twenty-five acres of cultivated land in this district will keep a family in affluence, some idea of the future agricultural population may be formed.